

would voice the sentiments of Nebuchadnezzar, who, in that delightful parody of Myers' St. Paul,

"Cried, as he munched the unaccustomed food,
It may be wholesome, but it is not good."

Mr. Toovey's book is characterised throughout by excellent detail in the description of both plant and method. It should be of value alike to those who do not intend to follow in his footsteps and to those who do.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' COLLECTION AT THE "ZOO"

BY F. MARTIN DUNCAN.



BABY INDIAN ELEPHANT.



YOUNG INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

THE animals presented by H.H. the Maharajah of Nepal to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who presented them to the Zoological Society of London, and the collection accepted by His Royal Highness on behalf of the Society from the Government of the Federated Malay States form a particularly interesting exhibition which has, for the present, been housed in one of the largest deer paddocks at Regent's Park. The collection comprises some 70 mammals, 140 birds and 22 reptiles.

One animal in the collection is of unique interest, for it is the first living specimen to be brought to this country or to Europe; it is the rare Tibetan fox (*Vulpes ferrilatus*). It is a smallish animal, more stoutly built and thick set than our British fox, and its general colour is a sandy fawn, with white tip to the tail. The ears are small and rounded, and the muzzle long, giving to the head and face a peculiar and characteristic appearance. One point of very great interest about the animal is the contraction of the pupil of the eye to a perfectly circular disc. This is a unique characteristic, for in all other known foxes the pupil contracts into a vertical slit. The fur also presents a very woolly appearance. The animal is said to be found in the neighbourhood of Lhasa, Tibet. This extraordinarily interesting little fox is at present so shy and nervous that it is difficult to obtain more than a fleeting glance at it, except towards dusk when the Gardens are quiet. But it is in the charge of Keeper Neville, who has done wonders in the taming of wolves and foxes.

It is many years since living specimens of the beautiful white-necked stork (*Dissoura episcopus*) have been exhibited, so that the two now on view are of particular interest. This handsome bird occurs in India, China, the Malay Peninsula, and also in Africa, a fairly wide geographical range. It stands about three feet in height, the body and crown of the head being black, shot with green and purple tints, while the neck, lower abdomen and tail are pure white. The white-necked stork is found singly or in small flocks, frequenting open spaces, the banks of rivers, marshes, and half-dried ponds, its food consisting of frogs, molluscs, small reptiles and insects. During the recent hot sunny days it was interesting to see these handsome birds standing with wings half expanded in the characteristic attitude assumed when sunning themselves in their natural haunts.

In a neighbouring enclosure the adjutant stork also displayed his appreciation of the warm sunshine, and for a while threw off that pose of profound and depressed meditation so characteristic of this large and handsome bird. Wings were expanded and fanned, and a few grotesque and not altogether dignified hops and prancings indulged in, so that the early morning visitor to the Gardens had an opportunity of witnessing some of the natural antics of the adjutant. These great birds have become natural scavengers, feeding largely upon carrion, and frequenting the neighbourhood of the native towns and villages.



THE LITTLE ORANG-UTAN.



THE RARE TIBETAN FOX.



A LANGUR MONKEY

New to the Society's collection are the five examples of the beautiful smaller or Wagler's egret (Mesophoyx intermedia). These slender, graceful birds are, at present, in their winter plumage, but later they will don their mating dress, and will then display the crested head and those long ornamental plumes depending from the back, and the greatly developed neck feathers, which have caused the ruthless and murderous destruction of the egret tribe for the adornment of "civilised" women. The smaller egret is found throughout the Indian Peninsula, east to China and Japan, and south to the Malay Peninsula. It breeds in colonies, the nests being closely packed together in the branches of the trees, like a flourishing rookery, and frequently in the vicinity of the native villages.

The gorgeous metallic plumage of the cock Monaul pheasants, and the brilliant colouring of the peacocks give a

is a very cheery little fellow, and delights in sucking condensed milk out of a long spoon.

The fine specimens of the black leopard are still too wild and savage to come out of their travelling dens while the Gardens are open to the public. These animals are notoriously wild and intractable, but the Society has for some time possessed one which is an exception to the rule in Polly, which is almost the spoiled darling of Keeper Hopgood in the Lion House. The two beautiful clouded leopards are of particular interest, as living specimens have not been exhibited in the Gardens for

some time past. Unfortunately, these animals appear to be somewhat delicate and difficult to keep in confinement, and, like all their tribe, are rather uncertain of temper.

The Indian rhinoceros, like its African cousin, is every year becoming rarer, and therefore the fine young female included



MUNTJAC DEER.

Note the simple two-tined horns mounted on pedicles, and the large gland below the eye.



THE ADJUTANT STORK IN MEDITATIVE MOOD.



WHITE-NECKED STORK.

The first seen at the Zoo since 1895.



THE BEAUTIFUL WAGLER'S EGRET.

touch of truly Eastern splendour to the collection, which also includes some specimens of the handsome Argus pheasant.

From Nepal are several interesting domesticated sheep, all short-tailed in accordance with the Nepalese prohibition against the use of the flesh of the long-tailed sheep for food. Included with these is one belonging to the artificially malformed type known as the one-horned fighting ram, in which the two horns are joined together by some process not precisely known. There is also a fine goat with the horns artificially twisted into a spiral.

Included among the Langur monkeys is one, *Presbytis siamensis*, which is new to the Society's collection. The Langurs are particularly charming creatures and will attract much attention both by the beauty of their fur and their graceful, half-shy movements. A little baby orang-utan is very like a human baby in its manners, screaming and rolling on the ground when in a temper, or burying its face in the jacket of its keeper and whimpering when frightened or shy. Another delightful baby is the half-grown Malay sun bear, which

in the Prince's collection is particularly welcome, as is also the young Indian elephant. Both animals are fairly docile, and already display a friendly and sociable attitude towards visitors, particularly to those who are thoughtful enough to bring them an offering of young carrots or other greenstuff.

There is a particularly interesting specimen of the muntjac or barking deer in the collection. These small deer are distinguished by their short, simple, two-tined antlers being mounted on pedicles of the skull as long as, or longer than, the antlers themselves, and diverging upwards from the middle line of the lower part of the forehead, where they begin as rib-like bars. These bars, together with the large gland below the eye, which is clearly shown in the accompanying illustration, give to the face of the muntjac a very striking and curious appearance. These small and graceful deer are confined to India, Burma, Siam, China and the Malay region.

The collection of reptiles, including a twenty-five foot python, are, for obvious reasons, housed in the Society's Reptile House.



THE SO-CALLED ONE-HORNED FIGHTING RAM.