

veterinary use is being investigated further. A fuller account of the results obtained is being prepared for publication.

<sup>1</sup> Slade, R., *Chemistry and Industry*, 314 (Oct. 13, 1945).

<sup>2</sup> Harbour, J. E., and Watt, J. A., *Vet. Rec.*, 52, 685 (1945).

<sup>3</sup> Hocking, K. S., *E. African Med. J.*, 23, 50 (1946).

<sup>4</sup> Whitnall, A. B. M., private communication (1945-46).

<sup>5</sup> Taylor, E. L., *Vet. Rec.*, 57, 210 (1945).

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LONDON ZOO

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THE replacement of the collections of animals in the care of the Zoological Society of London at Regent's Park and Whipsnade has progressed much more rapidly than could have been anticipated, and the recent arrival of the largest single consignment of animals ever to reach Great Britain will go far to complete the representation of the larger African mammals.

Contrary to general belief, very few animals at Regent's Park were killed as a direct result of enemy action, for although most of the buildings were damaged and some completely destroyed as a result of bombing, the inmates, as a rule, escaped any serious injury. However, during six years of war the number of animals has naturally become reduced, owing to normal mortality, accentuated by difficulties of feeding and shortage of staff. Very few replacements have been possible during these years, and by 1945 the collections were reduced in number, and not so widely representative as in normal times.

With the end of the War the replacement of gaps in the collection presented a very difficult problem, as, apart from the question of transport, it was no longer possible to obtain animals through dealers, many of whom had gone out of business, and all of whom were short of supplies.

The Society, as in the past, has been fortunate in receiving donations from Governments, public institutions, and private individuals, two of the most notable recent gifts being the giant panda, presented by the Szech-Wan Provincial Government, and two Kodiak bears and two Ceylon elephants, presented by Mr. Alfred Ezra, vice-president of the Society. Private gifts, however, are scarcely adequate to provide the requirements of such a large institution as the London Zoo.

The appointment, in 1945, of Mr. C. S. Webb as curator-collector of the Society has helped to solve this difficulty. Mr. Webb, an experienced and widely travelled collector, went out to East Africa towards the end of last year, and during the past few months has been successful in getting together a very large collection of mammals, birds, and a few reptiles, which have now reached Regent's Park.

The most valuable arrivals are probably the six young giraffes, belonging to three sub-species, including two Baringo, *Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*, three reticulated, *G. c. reticulata*, and an intermediate form, *G. c. cottoni*. The two latter have never been seen alive in Britain previously.

Other ungulates of interest include a lesser kudu, *Strepsiceros imberbis*, which has not been exhibited since 1886; a second Thomson's gazelle (the first arrived only last year), impala, duiker, water buck, bush buck, and two oribi. Last, but by no means

least, a young black rhinoceros, *R. bicornis*, will provide an example of a family that has not been seen at Regent's Park since the War.

The primates include chimpanzees, Gelada baboons, guerezas, *Colobus abyssinicus*, and a very fine series of Brazza's monkey, *Cercopithecus brazzae*. Of special interest are the melanic forms of a Galago (*G. crassicaudatus argentatus*), collected from a small area around Sotik, at the west end of the Mau escarpment of western Uganda. The typical silvery-grey form, which occurs in all the surrounding country, was never seen by Mr. Webb within this area, every specimen belonging to the black race.

The carnivores include three lions, four cheetahs, a leopard, and a lynx; six genets, two of which are melanic forms; and four species of mongoose, one of which, *Myonax sanguineus*, a black-tailed species, is new to the collection.

Edentates are represented by three armadillos, *Orycteropus capensis*, a weird-looking animal of considerable interest in view of its many peculiar anatomical features.

The birds include ostriches, crested cranes, yellow-necked francolins, and two examples of the secretary bird, famous for its habit of destroying reptiles, a species which has long been absent from Regent's Park. Two beautiful species of crested guinea fowl, *Guttera pucherani*, from Mt. Kenya, and *G. edouardi seth-smithi*, from Lake Victoria, are already on view in the Pheasantries. There are four examples of the ground horn-bill, *Bucorvus cafer*, and the many smaller birds include at least four species new to the collection: two weaver-birds, *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* and *Ploceus rubiginosus*, a seed-eater, *Polioptila striolata*, and several examples of crimson-rumped waxbills, *Estrilda rhodopyga*.

The reptiles include two African pythons, *P. sebae*, and a hawk-billed turtle.

Some of the animals in this collection, including the giraffes, are already on view at Regent's Park, but others will have to undergo a period of quarantine before being exhibited.

## ACHEULEAN CULTURE IN KENYA

ON the eve of his return to Kenya, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey recorded (*The Times*, October 4) a further remarkable discovery made by himself and his wife in the course of such archaeological explorations as they were able to carry out during brief periods of leave from war duties. In April 1942, they found an outstanding site of the Acheulean culture of the early stone age at Olorgesailie, forty-two miles from Nairobi. While examining systematically a region of well-exposed ancient lake beds, they came upon an area thickly strewn with Acheulean hand-axes and cleavers. Further search revealed a number of distinct and different strata from which these specimens were being derived by sub-aerial erosion.

In 1943, further evidence was obtained pointing to the conclusion that on this site, now known as Olorgesailie site 10, there was a series of actual living-floors or camp sites of Acheulean man such as had never been found anywhere. The floors are interbedded between layers of lake sediment (clays and silts) on ancient land surfaces. It was evident that in the Middle Pleistocene period Acheulean man had lived on the shore of a lake of which the water-level was not constant, but had fluctuated over a long period of time. When the waters rose, the camp was