

MY APPOINTMENT AT

THE

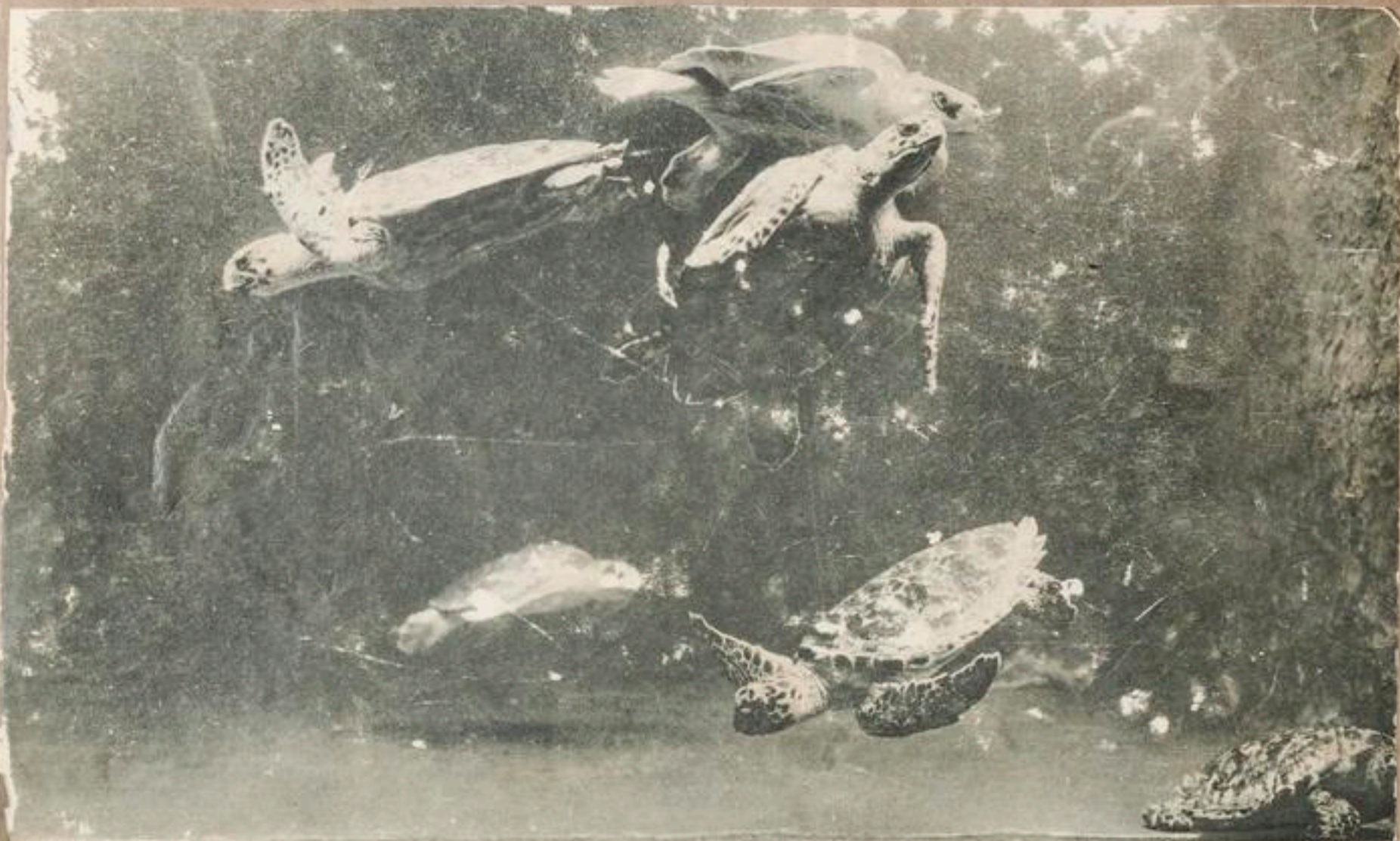
"ZOO"

OR

THE "GREAT OFFENSIVE"

JULY 1923 TO JANUARY 1924

SCRAP BOOK



SWIMMING IN ONE OF THE TANKS AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY: TURTLES OF TWO TYPES, THE LOGGERHEAD AND HAWKBILL—
AN EXHIBIT SUCH AS LONDONERS WILL SEE BEFORE LONG AT THE "ZOO."



Joan + Trepe

Collings
with her patent device
for holding
snakes
during
treatment.

PHOTO BY F. W. B. D.

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Her Playmates are Ugly King Cobras!



Miss Proctor finds a handkerchief useful for securing a grip on the tail of a poisonous snake friend that might become too playful

Miss Joan Proctor, Curator of Reptiles in the London Zoological Gardens, Tells How She Overcomes Her Serpentine Pets With Sheer Kindness

THE first woman in the world was on sociable terms with a serpent, and the world knows what came of that.

But here is one of Eve's youngest daughters handling, petting and caring for innumerable descendants of that wily snake of old. Her name is Joan Proctor and her official title is curator of reptiles of the London Zoological Gardens.

The feeling that soft, purring, cuddly little kittens awaken in other small girls came to Joan when, as an inquisitive ten-year-old, she first made the acquaintance of a shining, wriggling green garter snake, and that strange fondness for the first enemy of man has grown and grown until her greatest joy in life is playing foster-mother to all the alligators, toads, turtles and reptiles in London's famous Zoo.

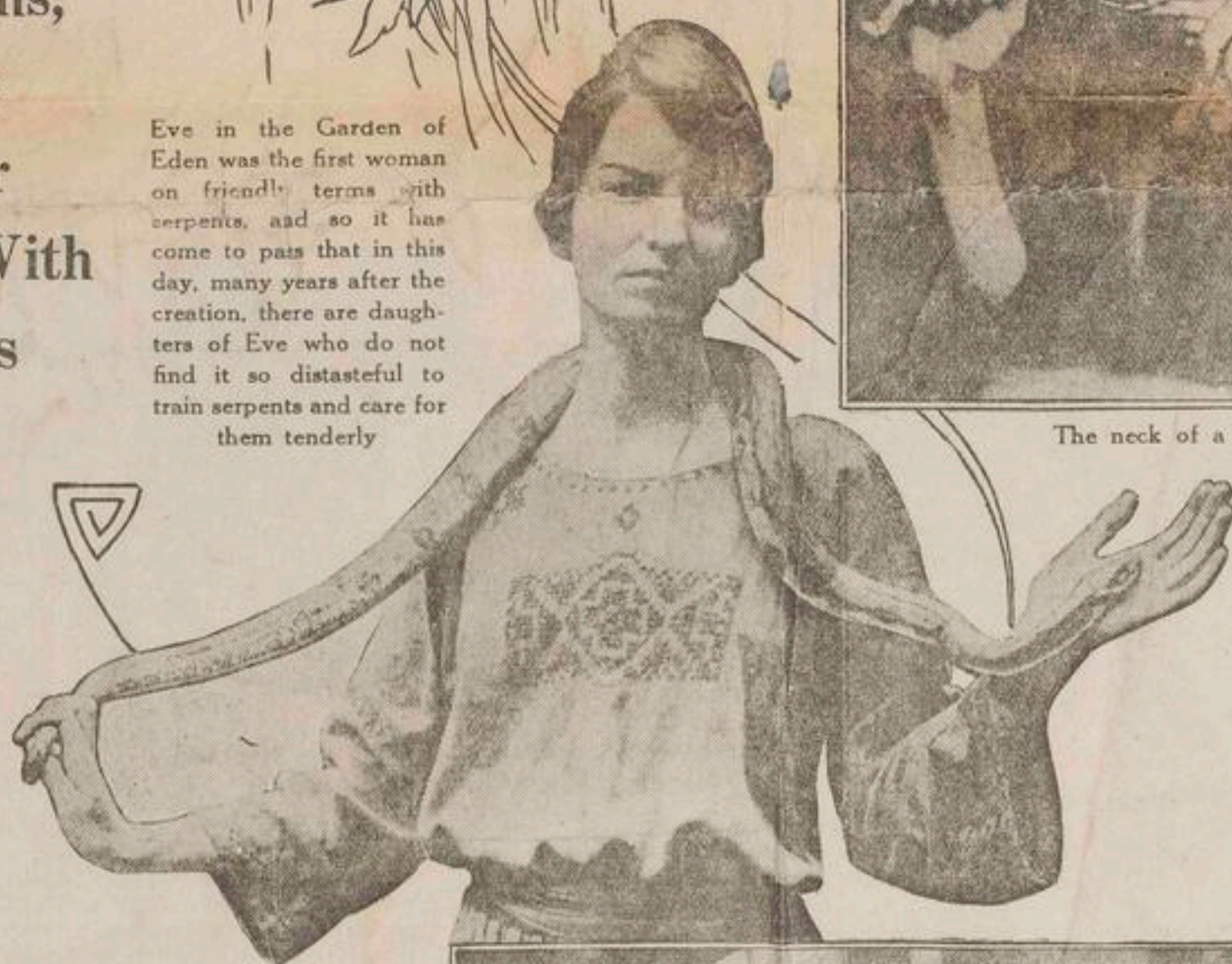
The family in which Joan belonged didn't exactly favor the predilection of its youngest member for crawling things when that first slimy, glassy-eyed creature was introduced into their happy home. But Joan was a positive little person. She made it plain that her motto was "Love me, love my snakes!" and presently the whole Proctor clan progressed from abhorrence to indifference. They could put their hands into a presumably empty vase on the living-room table, touch the cold coil of a snake and not fall in a faint.

From indifference, the Proctors went on until they began to share Joan's uncanny affection for creeping things, and now her home would not be home without at least three boa constrictors draping themselves about the furniture.

When Joan was seventeen she read her first paper about snakes before the Royal Zoological Society—a paper that attracted serious attention. A few years later, she became the unsalaried assistant of the curator of reptiles at the British Museum of Natural History—truly a labor of love. In the museum laboratory she worked and studied amid hundreds of jars and bottles containing creeping things. And all the time at home she watched over the boas, the bushmasters, the asps and the black snakes that succeeded each other at home as the darlings of her heart.

SO IT was that when the council of the Royal Zoological Society found it necessary to engage a new custodian

Eve in the Garden of Eden was the first woman on friendly terms with serpents, and so it has come to pass that in this day, many years after the creation, there are daughters of Eve who do not find it so distasteful to train serpents and care for them tenderly



Miss Proctor believes a daily "airing" is good for any household pet. Here she is with a pet reptile which she has taken for a walk through the grounds of her London home

for its great collection of living reptiles, Joan, whose paper on snakes read before that august body so early in her career had made such an impression, was unanimously decided upon as the logical recipient of the honor.

"It's a very simple thing to get on with reptiles of any sort," says the new curator, illustrating her point by using one of her favorite poisonous-tongued friends as a neckpiece. "By using a handkerchief to make sure of my grip on his tail, he can't get too playful, you see. The dear things do love to twist themselves about people's necks, and then sometimes they squeeze too hard." Which, it may be clearly seen, is not so good for the neck.

"Kindness and real understanding are back of success with snakes," decrees the only woman occupant of a position of such scientific note in Great Britain.

So great is the confidence reposed in this young woman by those who know that she is not only to care for the huge creeping things of the jungle, but has been empowered to design the new home for reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens, and is now engaged in deciding

just where, what and how big the quarters for her favorites shall be.

"Woman snake-charmer!" shrieked local newspaper headlines, when this announcement was made.

"I'm not!" contradicted Miss Proctor, showing a surprising little glint in her eyes—a glint that may be the secret of her power over the descendants of that serpent that tempted Eve.

"You might call me a 'snake-keeper,'

if you will, but not a snake-charmer. Do you know what a snake-charmer is? Some queer voodoo sort of person with supernatural powers. Of course, I'm not that! It's so easy to get on with snakes. Why, if you've learned the way to deal with a two-foot garter snake, you know how to cope with an eight-foot python! They are all so much alike." The foster-mother of London's reptiles caressed the flat head of the amazingly powerful boa

grip on head and tail so that his enthusiasm for the human heater doesn't carry him too far.

There are many problems for this little woman with the big nerve to solve, for snakes who come from other lands as captives are likely to behave as erratically as human beings under similar circumstances. They go on hunger-strikes. They commit suicide. They demand one certain kind of food



The neck of a human being is just the sort of a "warmer" that a tropical snake loves to coil about—and squeeze—so Miss Proctor adopts the simple "Safety First" measure of holding the head and tail securely as she handles this small but surprisingly powerful boa

constrictor just then draped about her neck.

A neck, Miss Proctor explains, is an ideal "warmer" for a tropical snake. There's nothing he likes better than to coil about it. Coping with Mr. Boa in this case means keeping a firm



Snakes are not the only pets to be found in Miss Proctor's home. Pussy jumped upon a table to see what this tricky boa was doing. The boa turned its head away as if it had not the slightest interest in the cat's presence. The photographer snapped just before the lightning-swift strike that was sad news for pussy

When, as a ten-year-old girl, Joan introduced her first creeping pet into the Proctor household, her parents were not at all inclined to approve the strange friendship, but Joan's persuasive powers overcame that difficulty. Snakes of varying lengths and colors have since established friendly relations with all members of the Proctor household. Here is Joan's mother demonstrating the innocent intentions of a twelve-foot boa

—usually expensive and difficult to obtain—and that only will they swallow.

How to combat this suicide tendency in reptiles will probably engross Miss Proctor as it engrosses most curators of these temperamental creatures. Raymond L. Ditmars, of the New York Zoo, reports that a continual offender in this regard is the bushmaster.

King cobras are another variety of Miss Proctor's charges liable to become obnoxious at times. Or, at least, that has been the experience of other curators.

When this monarch among snakes arrived at the Bronx Zoo, he registered his dislike of the institution and his objection to remaining in it by refusing to eat at all. As he is a cannibal, he was offered every species of crawling thing the authorities had ever heard of a cobra eating. But no! Nothing doing! Never in this world, so said the cobra in question, if his expression mirrored his thoughts.

At length a "coach whip," a nice, five-foot appetizing morsel, was sent in for the rebel's breakfast. That hit the spot. The king cobra ate it and demanded more of the same. And there the scheme struck a snag, for coach whips cost three dollars each and aren't to be had at all times for a striking monarch's fastidious taste.

What was to be done? The diet of coach whip had been kept up while the curator engaged in thought, and now long, thin strips of beef were cut in the length of the favorite food, and each strip covered with one of the old skins the coach whip had shed. The skin was tied about the beef at intervals and the strips were offered to his majesty for the next meal. And he ate them.

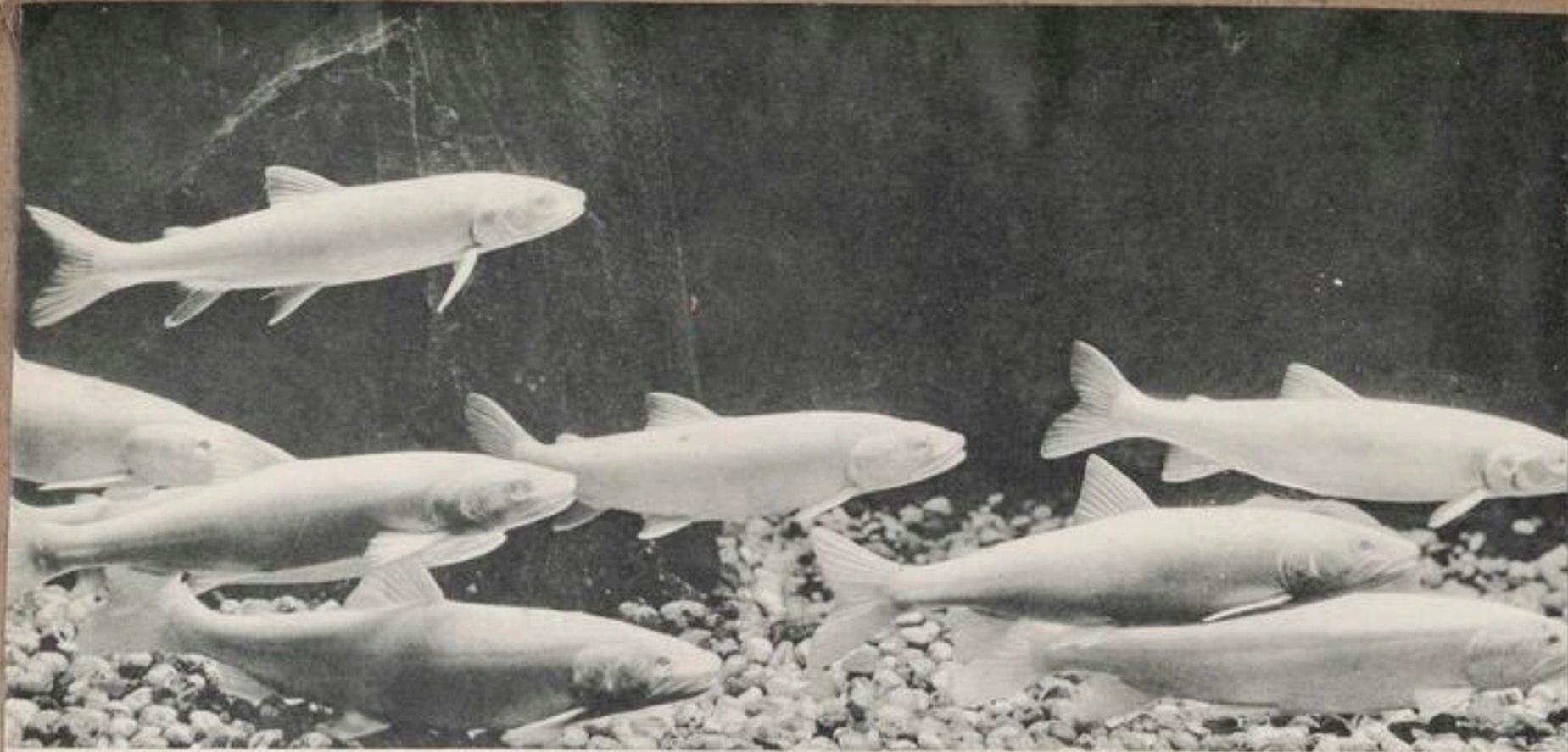
Diplomacy, as will be seen, belongs not alone to court and political circles.

THERE are about one thousand species of snakes in the world and a goodly portion of them are represented in Miss Proctor's collection. There is, for instance, a twenty-foot python, weighing three hundred pounds, and a mere specimen of burrowing snake but five or six inches long and no thicker than a goose quill. And there is a squat, flat-headed viper and an enormously elongated tree snake—and goodness knows how many more.

What's the good of snakes if you don't happen to love them for themselves alone, as does Miss Proctor?

California says they're good for exterminating gophers that destroy the crops on the Pacific Coast. Australia applauds reptilian efforts to help them get rid of the vermin plague, result of accumulation of stocks of wheat because of non-shipment during the war. Greenwich, Connecticut, urges that snakes be used to keep mole-infested lawns in order. And the departments in Washington point out that rats are the greatest destroyers of wheat the world ever knew, and snakes live on rats to a great extent!

So Miss Joan Proctor is not alone in her opinion that snakes are well worth cultivating.



4. A FAVOURITE QUARRY OF THE RIVER ANGLER (KEPT IN CAPTIVITY): BROOK TROUT IN ONE OF THE TANKS AT THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM.



5. "THE DAZZLING BEAUTY OF SOME OF THE WARM-WATER FISH WHICH WILL BE EXHIBITED IN THE TROPICAL HALL (AT THE "ZOO") WILL BE A REVELATION"
TROPICAL FISH FROM KEY WEST IN THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM.

MY STUDY : REPTILE HOUSE



MY LABORATORY



(DISPENSARY CORNER)

Mr. E. G. Boulenger has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium at the Zoo, and Miss Joan B. Procter has been appointed Curator of Reptiles. (p. 9)

THE
OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT
IN THE TIMES

WOMAN CURATOR OF REPTILES.

APPOINTMENTS AT THE ZOO.

Mr. E. G. Boulenger, at present Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium. He will continue to exercise a general supervision over the reptiles, but for some time he has been very fully occupied with superintending the construction of the aquarium, and when the tanks are ready for occupation it is anticipated that his time will be almost completely engaged by his new duties. Mr. Boulenger is a son of Dr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., for long chief of the Department of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes at the British Museum of Natural History. Since Mr. Boulenger has been Curator at the Zoo the reptile-house has been greatly improved, and the collection made one of the finest in the world. During the war he served in France with the balloons.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles, and will assume her duties in late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

E.G.B.

NEVER

GAVE

THIS

INTERVIEW

→

ZOO AQUARIUM PROGRESS.

NEW CURATOR ON WONDERS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS.

£50,000 COST.

HOW LONDONERS WILL SEE SEALS UNDER WATER.

Mr. E. G. Boulenger, the curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, who has been appointed director of the new aquarium which is expected to be completed at the end of the year, gave some interesting details in an interview to-day of the progress of the work.

Mr. Boulenger is a son of Dr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., formerly chief of the department of reptiles and fishes at the British Museum of Natural History, South Kensington.

One of the Finest in the World.

"We began building the aquarium," he said, "at the beginning of December. When it is finished—we hope before the end of the year—the aquarium should be one of the finest in the world. It is being built under Mappin Terrace, and the tanks have been supervised by myself and Miss Joan Procter, who has just been appointed Curator of Reptiles, and is taking over my duties in the autumn."

"The aquarium will be for fresh water and marine animals, and the tanks will be faced with plate glass 1½ inches thick. This glass is very expensive, and is a big item in the total cost of £50,000."

"We are getting our sea-water from the Bay of Biscay, and it will be brought in the ballast tanks of large vessels to the docks and transferred there to barges, which will bring it up along the Regent's Canal to the Zoo. It will be piped from the barges into the tanks by means of long fire hoses."

"Mr. Compton Mackenzie has given us a quantity of shell sand from the Island of Herm which he owns for some of the tank floors. This shell sand is remarkable, for every grain is a tiny shell."

Open Trout Pool.

"We will have an elaborate system of reservoirs, filtering arrangements, and plant for heating, lighting, and ventilating, and the aquarium, which will be 400ft. long, will be divided into three parts."

"The fresh-water hall will have 25 tanks, the marine hall 20, and the tropical hall 40. We will have an open trout pool, a big octagonal tank for marine turtle, and a tank for seals under water."

"We will have a wonderful collection of tropical fish brilliantly coloured and equal to the finest in the world."

"Not even the New York Aquarium will surpass it in the beauty of its contents."

The new aquarium, when it is completed, will probably prove one of the biggest attractions at Regent's Park.

Miss Procter, the new Curator of Reptiles, was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger.

Cutting from the *Full Daily Mail*
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 20.7.23

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an Englishwoman of 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators, and crocodiles. Miss Procter, unknown to the world at large, is famous among zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day.

8 8 8

8 9 Boulenger
not present at
this interview

NEWS OF OLD PAULINAS.

The News of Old Paulinas this year was unfortunately compressed into a very few minutes because business occupied most of the Annual General Meeting. I therefore promised disappointed Old Paulinas some of the news that has reached me in the next issue of the magazine.

Telegrams came from MILDEED HOOKE, JEAN CHURCHMAN, JANET BEVAN, and from MARY and DELPHINE SEAMAN in Geneva.

JOAN PROCTER has been elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. Besides her work at the Natural History Museum she is at present designing all the tanks for the big new Aquarium in the Zoological Gardens. Her models include studies in red granite with streaks of quartz, boulders, Yorkshire paving, pulhamites, dark and light grey granite, waterworn limestone and basalt columns (Giant's Causeway).

The new set of frog post cards (coloured) on sale at the Natural History Museum are from Joan's water colour drawings.

Her published works for 1922 are:—

"On a New Toad *Cophophyne alticola* collected by the Mount Everest Reconnaissance Expedition, 1921." (Annals and Magazine of Natural History).

"Description of a New Typhlops from Tanganyika Territory" (Op. cit.).

"On a New Genus of Colubrine Snake from S.E. Brazil" (Op. cit.).

"On the Remarkable Tortoise: *Testudo loveridgii* Bigr., and the Morphogeny of the Chelonian Carapace." (Proceedings of the Zoological Society. 1922).

Reptiles and Batrachians in the Zoological Record.

Bibliographical Notices, and Reviews.

*Joan gave an Exhibition of the "Remarkable Tortoise" at the Royal Society's Soirée in June, 1922.

WESTERN MAIL AUSTRALIA

26.7

West Australian Paper

July 1923

Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, who is 25 years of age, has been appointed Curator of Reptiles in the London Zoological Gardens. Miss Procter, whose grandfather was a famous entomologist, had her first pet snake when she was 10 years old. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and she took it to Dr. Boulenger, the head of the Department of Reptiles, in the Natural History Museum in South Kensington (London), and he offered to train her. Miss Procter is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world.

We cannot imagine that too many eligibles will call upon Miss Joan Procter.



GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.

APPOINTED TO
RULE THE ZOO
REPTILES.

25 YEARS OLD.

INHERITED POWER TO
CHARM.

MISS JOAN PROCTER, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an Englishwoman of twenty-five, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators, and crocodiles.

Miss Procter, unknown to the world at large, is famous among



MISS JOAN PROCTER.
"Daily Express" photograph.

zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day.

The large, airy room in the basement of the Museum of Natural History, South Kensington, in which she works, is filled with deadly snakes, some bottled and some alive.

"Her interest in the subject is probably hereditary," said her mother to a "Daily Express" representative yesterday. "Her grandfather was a famous entomologist."

(AMATEUR GEOLOGIST)

Mrs. Procter opened a glass cage in her drawing-room, and six beautiful Brazilian snakes, which were sent to her daughter as a gift, were brought out. She allowed them to climb and wriggle and coil round her arm.

"At the age of ten my daughter had her first snake as a pet," Mrs. Procter added. "She also kept many lizards, some of them remarkably tame. One day she received a large and valuable crocodile as a present, and we took it

to Dr. C. A. Boulenger, the famous chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum at South Kensington.

"He was astonished at my daughter's knowledge of ophiology, and offered to train her in the subject when she left St. Paul's School. She became his assistant when she was eighteen, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post."

Scientists in South Africa and South America have sent Miss Procter rare and deadly reptiles from jungles and swamps. Occasionally a crate of them has been overturned on arrival, and they have been spilled on the floor. Miss Procter, without the slightest fear, has collected the poisonous creatures from their hiding places.

She read her first paper, on the pit snake, before the Zoological Society at the age of nineteen. She was made a Fellow of the society at twenty. She was elected a Fellow of the Linnæan Society, one of the foremost scientific organisations in the world, a fortnight ago. She is also a Fellow of the Zoological Society of Bombay, and last year was offered a remunerative post by the Zoological Society of New York.

*Most of the interview
which was refused,
is due to a vivid
imagination*

INVENTED BY A
WOMAN REPORTER
WHO WAS SHOWN
INTO THE DRAWING
ROOM AS A VISITOR
ON SN AT HOME DAY
ACCIDENTALLY

WOMAN AS CURATOR OF REPTILES.

Miss J. Procter's Appointment
at the London Zoo.

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., will take up in November the position of curator of reptiles at the Zoo, in place of Mr. F. G. Boulenger, who is to become director of the new aquarium.

Miss Procter, who was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, worked for some years with Dr. G. A. Boulenger. The newly appointed curator told a "Daily Chronicle" representative last night that she has been interested in reptiles and frogs since her school days, and keeps her own collection now in tanks in her Kensington home.



CURATOR OF REPTILES.—
Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S.,
F.L.S., has been appointed
Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo.
—(Daily Sketch.)

Friday, July 20, 1923.

JOAN & HER QUEER PALS.

BOA CONSTRICTOR & CROCODILE
AS PLAYMATES.

YOUNG ZOO CURATOR.

TRANSFORMATION FROM WATER
TO LAND CREATURE.

Miss Joan Procter, the young girl who has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo, is somewhat shy to talk about her life work, which has been the study of creatures from which the average person turns with a shudder.

A slightly built, smiling girl, with a pleasant expression, she was busily engaged to-day in the new aquarium in course of construction at the Zoo.

It was with reluctance that she admitted her identity. Asked when she began to be interested in snakes, she replied:



Miss Joan Procter.

"I never did begin. I have always been interested in them. I have worked among them since the time I left school. I have been at the Natural History Museum so far, and I am coming to my new post here in November."

"Yes, I have kept a great many pets of all sorts," she continued.

"Which is the most unusual? Oh, they are all considered unusual. Among them was a boa constrictor. It is in the reptile house now—five feet long, and perfectly tame. I kept it at home and usually had it loose. It was shut up only at night. Of course, I did not allow it to be about in the same room with the cat. It would have eaten pussy."

"I have also had a crocodile, an alligator, and all sorts of snakes and lizards. I have never had the slightest trouble with them. They were all great pets and quite tame."

When asked if she had trained any of her peculiar pets to do tricks, Miss Procter merely smiled and said she did not want anything theatrical to be said about her and her pets.

She thinks, however, that the reptile house is one of the most popular places in the Zoo, especially with children.

"Children," she said, "are not afraid of the reptiles."

Transformation.

Miss Procter's own collection of animals, it may be added, is a considerable one. The crocodile to which she referred was her playmate when she was quite a little girl of seven years old. It, however, only lived two years.

To see her making friends with a Brazilian house snake, which is one of her favourites at present, would scare the ordinary girl. A small python is also one of her present possessions, and she has a number of lizards.

Recently she succeeded with certain experiments in regard to axolotls. She managed to change the habits of one of them by scientifically reducing his allowance of water, and transformed it from a water creature to a land creature.

WOMAN'S REPTILE PETS.

SNAKES, LIZARDS, AND
A TOAD.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles to the London Zoological Gardens, has been interested in such creatures since she was seven years old.

At that age she had a crocodile as a pet, which she cared for during its two years of life. At present Miss Procter is carrying on the work of the Reptile Department of the British Museum, but she by no means confines her observations to preserved specimens.

Her present collection of living reptiles includes a Brazilian house snake, which is very keen on being handled and petted. These benevolent serpents are used instead of cats in some parts of South America, and are most effective in keeping a place clear of rats and mice. Miss Procter has also some axolotls, and in the past has succeeded in transforming one of them from a water-creature to a land salamander by scientifically reducing its allowance of water. Prof. Huxley's thyroid-gland experiments produced the same results.

Some lizards and a small python are also included in her collection, while at the British Museum she has a fire-bellied toad which she has owned for the past 10 years.

Miss Procter is succeeding Mr. E. G. Boulenger, F.Z.S., at the Zoo's Reptile House in the autumn. Mr. Boulenger is in charge of the £50,000 aquarium which is now being constructed under the Mapin Terraces at the Zoo.

For

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS,

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct,
and 3 St. Andrew Street Holborn Circus, E.C. 1.

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963.

The Westminster Gazette

104 Shoe Lane, E.C.1.

Cutting from issue dated 20 JUL 1923

WOMAN CURATOR.

Miss Procter is to be Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo in succession to Mr. Boulenger, who becomes Curator of the new Aquarium now in process of completion.

Miss Procter, educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, has worked in the Reptile Department of the British Museum since 1915, and was at one time Mr. Boulenger's assistant.

Women in the News

A CURATOR AT THE ZOO

(FROM A WOMAN CORRESPONDENT.)

FLEET STREET, FRIDAY.

Manchester readers will be especially interested in the fact that Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens in London, for Miss Procter is a granddaughter of Mr. William Brockbank, of Didsbury, whose wonderful gardens were famous more than twenty-five years ago. Mr. Brockbank was a well-known geologist, and was made a Fellow of the Linnean Society at the time of the "Daffodil" Conference. A similar honour has just been conferred on his granddaughter, who has inherited his scientific tastes and his interest in geology. It was because of her writings and research work in zoology that the Linnean Society made her a Fellow.

She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls at Hammersmith, and it was not long after she left school that Miss Procter went to work in the reptile department of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, first as a voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger. Since his retirement she has been in charge of the department, and she is still carrying on her work there. A "Manchester Guardian" representative who went to see Miss Procter at her home to-day found her very unwilling to talk about herself. Ever since she was a child, she said, she had been interested in reptiles and batrachia. It is a branch of zoology to which much less attention has been paid in England than in America and on the Continent. In America it is very well worked, and each large museum has several people devoting themselves to the study of reptiles and nothing else. The head of the department at the New York Museum was a woman, a Miss Dickerson, who has now retired, and in Leyden another woman, Dr. De Rooy, holds a similar position. In England there are only two specialists, Mr. E. G. Boulenger, who is at present curator of reptiles at the Zoo, and Miss Procter herself.

HER WORK AT THE ZOO.

As a curator at the Zoo Miss Procter will have charge of the reptile-house and the tortoises. She will keep on with the research work she has been doing at the Museum, will describe new species, and probably work out their anatomy. "One is always coming across new species," she said. "With some of these invertebrate things you get a new species every day. It is work of absorbing interest, and one never knows what the anatomical research will lead to."

Miss Procter endorsed what a speaker at the Surgeon's Conference said the other day of the importance to human surgery of research work in other forms of animal life. At present Miss Procter is engaged on designing the decorative rockwork for the new aquarium tanks at the Zoo. She makes models of the tanks on a scale of two inches to a foot, and the workmen carry out her designs. Some of these tanks will be as big as a room—the biggest will be 30ft. in length. Instead of making them all of Portland cement, which would have a monotonous effect, the idea is to vary

them as much as possible—provide a setting of natural rock, sometimes of red rock, but mostly in shades of grey or yellow. The granite boulders for the turtle tank have been brought from Cornwall, and the coloured pebbles to go with the red marble rocks in another tank come from the Channel Islands.

From his island of Herm Mr. Compton McKenzie has sent sacks full of the tiny white and coloured shells that lie to a depth of three feet on the beaches, and these are to show off the navy-blue beauty of the lobsters in their tank. In addition to the rockwork Miss Procter has to find the appropriate shingles and water weeds.

Miss Procter has her own reptilian pets, gives to her by collectors from abroad. The box-constrictor lives at the Zoo, and when she takes up her new post there Miss Procter will transfer to the warmer temperature the small snakes which at present live at her home. She showed some of these to-day to the interviewer. The two water snakes from Brazil and the small snake, also harmless, from Tanganyika, were in a semi-torpid condition, but they writhed about in a bunch on her hand, laying their flat heads along her arm and shooting out their restless tongues. Realising that they were harmless, one could understand something of their fascination.



MISS JOAN B. PROCTER, F.Z.S., who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles to the London Zoological Gardens.

The Daily Mail

JULY 21, 1923.

For

DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS

St. Andrew's House, 32 to 34 Holborn Viaduct
and 3 St. Andrew Street Holborn Circus, E.C. 1

TELEPHONE: CITY 4963.

Pall Mall Gazette and Globe

25 Tudor Street, E.C.4.

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CURATOR OF REPTILES.

WOMAN'S APPOINTMENT AT THE ZOO.

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She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years (says the "Times") has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians.

At present Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Cutting from the *People*

Address of Publication

Issue dated

22. 7. 22

WOMAN'S SNAKE PETS. HANDLED REPTILES FROM CHILDHOOD.

A woman has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo and will, from November next, be responsible for those creeping and crawling things that are so fascinating and attractive—behind the thick glass. She is Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., and is recognised among scientists as one of the foremost authorities on snakes.

As curator she will have in her care deadly cobras, pythons and boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles.

Miss Procter is taking the place of Mr. F. G. Boulenger, who becomes the director of the new aquarium.

Seen at the Zoo, Miss Procter was too busy, she said, and seemed too retiring and diffident to discuss off-hand her special interests. She was consulting over the rockwork of the new aquarium now being built under the Mappin Terraces at the Zoo.

Her grandfather was a noted authority on insects, so that her own interest in reptiles is probably hereditary.

At her home in South Kensington she has quite an extensive collection of living creatures. At ten years of age she had a pet snake, and has had presents of six Brazilian snakes and a crocodile.

When only nineteen she read a paper before the Zoological Society, and was made a Fellow the next year.

Cutting from the *Yorkshire Post*

Address of Publication

Issue dated

3-9-22

Zoo's Lady Curators.

In view of her appointment on the personnel of the Scientific Expeditionary Research Association's coming expedition to the South Pacific, Miss Cheeseman, who in 1917 became curator of insects in the London Zoo under Professor Maxwell Lefroy, will be temporarily withdrawn from that position, and replaced by Mr. L. C. Bushby, of the Royal College of Science. Miss Cheeseman enjoys the distinction of having been the first lady curator appointed by the Zoological Society, and during her tenure of the post she has created almost a revolution in the beautiful insect house presented some years ago by the late Sir William Caird. The building took the place of a much older one which for many years had been specially associated with insect life, and which stood close to the south entrance to the Gardens. The Society has also quite recently appointed a lady curator of reptiles, in the person of Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who for several years has worked in the reptile department of the British Museum as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and latterly in full charge. She is expected to take over her new duties in the course of the coming autumn.

As English girl of twenty-five has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo. When one considers how badly woman managed the first serpent in history, the appointment seems a little surprising.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

— TIT-BITS —

SOUTHAMPTON STREET
STRAND LONDON WC2

July 20th. 1923.

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S.,
Museum of Natural History,
S. KENSINGTON, W.

Dear Madam,

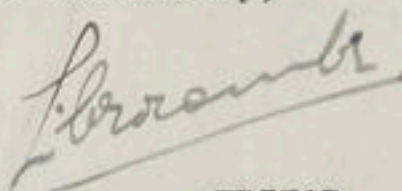
I should very much like to have the pleasure of publishing an interview with you in an early issue of "TIT-BITS" if you would be kind enough to spare my special representative a few moments at your early convenience.

Anything written would be submitted to you for your approval before publication.

If this suggestion appeals to you, I should esteem it a very great favour if you would not give interviews to any other papers until this interview has appeared in "TIT-BITS."

May I hope to hear from you on this matter as soon as possible?

Yours faithfully,



EDITOR.



who ever lived. Praise the merits, but
quite this! *Excerpt from the Daily Post*
One Woman's Speciality. *July 19th*

Not to every woman would the curatorship of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens appeal, but to have received the position is an honour decidedly. This honour has fallen to Miss Joan Proctor, who will take up her work in the autumn. Educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, Miss Proctor has been in the reptile department of the British Museum for seven years, and may be said to know her job backwards. Not content with studying the habits, anatomy, and little ways of reptiles and batrachians in working hours, she keeps a collection of the living creatures at home. She is at the moment designing rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Excerpt from the Daily Post
CHAMPION GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.



Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S.

Miss Proctor, aged 25, as already described in the "Echo," is one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens. She handles the most deadly reptiles with the greatest ease.

Cutting from the *Belfast Telegraph*
Address of Publication
Issue dated *20.7.21*

GREAT SNAKE EXPERT.

GIRL'S CHARGE OF REPTILES.

CAN HANDLE DEADLY SERPENTS.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., an English girl of 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles. Miss Proctor, unknown to the world at large, has for several years gained fame as one of the greatest snake experts of the day. The large, airy room in the basement of the Museum of Natural History, South Kensington, in which she works, is filled with bottled and occasionally live specimens of the most deadly snakes in the world.

Miss Proctor is now engaged in designing the 60 tanks to form the most wonderful aquarium in the world, which are being constructed at a cost of £50,000, under the Mappin Terraces in the Zoo. Miss Proctor is making models of each tank to scale from her studies of rocks and seaweeds made during holidays at the seaside. Miss Proctor has performed work of incalculable value while at the Museum of Natural History by preparing a complete series of the teeth of poisonous snakes for the School of Tropical Medicine. Her researches have enabled the school to prepare antidotes for the bites of various deadly snakes.

Miss Proctor is resigning in the autumn from her present position as chief of the department of reptiles at the British Museum of Natural History at South Kensington. She has already won many honours that are only as a rule bestowed after a life-time of research work. She read her first paper on the pipsnake before the Zoological Society at the age of 19. She was made a Fellow of the Society at 20. She was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society, one of the foremost scientific organisations in the world, a fortnight ago. She is also a Fellow of the Zoological Society of Bombay, and last year was offered a remunerative post by the Zoological Society of New York.

Cutting from the *Dundee Courier*
Address of Publication
Issue dated *21.7.21*

GIRL AS SNAKE EXPERT.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an Englishwoman of 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators, and crocodiles. Miss Proctor, unknown to the world at large, is famous among zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day. Scientists in South Africa and South America have sent Miss Proctor rare and deadly reptiles from jungles and swamps. Occasionally a crate of them has been overturned on arrival, and they have been spilled on the floor. Miss Proctor, without the slightest fear, has collected the poisonous creatures from their hiding places.

M

Miss Proctor

No.

From The General Press Cutting Association, Ltd.

ATLANTIC HOUSE,

45-50, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. 1.

TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 4815.

Cutting from the

Sheffield Independent

Address of Publication

Issue dated

21. 7. 23

Woman Who Likes Snakes.

One of the most remarkable positions as yet taken up by a woman must be that of Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens, a post to which Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has recently been appointed. She has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum for a number of years, and has a private collection of living snakes. Another woman has entered the ministry, the congregation of the North Bow Congregational Church having invited Miss M. G. Collins to become their minister, while a Scottish lady, Miss Margaret Kidd, has just been admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh. Miss Helena Normanton, in wig and gown, was this week the first woman barrister to take her seat among counsel at the Old Bailey.

* * *

Cutting from the

Pulse Journal

Address of Publication

Abdeen

Issue dated

20. 7. 23

Lady's Collection of Snakes.

'The Times' announces that Mr. E. G. Boulenger, at present curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, has been appointed director of the New Aquarium. Miss Joan B. Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who has been appointed as his successor, will assume her duties in the late autumn.

Miss Proctor was educated at St Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the reptile department at the British Museum, first as a voluntary assistant to Dr Boulenger, and since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the Anatomy, Classification, and Habits of Reptiles and Batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Proctor is still carrying on the work of the reptile department at the museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Cutting from the

Yorkshire Express

Address of Publication

Issue dated

19. 7. 23

Woman Curator of Reptiles.

Miss Joan B. Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London "Zoo," to succeed Mr. E. G. Boulenger, who becomes director of the new Aquarium. Since 1916 she has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge.

She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Proctor is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Cutting from the

Daily Chronicle

Address of Publication

Issue dated

20. 7. 23

WOMAN AS CURATOR OF REPTILES.

Miss J. Proctor's Appointment at the London Zoo.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., will take up in November the position of curator of reptiles at the Zoo, in place of Mr. F. G. Boulenger, who is to become director of the new aquarium.

Miss Proctor, who was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, worked for some years with Dr. G. A. Boulenger. The newly appointed curator told a "Daily Chronicle" representative last night that she has been interested in reptiles and frogs since her school days, and keeps her own collection now in tanks in her Kensington home.

Cutting from the

Westminster Belle

Address of Publication

Issue dated

20. 7. 23

WOMAN CURATOR.

Miss Proctor is to be Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo in succession to Mr. Boulenger, who becomes Curator of the new Aquarium now in process of completion.

Miss Proctor, educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, has worked in the Reptile Department of the British Museum since 1916, and was at one time Mr. Boulenger's assistant.

Corriere della Sera, 22 Luglio 1923

La governatrice dei serpenti al giardino zoologico di Londra

Londra, 21 luglio, matt.

Miss Jane Procter è stata messa a capo del dipartimento dei rettili al giardino zoologico di Londra, ciò che significa che ella dovrà governare una orribile folla di cobra, di vipere, serpenti a sonagli, di boa, di cocodrilli, ecc. ecc. La nomina interessa il pubblico non solo perchè gli viene rivelato che miss Procter, benchè non abbia che 25 anni, è reputata nel mondo scientifico come una delle maggiori competenze in fatto di rettili, ma anche perchè, dopo il peccato originale, si sperava o si credeva vi fosse una incompatibilità fra la donna e i serpenti. Invece a dieci anni, quando le ragazzine di solito si divertono con le bambole, miss Procter aveva un serpente e varie lucertole come trastullo favorito. Un giorno le fu regalato un cocodrillo: accompagnata dalla mamma essa lo portò dal dott. Boulenger, allora capo del dipartimento dei rettili al museo di storia naturale al giardino zoologico. Il dottore fu colpito dalla competenza della giovanetta in fatto di rettili e le promise di prenderla seco appena avesse finito le scuole. Così fu: a 18 anni miss Procter era sua assistente.

Ora il dott. Boulenger deve dedicare tutta la sua attività alla direzione del nuovo magnifico acquario che si sta costruendo nel giardino zoologico, e i rettili sono stati messi sotto il governo di miss Procter, la quale maneggia senza timore e con meravigliosa sicurezza gli esemplari più velenosi e maligni. Arrivano al museo serpenti da ogni parte del mondo, e qualche volta avviene che al momento di aprire le ceste le bestie scappino e si nascondano dove possono. Miss Procter è famosa per sgridarli e rimetterli in gabbia.

Ma pare che questa sia una qualità di famiglia. Nèppur sua madre ha ribrezzo per i serpenti: ad un giornalista che andò a casa sua ha fatto vedere sei bellissime serpi brasiliane che sono tenute nel salotto in un cofano di vetro. La signora ha sollevato il coperchio e si è fatta attorcigliare i serpenti intorno alla braccia mentre il giornalista cercava con la coda dell'occhio una possibile via di ritirata.

from the *Staffordshire Daily Express*
of Publication
ed 21 7 23

WOMAN CURATOR OF REPTILES.

Mr. E. G. Boulenger, at present Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium. He will continue to exercise a general supervision over the reptiles. Mr. Boulenger is a son of Dr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., for long chief of the Department of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes at the British Museum of Natural History.

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles, and will assume her duties in late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge.

WOMAN'S REPTILE PETS.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles to the London Zoological Gardens, has been interested in such creatures since she was seven years old.

Her present collection of living reptiles includes a Brazilian house snake, which is very keen on being handled and petted. These benevolent serpents are used instead of cats in some parts of South America, and are most effective in keeping a place clear of rats and mice.

Miss Procter is succeeding Mr. E. G. Boulenger, F.Z.S., at the Zoo's Reptile House in the autumn. Mr. Boulenger is in charge of the £50,000 aquarium which is now being constructed under the Mappin Terraces at the Zoo.

from the *Paris Daily Mail*
Saturday July 21st

Cutting from the *Blackpool Gazette*
Address of Publication
Issue dated 21 7 23

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an English girl of twenty-five, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators, and crocodiles.

Cutting from the *Evening Express*
Address of Publication *London*
Issue dated 21 7 23

Woman Curator of Reptiles.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London "Zoo," to succeed Mr E. G. Boulenger, who becomes director of the new Aquarium. Since 1916 she has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge.

She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the Aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Cutting from the Leeds Mercury
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 21. 7. 23

THE ZOO GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.



Miss Joan Proctor, who has been appointed curator of the reptile section at the Zoo. Though she is only twenty-five, she is acknowledged to be one of the greatest snake experts in the world.

Eve and the Serpents.

AT the Zoo in London a girl has been appointed curator of reptiles. This unusual course has been adopted because the lady, Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., is one of the leading authorities on these rather terrifying creatures. Ever since she was a tiny child Miss Proctor has been fond of reptiles, and her list of pets were of a nature to terrify the average person. She read every book that dealt with snakes and lizards, so that when she came in contact with men who made a life study of reptiles they were amazed at her knowledge. She adopted her present career on leaving school. Miss Joan Proctor's fame has penetrated over the world. The Zoological Society of Bombay made her a Fellow, and American experts held her in high regard. She is also one of the experts at the Museum of Natural History at South Kensington, and loves and fondles dangerous serpents as an average woman would pet kittens and puppies.

Cutting from the Bristol Evening
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 20. 7. 23.

THE GIRL-SNAKE EXPERT.

Our London correspondent telegraphs—
 The sphere of women's activity widens daily, and this morning we have news of girl snake expert being appointed to take charge of reptiles.
 It sounds a job for which there will be little feminine competition. Miss Joan Proctor's childhood care of snakes as pets has brought reward in her present appointment.

Cutting from the Evening Dispatch
 Address of Publication Edinburgh
 Issue dated 23 7 23



Girl Snake Expert at the Zoo.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, London. Miss Proctor, who is 25 years of age, is an acknowledged expert on snakes.

Cutting from the Christian World
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 26. 7. 23

Miss Joan B. Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo in place of Mr. E. G. Boulenger, who is to take up duties as director of the new aquarium. Miss Proctor has for several years been a worker in the Reptile Department at the British Museum.

Cutting from the Leeds Mercury
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 24-7-23

WOMEN AND SNAKES.

A Zoo Curator Who Loves Reptiles.

From a Scientific Correspondent.

The attitude of men, and still more of women, to snakes is strangely illogical. To most people they are extremely repulsive objects. Even those which are harmless inspire a loathing, which seems unaccountable in view of the beauty of their markings and colour. This feeling of disgust is not fear, though no doubt fear enters into it. That much more dangerous animal, a tiger, excites our highest admiration.

On the other hand there are a few people for whom these reptiles have a singular fascination; they handle them entirely without fear and keep some of the most deadly varieties as pets. To this category belongs Miss Joan Procter, who at the early age of 25 has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She seems to be entirely devoid of fear where snakes are concerned, and her remarkable gift was noticeable even in her early childhood.

She is one of those happy individuals whose natural bent is so pronounced that they are never in doubt as to the proper sphere of their life's work. Her natural qualities have been improved by earnest study and she is now one of the greatest experts on reptiles in the world.

How is it possible to account for such strange differences in the feelings aroused by these creatures? They are, we believe, without a parallel. Both the loathing and the fascination appear to be instinctive and not due to training or experience. Both alike are entirely unreasonable.

For the loathing it may be possible to account by assuming that our remote ancestors lived for hundreds of generations in regions swarming with deadly reptiles. Under such circumstances the only children who would survive would be those who felt a mortal and unreasoning terror of these creatures, prompting them to shrink away at their every appearance. Though the conditions have long since passed away the unreasoning loathing persists in every generation.

The fascination presents a more obscure problem. There is reason to believe that it is strongly hereditary, and it may be possible that while the majority found safety in excessive fear, here and there individuals established a somewhat mysterious affinity for these creatures which protected them from attack, and which likewise has persisted through generations.

From The General Press Cutting Association, Ltd.

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Cutting from the Daily Graphic
Address of Publication _____

Issue dated 24-7-23

SNAKE CHARMER OF THE ZOO.

Woman Takes Charge of the Creepy Things.

YOUTH AND PLUCK.

Not Afraid of the Boa Constrictor.

By A WOMAN REPORTER.

LOOKING after snakes and other creepy things hardly sounds a woman's job, but young Miss Joan Procter is taking it on.

Miss Procter—who is entitled to write F.Z.S., and F.L.S. after her name—has just been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens.

After a vain search at the Zoo and at the Natural History Museum yesterday, I was at last able to track her to the West Kensington flat she shares with her mother.



"I hope to be back at work soon," she told me, "but at present, as you see, I have to stop in bed and am on sick leave."

The thing that strikes one most about Miss Procter is her extreme youth. Propped up among the pillows, she looked so small and frail that you would imagine she had not the courage to face a mouse, let alone a python. Her pale, elfish face has a look of determination about it, however, and there is a glint in her eye that would quell the spirit of the most unruly boa constrictor.

Snakes Instead of China.

Round Miss Procter's bedroom hung snake skins of every kind. On the table was a half-made snake skin bag, on the floor lay snake skin shoes.

Ever since she was a child, not so very long ago either, Miss Procter has been interested in reptiles. As soon as she left St. Paul's School for Girls at Hammersmith she became voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger at the Natural History Museum.

Her love of keeping reptiles as pets, acquired as a school girl, has not left her yet, and anyone who strays unawares into her drawing-room is apt to get a shock.

You look into one of those low glass-fronted cabinets, in which one expects to find Crown Derby or Chinese ivories, and you recoil before a couple of water snakes from Brazil, or a small, harmless native of Tanganyika. They are being kept only temporarily at the flat.

Cutting from the Sunday School Chronicle
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 26. 7. 23

Notes of the Week.

Here is another cherished idea gone overboard—that no woman can stand anything "creepy"! Miss Joan Procter, who has just been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, is so fond of snakes and things that for some time she worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum as a voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger. She keeps her own private collection in her garden, and is now helping Dr. Boulenger with the new aquarium.

Cutting from the Irish Independent
 Address of Publication Dublin
 Issue dated 24. 7. 23



Miss Joan Procter, F.L.S.,
 Who has been appointed Curator of
 Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens.
 Her last post was that of Chief of
 the Department of Reptiles at the
 Natural History Museum, South
 Kensington.
 Photo, Central Press.

Cutting from the Evening Dispatch
 Address of Publication Edinburgh
 Issue dated 20. 7. 23

Miss Joan R. Procter, F.Z.S., who has been appointed curator of reptiles to the London Zoological Gardens, has been interested in such creatures since she was seven years old. At that age she had a crocodile as a pet, which she cared for during its two years of life.

Cutting from the Liverpool Echo
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 20. 7. 23

Queen of the Snakes.

At the age of twenty-five Miss Joan Procter has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. She is one of the greatest snake experts of the day. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Miss Procter, at the age of ten had her first snake as a pet. She also kept many lizards, some of them remarkably tame. One day she received a large and valuable crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr. C. A. Boulenger, the famous chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, who was so astonished at her knowledge of ophiology that he offered to train her in the subject when she left St. Paul's School. She became his assistant when she was eighteen, and when he resigned she was appointed to the post. Miss Procter read her first paper, on the pit snake, before the Zoological Society at the age of nineteen. She was made a Fellow of the society at twenty. She was elected a Fellow of the Linnæan Society a fortnight ago. She is also a fellow of the Zoological Society of Bombay, and last year was offered a remunerative post by the Zoological Society of New York.

Cutting from the Newcastle Chronicle
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 20. 7. 23

ONE WOMAN'S SPECIALITY.

Not to every woman would the curatorship of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens appeal, but to have received the position is an honour decidedly. This honour has fallen to Miss Joan Procter, who will take up her work in the autumn. Educated at St. Paul's School for girls, Miss Procter has been in the reptile department of the British Museum for seven years, and may be said to know her job backwards. Not content with studying the habits, anatomy, and little ways of reptiles in working hours, she keeps a collection of the living creatures at home. She is at the moment designing rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Cutting from the Worcester Daily Times
 Address of Publication _____
 Issue dated 20. 7. 23

WOMAN CURATOR.

Miss Procter is to be Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo in succession to Mr. Boulenger, who becomes Curator of the new Aquarium now in process of completion. Miss Procter, educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, has worked in the Reptile department of the British Museum since 1916, and was at one time Mr. Boulenger's assistant.



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25th July 1923.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S.
Zoological Gardens,
Regents Park, N.W.

Dear Madam,

We believe that a book on Reptiles
by you, written in a popular manner, would have
some vogue and we should like to know if you
would care to consider the question of writing
such a work.

Should you not have the time to write
a book of this description perhaps you may have
some of your contributions to magazines and news-
papers beside you which might be issued in Book
form. We shall be very glad to be associated with
you in any volume from your pen.

Trusting to hear from you,

We remain,

Yours faithfully,

T. Werner Laurie &

Ans. 27. vii. 23

*As time & no articles
will let him know if have scope later on. J.P.P.*



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Miss Joan B. Procter,
Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, N.W.8.

July
30th,
1923.

Dear Madam,

We are in receipt of your letter of the 28th and are of course disappointed that you ~~are~~ unable to find time to write a book on reptiles at present. We hope that you will keep the matter in mind and if at any time you are able to complete such a work that you will favour us with the MSS.

Faithfully yours,

T. Werner Laurie

CHARIVARIA.

WE gather from a statement of the FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS that there is no intention of removing the barricades from Downing Street at present. But surely he must know that Mr. LLOYD GEORGE escaped from No. 1 many months ago.

Peace has been signed at Lausanne and Surrey has at last defeated Kent at Blackheath. Somebody might now tell us what else there is to do.

A lady has been appointed Curator of the Reptile House at the Zoo. In feminist circles this is regarded as marking a splendid advance since the days of Eve.

Main *Proter*

No.

From The General Press Cutting Association, Ltd.

ATLANTIC HOUSE,

45-50, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. 1.

TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 4815.

Cutting from the

Illustrated London News

Address of Publication

Issue dated

28.4.23

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who is to be Curator of Reptiles at the "Zoo," is already known to readers of "The Illustrated London News" through her work on the tanks for the new Aquarium, illustrations of which were given in our issue of July 14 last. She is twenty-five.



THE "ZOO'S" NEW CURATOR OF REPTILES: MISS JOAN PROCTER.

Cutting from the

Times Weekly Edition

Address of Publication

Issue dated

26.4.23

A Woman Zoologist.

The position of Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens would not appear, at first sight, to be one likely to appeal to a woman, but Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who has been appointed to succeed Mr. E. G. Boulenger in that office, is a recognized authority on the subject. She has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum since 1916, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo. Mr. Boulenger has been appointed Director of the new aquarium which is under construction. He has made the reptile collection at the Zoo one of the finest in the world.

Cutting from the

Cambridge & Pechham

Address of Publication

Times

Issue dated

28/4/23

Miss Joan Procter, a young lady of 25 years, who is entitled to write goodness only knows how many initials after her name, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo. Her charges will include cobras, pythons, boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles. We don't know that we should care about the job. But there woman always was a charmer. Even man, the most deadly of reptiles, succumbs to her charms.

Cutting from the

Evening Standard Daily Mail

Address of Publication

Issue dated

28.7.23

GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.

TO TAKE CHARGE OF ZOO REPTILES.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles to the London Zoological Gardens, has been interested in such creatures since she was seven years old.

At that age she had a crocodile as a pet, which she cared for during its two years of life. At present Miss Procter is carrying on the work of the Reptile Department of the British Museum, but she by no means confines her observations to preserved specimens.

Her present collection of living reptiles includes a Brazilian house snake, which is very keen on being handled and petted. These benevolent serpents are used instead of cats in some parts of South America, and are most effective in keeping a place clear of rats and mice. Miss Procter has also some axolotls, and in the past has succeeded in transforming one of them from a water-creature to a land salamander by scientifically reducing its allowance of water. Prof. Huxley's thyroid-gland experiments produced the same results.

Some lizards and a small python are also included in her collection, while at the British Museum she has a fire-bellied toad which she has owned for the past 10 years.

Miss Procter, who is 25, is succeeding Mr. E. G. Boulenger, F.Z.S., at the Zoo's Reptile House in the autumn. Mr. Boulenger is in charge of the £50,000 aquarium which is now being constructed under the Mappin Terraces at the Zoo.



Miss Procter.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Empty Titles at Cambridge.

One hundred and twenty-two Cambridge women students have recently received diplomas of the title of the degree of B.A. Fifty belong to Girton, and seventy-two to Newnham. Ninety-six women students have received diplomas of the title of the degree of M.A. Thirty-six belong to Girton, and sixty to Newnham. Two Girton students have also obtained, respectively, diplomas for Bachelor of Law, and one for Master of Law. The number of students in residence during the last Easter term were 180 at Girton, and 257 at Newnham.

Woman Curator's Appointment.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, and will assume her duties in the late autumn. Miss Proctor was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and, since 1916, has worked in the reptile department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes, frogs, and lizards.

Married Women's Dependence.

Speaking at a recent women's luncheon party at the Lyceum Club, Mrs. Champion de Crespigny said that, while the unmarried woman now had opportunities not thought of in the last century, the married woman of small means was cramped and nullified by her absolute dependence. A married woman should be entitled to a definite proportion of the salary of her husband, and it ought not to be given as a favour.

Women and Peace.

At the recent meeting of the Board of Officers of the International Council of Women, held at the House of Cromar, Aberdeenshire, it was decided to hold a Conference of women's international organisations next March in London, to discuss the "Prevention of the causes of War, and how women can promote World Peace."

Grants for Women Sculptors.

It has been decided to use the money collected for the Lady Feodora Gleichen Memorial Fund, amounting to over £2,000, in giving grants to women sculptors for the purpose of their work. The original object of the Fund was to provide studios and materials for women sculptors.

Cutting from the Birmingham Weekly Post
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 28-7-23

English Lady Snake Charmer.

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who has just been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo, is English, and only twenty-five years of age. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous snakes, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles. Miss Proctor, though unknown to the world at large, is famous among zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day, and her interest in the subject is probably hereditary, as her grandfather was a famous entomologist, and she had her first pet snake when she was only ten years old.

Cutting from the Manchester Evening News
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 28-7-23

Eve and the Serpents.

AT the Zoo in London a girl has been appointed curator of reptiles. This unusual occurrence has been adopted because the lady, Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., is one of the leading authorities on these rather terrifying creatures. Ever since she was a tiny child Miss Proctor has been fond of reptiles, and her list of pets were of a nature to terrify the average person. She read every book that dealt with snakes and lizards, so that when she came in contact with men who made a life study of reptiles they were amazed at her knowledge. She adopted her present career on leaving school. Miss Joan Proctor's fame has penetrated over the world. The Zoological Society of Bombay made her a Fellow, and American experts held her in high regard. She is also one of the experts at the Museum of Natural History at South Kensington, and loves and fondles dangerous serpents as an average woman would pet kittens and puppies.

Cutting from the Manchester Guardian
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 26-7-23

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., has been appointed curator of the reptile house at the Zoological Gardens. She is regarded as one of the greatest experts on snakes in the world.

Cutting from the Children's Newspaper
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 4 8 23

FRIEND OF THE CRAWLY THINGS

Miss Procter of the Zoo

Ladies who are afraid of mice, spiders, beetles, newts, snakes, and such unfamiliar things may shudder at hearing that Miss Joan Procter has been appointed curator of the reptiles at the Zoo in London.

Miss Procter does not shudder at any kind of animal, for they are her familiars, especially snakes. She began keeping snakes as pets when she was ten. When she was eighteen she became an assistant in the reptiles' department at South Kensington.

Now, at 25, she goes to the Zoo to be the friend of all the crawly and cold-blooded things, as she is the friend of the collection she keeps in her home.

Cutting from the Schoolmistress
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 2 8 23

CURATOR AT THE ZOO.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., who, on account of her writings and research work in zoology, was recently made a Fellow of the Linnean Society, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens. For several years Miss Procter has been a worker in the Reptile Department of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, and she hopes to keep on with her research work there, in addition to taking charge of the reptile houses and the tortoises at the Zoo. At present she is engaged on designing the decorative rock-work for the new aquarium tanks at the Zoo. She makes models of the tanks on a scale of two inches to a foot, and the workmen carry out her designs. The largest of the tanks will be 30 ft. in length. The tanks are being made partly of natural rocks, such as Cornish granite, and partly of Portland cement.

M Miss Procter No. _____

From The General Press Cutting
Association, Ltd.

ATLANTIC HOUSE,
45-50, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. 1.
TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 4815.

Cutting from the Sheffield Telegraph
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 10 8 23

The newest profession for women is an extraordinary one, in which there will be little competition. Few women would care to spend their working hours among reptiles, yet it is a lady, Miss Joan Procter, who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo. Miss Procter was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and has worked in the Reptile Department as assistant of Mr. Boulenger, who now becomes Curator of the New Aquarium.

Miss Joan Procter No. _____

From The General Press Cutting
Association, Ltd.

ATLANTIC HOUSE,
45-50, HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C. 1.
TELEPHONE: HOLBORN 4815.

Cutting from the Machinery Market
Address of Publication _____
Issue dated 3 8 23

Woman Curator of Reptiles.

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., will take up in November the position of curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens. Miss Procter, who was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, worked for some years with Dr. G. A. Boulenger, who is relinquishing the position. She has been interested in reptiles and frogs since her school days and keeps a collection in her Kensington home.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

Editor:
Mrs. OLIVER STODOLSKY

Mrs. E. Macadam
Mrs. J. L. Stocks

62, OXFORD STREET, W. 1.
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15 Deans Yard
Westminster

23/7/23

Dear Madam

The directors of the above paper have suggested that I should ask you if you would be so very kind as to write us a short account of your work at the Zoological Society for the above paper. We are interested in all aspects of women's work, & especially in any which appear to be opening out new avenues of opportunity. Your recent appointment naturally has interested us very much. I send a copy of a recent issue - articles generally run, as you will see, to 700-900 words. And I should add that being a propaganda paper & therefore financially insolvent, we are forced to live on the charity of our contributors. That however does not prevent us from boldly asking our respect for anything we want!

Yours faithfully

M. Stocks (Tant ed:)

P.S. As a matter of fact we were at school together - & if we were to meet face to face I should address you as "Joan" & not as "Madam". In those days I was Mary Brinton & I have an idea that you were in one of the many 4th forms, when I was in one of the many fifth's.

AUGUST 10, 1923.

A WOMAN HERPETOLOGIST.

By CHRYSTABEL PROCTER.

Entomology and other branches of zoology can be, and often are, begun comparatively late in life, but the herpetologist is born a herpetologist.

As soon as she was old enough to express her thoughts, my sister (Joan B. Procter) announced that she intended to spend her life in the study of reptiles, and until now she certainly has kept her word.

From ten to eighteen, she was educated at St. Paul's Girls' School, where her ambition was treated sympathetically, though I do not think anyone took it very seriously. She was taught no biology—zoology was not included in the curriculum until the term after she left—but she was allowed in the higher forms to specialize in Geology, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Out of school, almost the whole of her time was spent in studying zoology.

She kept a large collection of reptile pets, from the time she was a small child, and has always had the knack of taming them very quickly. She believes she is safe with snakes, because she has no fear of them. It is fear, she says, that makes the danger. Young children are not, as a rule, afraid of reptiles until made afraid by adults. At eighteen, her scientific education began at the Natural History Museum, where she had the amazing good luck to be trained for three years by Dr. G. A. Boulenger. No other training could have fitted her so well for the work she is doing now. I have heard her say many times that she owes all her success to his patience and kindness. Dr. Boulenger was the greatest living authority on reptiles, batrachians, and fish; and in recent years has become a distinguished botanist.

My sister first met him when, as a child, she took a small pet crocodile to the Museum to be named correctly. Other visits followed and, when she left school, she went to work under his supervision. Besides teaching her science, he encouraged her to do independent research work, and instructed her in the routine work of the Museum. She read papers before the Zoological Society—the first when she was nineteen—and she had much practice in the working out and naming of collections from foreign museums.

When Dr. Boulenger retired in 1920, he arranged that she should carry on his work, and this she has done ever since.

Her duties have included routine work such as the writing up of reports, registers, and catalogues; the answering of letters from all over the world on the subject of reptiles and batrachians; the naming of museum and private collections; the describing of new species, and the general supervision of students of herpetology.

Some 3,000 specimens have passed through her hands; she has published many scientific papers and compiled the Zoological Record (Reptiles and Batrachians) for 1920 and 1921.

She is a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, the Linnean Society, and the Bombay Natural History Society.

At home she has kept a private collection of living creatures, which has latterly included rare and delicate batrachians from collectors abroad.

Her work as Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens will commence in November, and will include care of the living collection and research. She is looking forward to it very much. It is not usual in England for a woman to be offered such a post, or to have enjoyed such training, and my sister feels herself to be unusually fortunate. Abroad, however—especially in America—there is more scope for women. A Miss Dickerson was for some time head of the Department of Herpetology in the New York Museum, and Dr. Nelly de Rooij now holds a similar position in Leiden.

My sister is at present engaged in designing the rockwork for the tanks in the new Aquarium, under the Mappin Terraces, at the Zoo. This has, of course, nothing whatever to do with her herpetological work. There are to be about sixty tanks, all different, and each one geologically correct and suited to the habits of the creatures which are to live in it. The designs include studies in many kinds of natural rock. My sister makes small models, scale two inches to the foot, and these are copied by craftsmen.

The Girls' Own Free Press

MEETS CRAWLY THINGS FROM ZOO AS FRIENDS

Woman Appointed Curator of Reptiles at London

Girls who are afraid of mice, spiders, beetles, newts, snakes, and such unfamiliar things may shudder at hearing that Miss Joan Proctor has been appointed curator of the reptiles at the Zoo in London, England.

Miss Proctor does not shudder at any kind of animal, for they are her familiars, especially snakes. She began keeping snakes as pets when she was ten. When she was eighteen she became an assistant in the reptiles' department at South Kensington.

Now, at 25, she goes to the Zoo to be the friend of all the crawly and cold-blooded things, as she is the friend of the collection she keeps in her home.

WINNIPEG. SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1923.

THE WINNIPEG EVENING TRIBUNE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1923

SNAKE EXPERT



MISS JOAN PROCTOR, F.Z.S., F.L.S.

Miss Proctor has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens. She is 25 years old and acknowledged to be one of the greatest authorities on snakes in the world, and the ease with which she handles even the most deadly specimens is astonishing. Her last post was that of chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. Miss Proctor recently refused an offer from the Zoological Society of New York.

Miss Proctor does not shudder at any kind of animal, for they are her familiars, especially snakes. She began keeping snakes as pets when she was ten. When she was 18 she became an assistant in the reptiles' department at South Kensington.

Now she goes to the Zoo to be the friend of all the crawly and cold blooded things, as she is the friend of the collection she keeps in her home.

New York Tribune.

Date 5 AUG 1923

Reptiles Put Under Care of Woman Expert

Snakes Are Special Pets of Miss Joan Proctor, Who Has Been Appointed as Curator in London Zoo

LONDON.

Snakes and crocodiles are not, perhaps, the most pleasant creatures with which to live, but Miss Joan Proctor evidently thinks otherwise. This young Englishwoman has just been appointed curator of the reptile house at the London Zoological Gardens, where she will have entire charge of the cobras, the pythons, the alligators and all the other reptiles.

Miss Proctor's grandfather was a famous entomologist, so possibly her interest and aptitude in the subject are inherited. It certainly looks as though she is going to become as well known as he was, for already she is looked on by zoologists as one of the greatest of snake experts.

When in her very early teens she happened to visit the chief of the reptile department at the South Kensington Natural History Museum and so astonished him by her knowledge of ophiology—she had kept snakes and lizards as pets since her tenth birthday—that he offered to train her in the subject.

Accordingly, as soon as she left school she became Dr. Boulenger's assistant, this at the age of eighteen, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post. Last year the New York Zoological Society offered her a job, but she would not leave the Kensington Museum. Now, of course, she will have to give up her work there.

The young expert came into real contact with the zoological society at the age of nineteen when she read her first paper, on pit snakes, before them. A year later they made her F. Z. S. At the beginning of July she gained another distinction by being elected F. L. S., Fellow of the Linnman Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world.

Being surrounded by snakes during her attendance at the zoo apparently is not enough for Miss Proctor, and she keeps six Brazilian snakes in a glass cage in her drawing-room. These were sent her as a gift. Noted scientists in South America and South Africa have frequently sent rare and deadly reptiles to England, knowing her interest, and most of these she keeps at her own home.

SOUTH AFRICAN PAPER FAMOUS SNAKE EXPERT

Girl Scientist Who Does Not Advertise

Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an Englishwoman of 25 (who does not advertise herself), has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo. She will have complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles.

Miss Proctor, unknown to the world at large (for she does not advertise herself), is famous among zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day.

Johannesburg
Sunday Times

Girl Is World Snake Expert

Miss Joan Proctor, the twenty-three-year-old girl recently made curator of reptiles in the London Zoological Gardens, had her first pet snake when ten years old and her knowledge of crocodiles brought her the assistance of Dr. Boulenger, head of the department of reptiles, several years ago. She was 15 when she became his assistant and succeeded him when he resigned. She is one of the greatest snake experts in the world.

AMERICAN PAPER

HARTFORD COURANT
ARIZONA U. S. A.

23. 7. 23

GIRL ZOO CURATOR AND HER QUEER PALS.

Boa Constrictor and Crocodile as Playmates.

Turning a "Water Creature" Dry.

Miss Joan Proctor, the young girl who has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo, is somewhat shy to talk about her life work, which has been the study of creatures from which the average person turns with a shudder.

A slightly-built, smiling girl, with a pleasant expression, she is now busily engaged in the new aquarium in course of construction at the Zoo.

It was with reluctance that she admitted her identity. Asked when she began to be interested in snakes, she replied:—

"I never did begin. I have always been interested in them. I have worked among them since the time I left school. I have been at the Natural History Museum so far, and I am coming to my new post here in November."

"Yes, I have kept a great many pets of all sorts," she continued. "Which is the most unusual? Oh, they are all considered unusual. Among them was a boa constrictor. It is in the reptile house now—five feet long and perfectly tame. I kept it at home, and usually had it loose. It was shut up at night. Of course, I did not allow it to be about in the same room with the cat. It would have eaten pussy."

"I have also had a crocodile, an alligator, and all sorts of snakes and lizards. I have never had the slightest trouble with them. They were all great pets and quite tame."

When asked if she had trained any of her peculiar pets to do tricks, Miss Proctor merely smiled and said she did not want anything theatrical to be said about her and her pets.

She thinks, however, that the reptile house is one of the most popular places in the Zoo, especially with children.

"Children," she said, "are not afraid of the reptiles."

Miss Proctor's own collection of animals, it may be added, is a considerable one. The crocodile to which she referred was her playmate when she was quite a little girl of seven years old. It, however, only lived two years.

To see her making friends with a Brazilian house snake, which is one of her favourites at present, would scare the ordinary girl. A small python is also one of her present possessions, and she has a number of lizards.

Recently she succeeded with certain experiments in regard to axoleth. She managed to change the habits of one of them by scientifically reducing his allowance of water, and transformed it from a water creature to a land creature.

New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND

DUNEDIN, SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1923.

THE EVENING STAR.

WOMAN AS SNAKE EXPERT.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.

LONDON, July 20.

(Received July 21, at 11 a.m.)

The 'Daily Express' says that Miss Joan Proctor, an English girl, aged twenty-five, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Miss Proctor had her first pet snake when she was ten years of age. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr Boulenger, head of the department of reptiles in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. He was astonished at Miss Proctor's knowledge, and offered to train her. She became Dr Boulenger's assistant when she was eighteen, and succeeded him when he resigned. She is one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and is a fellow of the Zoological and Linnæan Societies.—A. and N.Z. Cable.

DUNEDIN, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1923.

THE EVENING STAR.

New Zealand

Joan Proctor was a little maid
Who never learnt to be afraid
Of caterpillars, slugs, or worms,
Or anything that creeps or squirms.
The birthday gift that first would fill her
With gladness was a caterpillar.
But great was her rejoicing when,
Attaining to the age of ten,
Some kindly friend contrived to make
A present of a lovely snake.
This gift with some might well beget
Dislike of a reptilian pet;
But Joan's small soul was tickled greatly.
She loved that serpent passionately!
And often (when the day was fine)
She bathed it in the Serpentine.
This lasted for a little while,
And then the sweetest crocodile,
With legs and jaws and tail complete,
Was sent her for a birthday treat.
Too lovely to enjoy alone,
She took it to South Kensington.
Thus opened her career of fame,
And soon our heroine became
The highest number on the lists
Of female serpentologists.
So great her reputation grew
That now she's been promoted to
Command the snake-house at the Zoo!

MORAL.

So, little girls, be sure you keep
From fear of things that crawl and creep.
Whenever you're terrified or scared,
Just think of how Joan Proctor fared.

NEW REPTILES AT THE ZOO.

LIZARD'S TONGUE LIKE PIECE OF BRIGHT BLUE CLOTH.

PIGMY CHAMELEON.

Within the last few days the collection exhibited in the Reptile House at Regent's Park has been enriched by the arrival of a number of new lizards and snakes of great interest, which still further add to the many attractions offered by this popular section of the Zoo.

Of the lizards, the curious and strangely-named Hardwick's Mastigures are among the most noteworthy, both by reason of their unusual appearance and characteristic habits.

These reptiles belong to a group known as Spiny-tailed lizards, all the members of which are provided with thick, rather short though well-developed tails, bearing numerous sharp spines arranged in a series of rings.

The head is very short and rounded, while the teeth, instead of being small and conical as in the better-known lizards, are few in number and united into broad grinding or cutting surfaces.

Vegetable Feeders.

The reason for this special modification is that the Spiny-tails are all vegetable feeders, whereas the typical lizards subsist, for the main part at least, on animal food in the form of insects, worms, etc.

These sombrely coloured and rather grotesque creatures present a strange appearance as they

recline lazily on the sand of their cages, placidly munching oats or maize, their unburied movements and benign expression being well in keeping with their gentle and inoffensive disposition.

In a state of nature the Hardwick's Mastigure occurs in the desert region of Baluchistan and Northern India, where it lives in burrows, from which it is dislodged only with the utmost difficulty. When attacked it will cling firmly to the walls of its retreat with its limbs, hanging on with remarkable pertinacity, at the same time blocking the entrance to the burrow with its stout, spiny tail.

Changing Colour.

A pigmy chameleon is another newcomer, and though of very diminutive stature—its body exclusive of the tail measuring but little more than three inches—has many features to recommend it to public notice.

Like the larger species, this bizarre little creature possesses the faculty of changing colour in an extraordinary degree, and even within the confines of its comparatively small cage is not easily recognised, so closely does the hue of its skin harmonise with whatever object the reptile may choose as a resting place.

The deception is still further assisted by the laterally compressed body and the attitudes assumed by the animal, which will remain quite motionless for hours together, only exhibiting evidence of life by rolling its globe-like eyes, each of which is kept in constant movement independently of the other.

Unlike the majority of chameleons the pigmy species gives birth to living young, as many as twelve little ones—perfect miniatures of their parents—being produced at a single birth.



A CHAMELEON.

Blue-tongued Lizard.

A blue-tongued lizard, with a tongue like a piece of bright blue cloth; Indo-Chinese and Indian rat snakes, well known in India as valuable vermin destroyers; a rare spot-ringed snake from Brazil, and some Indian cobras are also included among the animals which have just arrived at the Gardens.

E. F. D.

PUBLIC LEDGER—PHILADELPHIA

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1923

Girl Chosen to Take Charge of Snakes at London Zoo

Member of Noted Scientific Societies Has Made Reptiles Her Hobby Since Early Childhood

Public Ledger Foreign Service

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London, July 20.—(By Wireless.)—

Miss Joan Proctor, who at twenty-five years of age already sports two sets of initials after her name, has realized the ambition of her life. She has become the world's greatest snake charmer, and within a few months will assume her new duties as mistress of the reptile house at the London Zoo. She was busy preparing models for the rock-work which is to adorn the new home now being built for her charges today.

Joan has been on intimate terms with snakes since early girlhood. She has the utmost contempt for those of her sex or mere males who prefer almost any other creature to a snake for a pet. Collecting snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and other members of the reptile family has been her hobby since she was ten years old—a tendency possibly in-

herited from her grandfather, who was a distinguished entomologist.

Joan became assistant to the curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens when she was eighteen. She read her first paper on snakes before the Zoological Society a year later and at twenty became a fellow of that society. Two weeks ago she was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society of London, one of the world's foremost scientific bodies.

But Joan has equipment other than mental for her work. She looks like a snake charmer—diminutive, sinuous, with the jet black hair and beady, glittering eyes. She is fully impressed with the dignity of her new position. Today she declared her intention to heed closely the unwritten ethics of her profession.

"I really cannot grant an interview," she said, and then disappeared as mysteriously as one of her charges.

Fond of Snakes :

The New Reptile Curator at Home.



1. THE GREAT LADY REPTILE EXPERT: MISS JOAN B. PROCTER, F.Z.S., F.L.S., AND FRIEND.

2. A STUDY IN MISS PROCTER'S HOUSE: PUSSY, THE KYLON AND THE REPTILE.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the "Zoo," in succession to Mr. E. G. Boulenger, who has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium, is the greatest woman expert on reptiles of the day, and will assume her duties in the late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum—first as

3. THE LADY WHO HANDLES SNAKES WITH PLEASURE: MISS JOAN B. PROCTER, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED CURATOR OF REPTILES AT THE "ZOO."

4. ON THE FRIENDLIEST TERMS: MISS PROCTER AND A MEMBER OF HER PRIVATE COLLECTION.

voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, as the expert in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and owns a private collection of living specimens. Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the "Zoo."

Snake Expert.

THE AMERICAN
Aug. 1923



Photo by Kadel & Herbert.

MISS JOAN PROCTOR.

Not an ordinary snake charmer is Miss Proctor, F. Z. S., F. L. S., but Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens of London. She is an English girl, twenty-five years of age, and regarded the greatest authority on snakes in the world. She recently refused an offer from the New York Zoological Society.

Le Matin (Paris)
11. Aug.

ÉCHOS ET PROPOS

L'ECOLE DE LA TENTATION. —

C'est une femme, une jeune fille même, la frêle, délicate et gracieuse miss Procter qui est chargée, au jardin zoologique de Londres, de la section... des serpents.

Et je constate que les serpents et les femmes ont décidément des affinités dont la prudence masculine devrait commencer sérieusement à prendre ombrage.

Chacun connaît l'entente extrêmement cordiale qui existait entre notre mère Eve et l'ancêtre des serpents, et chacun sait aussi ce qui en est résulté.

Seulement, voilà, du temps de notre mère Eve, il y avait un paradis à perdre.

Tandis que maintenant...

Bosnie

Cutting from the *Hollingham Gazette*
Address of Publication
Issue dated 4 9 23

HER REPTILIAN FAMILY.

The second of the lady curators appointed by the Zoological Society, Miss Joan Procter, will take over her duties in charge of the reptiles at Regent's Park during the autumn. Miss Procter has plenty of practical experience of these strange pets, for, apart from work which she has fulfilled in the reptile department of the museum at South Kensington, she has for several years kept a private collection of live snakes and batrachians. She has designed the whole of the rockwork for the new aquarium at the Zoo.

Extract from

THE ENGLISHMAN CALCUTTA.

Date

WOMAN CURATOR OF REPTILES

APPOINTMENTS AT THE LONDON ZOO

Mr. E. G. Boulenger, at present Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, London, has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium. He will continue to exercise a general supervision over the reptiles, but for some time he has been very fully occupied with superintending the construction of the aquarium, and when the tanks are ready for occupation it is anticipated that his time will be almost completely engaged by his new duties. Mr. Boulenger is a son of Dr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., for long chief of the Department of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes at the British Museum of Natural History. Since Mr. Boulenger has been Curator at the Zoo the reptile-house has been greatly improved, and the collection made one of the finest in the world. During the war he served in France with the balloons.

Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles, and will assume her duties in late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Procter is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.



MAKING THE ZOO'S NEW AQUARIUM. — Finishing one of the two hundred tanks which are to form the new aquarium under the Mappin Terraces at the Zoo. Some of the tanks will hold thirty tons of water. — (Daily Mirror photograph.)

OCTOBER 6, 1923



Eve Among the Serpents

By Francis Yeats-Brown



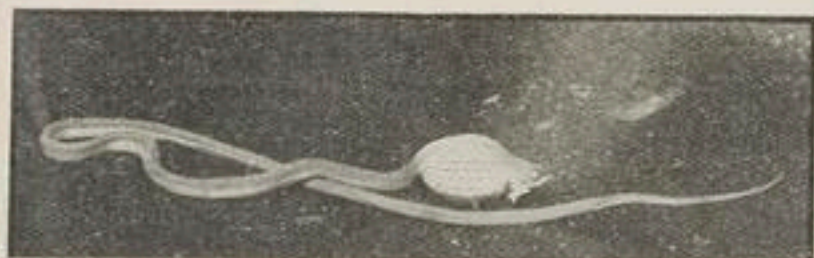
SOFT-VOICED, delicate-handed young lady of twenty-five was sitting at a desk by the window of a basement room in the Natural History Museum of South Kensington. Tall jars containing reptiles in spirits of wine stood here and there. In a corner of the room, an assistant worked among scales and test-tubes.

But Miss Joan B. Procter, Fellow of the Zoological Society, and Curator-elect of the Reptiles at the Zoo, is a busy person, and did not give me much time for staring about.

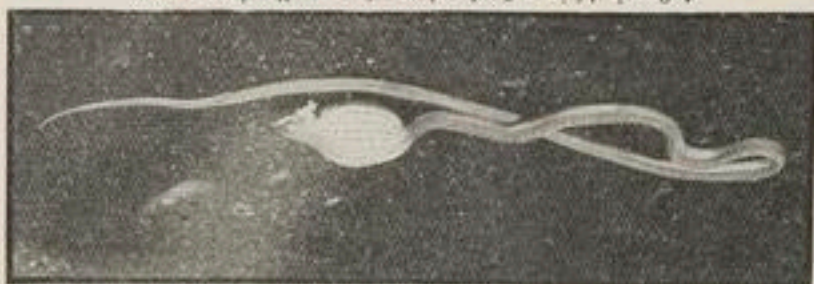
I noticed, as I took a seat at her desk, that various curly things in test-tubes stood before her, and that there was a snake skin on her blotting paper.

Since earliest childhood, Miss Procter has been devoted to reptiles. It was a pet crocodile which was responsible for setting her infant feet on the herpetological path. This little crocodile was of a species that neither she nor her parents could precisely identify. Whether or no she called it plain "Bill" in the nursery is beside the point: the burning question which agitated her mind was, was it *Crocodilus niloticus* or some rarer species? To solve the problem she took her pet to the Natural History Museum, and it was there that she met Dr. Boulanger, the greatest living authority on reptiles, batrachians, and fish. From this meeting her life-work was decided. As soon as she left school she worked under Dr. Boulanger's direct supervision, learning science from him as well as some of the routine work of the museum. When he retired in 1920, he arranged that she should carry on his work, and this she has done ever since.

At the age of nineteen she read her first paper before the Zoological Society. Recently she was elected a Member of the Linnæan Society, and in November she is to take up her new and



A South African Snake, just after swallowing an egg. Photo by Mr. F. W. Bond.



At the age of nineteen she read her first paper before the Zoological Society. Recently she was elected a Member of the Linnæan Society, and in November she is to take up her new and

Was it true that the cobra lowered its hood, and the rattlesnake was dumb at her approach?

"Certainly not; I handle dangerous reptiles in the ordinary way," Miss Procter answered, "with an iron bar to keep their heads down. Having handled snakes all my life, I suppose I have a certain confidence in dealing with them, but that's all!"

All!—but how necessary confidence and experience will be to Miss Procter I was able to gather from an inspection of her future charges at the Zoo.

The big snakes, for instance, are generally untamable. Given the slightest chance, they would seize and crush a man to death. When the twenty-five-foot python that the Prince of Wales brought back from India arrived at Regent's Park, it took ten strong men to straighten out his terrible coils and put him into his London apartment. Even now, the keeper would not trust him for an instant.

This python, in common with others of his species, has a very fickle appetite. At present he is hungry. On Friday evenings (his weekly dinner hour) one can see him waiting at the door of his den, his flat head waving to and fro, his forked tongue roving, and a gleam of anticipation in his cloudy amber eyes. A goat is given him, and he will contentedly swallow it whole, with horns and hair complete. But presently his appetite may dwindle to a rabbit or two, and then fade away altogether; indeed, pythons have been known to go for a whole year without bite or sup.



Grass Snake swallowing a viper (see page 60). Photo by Mr. F. W. Bond.

Snakes, of course, are only a part of Miss Procter's charge. She is deeply interested at present in foreign frogs and their habits. Tortoises also will claim her attention. As to crocodiles and alligators, they are hosts in themselves. From birth to death, all sorts of accidents are liable to befall them, and when they have to have a leg put in a splint, as sometimes happens, the operation is one that demands a stout heart, as well as a steady hand.

I was shown an infant alligator which lives in tepid water behind the scenes. He was no bigger than a lizard, although already six years old (corresponding to about two years in the shorter-lived human race), but, although so young, he was quite a little man of the world, and lay placidly in my hand while I examined his various devices for under-water comfort. After a few minutes, he permitted himself to yawn, and disclosed his baby back teeth, which in a hundred years or so, when he is full grown, will be strong enough to masticate an ox. At present he is a cheerful little creature, with no guile.

Who can tell what goes on in the minds of cold-blooded beasts? No one knows.

A grass-snake recently tried to eat a viper who shared its quarters. He began—rather foolishly, one is tempted to think—at his companion's tail. Strange to tell, instead of objecting and using its venom, the viper continued basking in the sun as if nothing odd was happening. When three-quarters of the viper had disappeared, the grass snake vomited it up again and made friends. All this happened in the course of an afternoon, and is typical of the strange lives that are being lived out in the Reptile House.

Why do rattlesnakes rattle? Why does the Mexican monitor swallow eggs whole, as if it were taking pills? Why do baby alligators have to be forcibly fed? Who can fathom the psychology of reptiles? These things are beyond the wit of man—and Miss Procter. But her position at the Zoo will undoubtedly add to our knowledge of that sinister creature who whispered to our ancestress in Eden.



A young Alligator emerging from an egg. Photo by Mr. F. W. Bond.

SEPTEMBER, 1923

THE CHURCH MILITANT

Miss Joan Proctor, F.L.S., F.Z.S., has been appointed Curator of the Reptiles at the Zoo, in which department she has been working since 1916.

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD SEPT. 2, 1923.



THE ZOO LADY CURATOR OF REPTILES.

Miss Joan B. Proctor, who has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoo. She is seen wearing one of her charges as a nocklet.

Cutting from the *Worcester Daily Times*

Address of Publication

Issue dated 4.9.23

In view of her appointment on the personnel of the Scientific Expeditionary Research Association's coming expedition to the South Pacific, Miss Chessman, who in 1917 became curator of insects in the London Zoo under Professor Maxwell Lefroy, will be temporarily withdrawn from that position. Miss Chessman enjoys the distinction of having been the first lady curator appointed by the Zoological Society, and during her tenure of the post she has created almost a revolution in the beautiful insect house presented some years ago by the late Sir William Calver. The Society has also quite recently appointed a lady curator of reptiles, in the person of Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., who for several years has worked in the reptile department of the British Museum as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and latterly in full charge. It seems curious that the only lady curators should specialise in creepy-crawly forms of life.

Rosses Snakes



Miss Joan Proctor, an English girl of 25, has just been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. She is one of the best known experts on snakes in the world.

Cutting from the *Liverpool Courier*

Address of Publication

Issue dated 4.9.23

HER REPTILIAN FAMILY.

The second of the lady curators appointed by the Zoological Society, Miss Joan Proctor, will take over her duties in charge of the reptiles at Regent's Park during the autumn.

Miss Proctor has plenty of practical experience of these strange pets, for, apart from work which she has fulfilled in the reptile department of the museum at South Kensington, she has for several years kept a private collection of live snakes and batrachians. She has designed the whole of the rockwork for the new aquarium at the Zoo.

slip sent
you 1/10/23

Calgary 38 Willow Road
Brighton. 30/8/23.

Dear Madam.

Pray pardon me, an utter stranger, thus addressing
you, but I was looking at several pictures of you today
in "the Sketch" & the description under them so
attracted me I felt bound to write and ask you
the following favour - that of your autograph for
my wonderful "Tea-Cloth". May I explain?
About 22 years ago I began to make an Autograph
Tea-Cloth - & sent it over "the Water" 10 times to
be signed by such men as Haig - French -
Foch - Jellicoe - Beatty & Sturdee - It was then
filmed - then sold - auctioned & raffled 5 times
in aid of War Charities - Last November - having
had it returned to me each time I gave it to Mr
Harry Preston. Royal York Hotel - Brighton - to be auctioned
in aid of the R. Sussex County Hospital - at his
Great Pearl Rosine Tournament. During the evening
my Cloth was stolen. Scotland Yard did all in
their power to recover it, and a big reward was
& still is, offered - but of no avail - Not to be
beaten I started another; the Archbishop of Can-
terbury signed first, consecrating it for its good
work! he wrote - then Lady Eliz - Bowes - Lyon
signed next, 10 days before her marriage -
And so on - the wonderful names are coming

2) In fact - all sports - professions etc. are represented - & I, who spend so much of my time at the Zoo, crave to have you, the head & curator of such a splendid branch, of it - as representative of the animals I love so much.

Please will you write your name on the enclosed piece of paper for me? I shall be so grateful -

The Cloth is on Pure White linen with handsome border of drawn thread work all round - the autographs in Scarlet letters in the centre. It has been all over the world nearly for signatures, but some names I have to ask for, & copy them over myself. otherwise the Cloth could not be filled up, or worked by me in time for December this year -

It is, of course, going to be sold - for the same 'Cause' - The "F. & G. Bleach Linen Co." gave me the linen to make this new one of - & it is to be exhibited in several of their windows as soon as ever it is finished.

Trusting you will grant me this favour

Yours faithfully
(J.B.) R. Barrington-Hell.

This J. B. Procter.



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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

FW/RS
PICTORIAL
DEPT.

4th Sept. 1923.

Miss Joan B. PROCTER, F.Z.S., F.L.S.
The Royal Zoological Society
Zoological Gardens.
Regents Park.
N.W.

Dear Madam,

We are very anxious to procure, with your
permission, a series of Cinematograph pictures of
yourself at home with your pet snakes.

These pictures would be published in
our well-known weekly Interest film "EVE & EVERYBODY'S
FILM REVIEW", which deals entirely with Women's
Activities.

Any day that is convenient to you would
suit us - weather permitting of course - and if
you are engaged during the week, Saturday or Sunday
would be quite convenient for us to take this film.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind
permission.

Yours faithfully

J. B. Freres
PATHE FRERES CINEMA, Ltd.

TV/R3. PICTORIAL DEPT.

Pathé Frères Cinema Ltd.
103-109, Wardour Street,
W.1.--

10.9.23.

Dear Sir,

Miss Procter instructs me to say that
she is unable to comply to your request to film her
with her snakes.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. B.

Dept. Zoology (Reptiles).

J.B.P/CJB.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
AUGUST 12, 1923



SNAKE EXPERT OF LONDON

Miss Joan Proctor, appointed curator of reptiles in London zoological gardens. She is one of the world's greatest authorities on the subject and recently refused an offer from the New York Zoological society to come to America.

Kadel & Herbert photo

New York

Extract from
NEW YORK TRIBUNE
NEW YORK.

5 AUG 1923

Reptiles Put Under Care of Woman Expert

Snakes Are Special Pets of
Miss Joan Proctor, Who
Has Been Appointed as a
Curator in London Zoo

LONDON.

Snakes and crocodiles are not, perhaps, the most pleasant creatures with which to live, but Miss Joan Proctor evidently thinks otherwise. The young Englishwoman has just been appointed curator of the reptile house at the London Zoological Gardens, where she will have entire charge of the cobras, the pythons, the alligators and all the other reptiles.

Miss Proctor's grandfather was a famous entomologist, so possibly her interest and aptitude in the subject are inherited. It certainly looks as though she is going to become as well known as he was, for already she is looked on by zoologists as one of the greatest of snake experts.

When in her very early teens she happened to visit the chief of the reptile department at the South Kensington Natural History Museum and so astonished him by her knowledge of ophiology—she had kept snakes and lizards as pets since her tenth birthday—that he offered to train her in the subject. Accordingly, as soon as she left school she became Dr. Boulenger's assistant, this at the age of eighteen, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post. Last year the New York Zoological Society offered her a job, but she would not leave the Kensington Museum. Now, of course, she will have to give up her work there.

The young expert came into real contact with the zoological society at the age of nineteen when she read her first paper, on pit snakes, before them. A year later they made her F. Z. S. At the beginning of July she gained another distinction by being elected F. L. S., Fellow of the Linnæan Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world.

Being surrounded by snakes during her attendance at the zoo apparently is not enough for Miss Proctor, and she keeps six Brazilian snakes in a glass cage in her drawing-room. These were sent her as a gift. Noted scientists in South America and South Africa have frequently sent rare and deadly reptiles to England, knowing her interest, and most of these she keeps at her own home.

WORLD'S WORK

MEN AND WOMEN OF TO-DAY

A CURATOR OF REPTILES

ON the appointment of Miss Joan B. Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., to be a Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens the funny men, from "Mr. Punch" downwards, had a great day. There were any number of weak jokes about the modern snake-charmer; and "Mr. Punch" opined that the opportunity had at last arrived for Woman to be revenged upon the Serpent.

But, seriously, her assumption of this office adds another to the many strange occupations which are now open to, and have lately been taken up by, women of to-day. Miss Procter succeeded to her position because Mr. E. G. Boulenger, who has been Curator of Reptiles, has been appointed Director of the new aquarium. For some time to come he will exercise a general supervision over reptiles; but he has of late been fully occupied by the construction of the new aquarium; and when the tanks are ready for occupation it is anticipated that his new duties will leave him little opportunity for work elsewhere.

Mr. Boulenger's family has long been associated with Natural History, for he is a son of Dr. G. A. Boulenger, who was for many years Chief of the Department of Reptiles, Batrachians and Fishes at the British Museum of Natural History. It is due to his son that the reptile house at the Zoo has been so greatly improved, and that it contains one of the finest collections in the world.

But, to go back to our subject, Miss Procter will assume her duties in the late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls; and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum of Natural History first as a voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge of the department.

There is no doubt whatever of her ability and efficiency. She has written a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification and habits of reptiles and batrachians; and has for a long time kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians.

Although she is still working in the Reptile Department in the Museum of Natural History

as its chief, she has also been assisting at the Zoo in designing rockwork for the aquarium tanks, which promise soon to be such an attractive feature of London life.

No one familiar with the exceedingly beautiful aquariums in the Oceanographical Museum at Monaco or on the Battery at New York can fail to realise the possibilities of these institutions. Those who have not seen them cannot imagine the beauty of properly designed and decorated tanks set in windows through which the light plays not only upon gorgeously coloured fishes and marine monsters in all shades of red and grey, gold and silver, but also upon masses of coral branches, deep-sea weeds and grasses and shells of all shapes and sizes, both with



MISS JOAN B. PROCTER

THE WORLD'S WORK

SEPTEMBER, 1923

326

MEN AND WOMEN

and without their original occupants. In the arrangement of these submarine scenes Miss Procter will find ample scope for combining artistic feminine taste with scientific knowledge.

Eva Bland.

A CITY-BUILDER

Many honours of high distinction have recently been awarded to Sir Charles Wilson, J.P., F.S.A.A., the new Member of Parliament for Leeds. First, the city to whose welfare and well-being he has given so many selfless years made him a Freeman by unanimous vote of the Council and acclaim of the people, then the University conferred upon him the Degree of LL.D., probably the first accountant to be admitted into this select academic fellowship. Next, he was granted a Knighthood in the King's Birthday List, and now he has been returned to Westminster. The scene in the Town Hall of Leeds when the freedom of the city and the University degree were conferred, impressed me by its beauty and dignity. I think it is Professor Gilbert Murray who, translating one of his beloved Greek authors, gives us the line "The apple tree, the singing and the gold." The words perfectly portray a festival of rich delight, of proud gladness in the heart and colour in the setting. Truly it was a scene memorable for its manifold solemnity and significance. It was the City giving honour to one who has helped to make it honourable.

Major the Right Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.A., M.P., President of the Board of Education, was associated with the then Alderman Wilson (a Major, too, if I were to use his military title) in receiving the highest honours which it is in the power of City and University to give. Major Wood, the son of the venerable Lord Halifax, who was proudly present at the Ceremony of Conferment, recently transferred his beautiful home and estate, Temple Newsam, the Templestowe of *Ivanhoe*, to the City of Leeds on generously sacrificial terms, and as a gift he made over a treasure-trove of furniture and art. It was Alderman Wilson who carried the delicately intricate negotiations to successful issue. Nothing could have been more appropriate than the comradeship of these two men in honour on so eventful and so noble a day.

Through the eloquent lips of Sir Michael Sadler, the Vice-Chancellor, the University paid homage to Alderman Wilson's "disinterested public service." In a choice perora-

Telephone No. Central 7989.

International Press-Cutting Bureau
14, New Bridge Street, London, E.C. 4.

Extract from

NEW YORK WORLD

NEW YORK.

19 August, 1923.

Her Specialty Is Snakes.

MISS JOAN PROCTOR, a London girl, has a job which few women, and few men for that matter, would care to hold except in the most distant of purely honorary capacities. She has just been elected curator of reptiles at the famous London Zoo, after refusing a cabled offer of a similar position at our own Bronx Zoo at a much higher salary.

Miss Proctor is only 25 years old, but is recognized as one of the greatest living authorities on serpents. Her reputation indeed is already worldwide among naturalists.



Joan Proctor.

She will not only have charge of all the reptiles in the great collection in London but will also have complete charge of the new aquarium and its denizens. In fact she has been responsible for the designing and construction of this zoological watering place.

Miss Proctor's grandfather was a famous entomologist, and she herself has kept lizards and snakes as pets since her tenth birthday. When in her very early teens she astonished the chief of the reptile department of the South Kensington Museum by her knowledge of ophiology and when she was only 18 she succeeded to his post on his resignation. At 19 she read her first paper before the Zoological Society and later was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world.

Apparently failing to see enough of snakes at the Zoo she keeps six Brazilian reptiles in a glass cage in her drawing room. They were sent to her as a gift, for noted scientists in South America and South Africa, knowing her interest, frequently send deadly serpents to England for her, and she keeps most of them in her own home.

International Press-Cutting Bureau.

Extract from

NEW YORK HERALD.
New York, U.S.A.

Date

LONDON NAMES WOMAN CURATOR OF REPTILES

Miss Joan Proctor One of World's Leading Experts.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
Copyright, 1923, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau,
London, July 28.

Miss Joan Proctor, regarded by zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts in the world, has been appointed curator of reptiles for the London Zoo. It is the first time that a woman has been appointed to a place of such responsibility at the Zoo. Miss Proctor, although only 25 years old, has for some time shown conspicuous ability in her chosen profession. Her grandfather was a great entomologist.

Her mother, speaking of Miss Proctor's work, said: "At 10 my daughter had her first snake as a pet. She also kept many lizards and some of them were remarkably tame. One day she received a large crocodile as a present, and we took it to Dr. C. A. Boulenger, famous chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. He was astonished at my daughter's knowledge of ophiology and offered to train her in the subject when she left St. Paul's School. She became his assistant when she was 18 years old, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post."

Miss Proctor read her first paper on snakes before the Zoological Society at the age of 19. She was a fellow of the society at 20 and was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world only a fortnight ago. Last year, it is said, she was offered a post by the New York Zoological Society.

Extract from

THE FRIEND BLOEMFONTEIN.

Date

Sep 1st

Miss Joan Proctor, an English girl, aged 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Miss Proctor had her first pet snake when she was aged 10. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr. Boulenger, head of the department for reptiles in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. He was astonished at her knowledge, and offered to train her. She became Dr. Boulenger's assistant when 18, and is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and is a Fellow of the Zoological and Linnean Societies.

Extract from

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN
Charlottetown, Canada.

Date

WOMAN CURATOR OF ZOO REPTILES

LONDON, Aug. 15.—Mr. E. G. Boulenger, at present Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, has been appointed Director of the new Aquarium. He will continue to exercise a general supervision over the reptiles, but for some time he has been very fully occupied with superintending the construction of the aquarium, and when the tanks are ready for occupation it is anticipated that his time will be almost completely engaged by his new duties. Mr. Boulenger has been Curator at the Zoo, F.R.S., for long chief of the Department of Reptiles, Batrachians and Fishes at the British Museum of Natural History. Since Mr. Boulenger has been Curator at the Zoo the reptile-house has been greatly improved, and the collection made one of the finest in the world. During the war he served in France with the balloons.

Miss Joan B. Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles, and will assume her duties in late autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Proctor is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

MADRAS MAIL.
MADRAS.

14 AUG 1923

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

Miss Joan B. Proctor, F.Z.S., F.L.S., has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens, and will assume her duties in the Autumn. She was educated at St. Paul's School for Girls, and since 1916 has worked in the Reptile Department at the British Museum, first as voluntary assistant to Dr. Boulenger, and, since his retirement, in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and for many years has kept a private collection of living snakes and batrachians. At present Miss Proctor is still carrying on the work of the Reptile Department at the Museum, but is also engaged in designing the rockwork for the aquarium tanks at the Zoo.

Date 21 JUL 1923

CURATOR OF REPTILES.

YOUNG WOMAN APPOINTED.
LONDON, 20th July.

Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, aged 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Miss Procter had her first pet snake when she was aged ten. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr. Boulenger, head of the department for reptiles in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. He was astonished at her knowledge, and offered to train her. She became Dr. Boulenger's assistant when 18, and succeeded him when he resigned. She is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and is a fellow of the Zoological and Linnean societies.

Date 21 JUL 1923

GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.

CURATOR OF REPTILES.

LONDON, July 20.

The "Daily Express" states that Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, aged 25 years, has been appointed Curator of Reptiles in the London Zoological Gardens. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Miss Joan had her first pet snake when she was 10 years of age. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr. Boulenger, head of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. He was astonished at Miss Joan's knowledge, and offered to train her. She became Dr. Boulenger's assistant when 18, and succeeded him when he resigned. She is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and a Fellow of the Zoological and Linnean Societies.

Date 21 JUL 1923

A FAIR SNAKE-CHARMER

GIRL CURATOR OF REPTILES.

AT LONDON ZOO.

LONDON, July 20.

The "Daily Express" reports that Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, aged 25, has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens.

Her father was a famous entomologist. Joan had her first pet snake when aged 10. One day she received a crocodile as a present, and took it to Dr. Boulenger, head of the Department of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. He was astonished at the little girl's knowledge, and offered to train her. Joan became Dr. Boulenger's assistant when 18, and succeeded him when he resigned. She is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and is a Fellow of the Zoological and Linnean Societies.

Date 21 JUL 1923

A GIRL SNAKE EXPERT.

London Zoo's Reptile Curator.

LONDON, July 19.

According to The London Daily Express, Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, aged 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo. Her grandfather was a famous entomologist. Joan Procter had her first pet snake when aged 10. One day he received a crocodile as a present. He took it to Dr. Boulenger, head of the department of reptiles in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. He was astonished at Joan's knowledge, and offered to train her. She became Dr. Boulenger's assistant when 18, and succeeded him when he resigned. She is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world, and is a Fellow of the Zoological and the Linnean Societies.

FARMERS' ADVOCATE Melbourne.

27 JUL 1923

A CURATOR OF REPTILES.

Even the name sends a shudder as I write it, and yet in London there has (says the "Daily Express") been appointed to the Zoological Gardens a girl of 25 years in that capacity. Her name is Joan Procter, and at 10 years of age she had a pet snake, for which she showed great fondness, and never had any fear of being bitten. When she received a baby crocodile as a present from an admiring friend, she took it to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, and there met Dr. Boulenger, who was so astonished at her knowledge that he offered to train her, and when he resigned she, at 18 years old, took his place at the head of the department of reptiles.

That there is something in heredity is shown in the fact that Miss Procter's grandfather was a noted entomologist.

Date 21 JUL 1923

—Miss Joan Procter, an English girl, aged 25, has been appointed Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. Miss Procter had her first pet snake when aged ten. At 18 she was assistant to Dr. Boulenger, head of the Department of Reptiles at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. When the doctor resigned she succeeded him. She is now one of the greatest snake experts in the world.

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That there is something in heredity is shown in the fact that Miss Procter's grandfather was a noted entomologist.

Date 1 AUG 1923

Greatest Snake Expert in World

(Special Cable to The Daily Gleaner and The New York Herald. Copyright.)

London, July 31.—Miss Joan Procter, regarded by zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts in the world, has been appointed curator of reptiles for the London Zoo. It is the first time that a woman has been appointed to a place of such responsibility at the Zoo. Miss Procter, although only 25 years old, has for some time shown conspicuous ability in her chosen profession.

Her grandfather was a great entomologist. Her mother, speaking of Miss Procter's work, said: "At ten my daughter had her first snake as a pet. She also kept many lizards and some of them were remarkably tame. One day she received a large valuable crocodile as a present and we took it to Dr. C. A. Boulenger, famous chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. He was astonished at my daughter's knowledge of ophiology and offered to train her in the subject when she left St. Paul's school. She became his assistant when she was 18 years old, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post."

Miss Procter read her first paper on snakes before the Zoological Society at the age of 19. She was made a fellow of the society at 20 and was elected a fellow of the Linnean Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world, only a fortnight ago. Last year, it is said, she was offered a post by the New York Zoological Society.

MORE
AUSTRALIAN
PAPERS

Cutting from the *Glasgow Herald*

Address of Publication

Issue dated 20/10/23

WOMEN'S TOPICS

INSECT LOVERS

Woman Curator's 20,000-Mile Voyage

Women in America are much interested in the fact that Miss Cheesman, the woman Curator of Insects at the London Zoo, sails on October 23 in the yacht St George on a journey of more than 20,000 miles through the South Seas and the Pacific Ocean.

She is the only woman member of a party of eight zoologists sent out by the Scientific Expeditionary Research Association, and will be absent many months. Up to the time of writing Miss Cheesman has successfully eluded press photographers, one of whom lay in wait for her for three hours! She will not talk about herself, but I knew long ago of her post at the Zoo, which she has held for ten years, and of her lectures in the Insect House, which are so entrancing to young people. She hopes not only to bring back some interesting specimens but to solve some problems of value of entomology by following the great circle of the Pacific trade winds. If you look at a wind map of the world you will note the flow of steady winds to the north-west from Ecuador and the corresponding return sweep to South America across the southern portion of the Pacific.

Winged Emigrants

Miss Cheesman points out that insects must migrate down these great wind-paths, blowing to leeward from one island to the next. Those winged emigrants who are lucky enough to make port often find themselves to enormously different surroundings, and have to adapt themselves to the new conditions. How have they succeeded, and what physical changes have these winged emigrants undergone?

Miss Cheesman has a most happy genius for handling even the most fearsome insects. She picks up poisonous bird-eating spiders, maintaining that they are intelligent enough not to injure a friend. And somehow she is right, and seldom gets bitten.

Handling Snakes Without Gloves

In this way she is like her new colleague at the Zoo, Miss Joan Proctor, who was recently appointed curator of reptiles, and who will handle horrible snakes without gloves—and without a shudder. American women find this marvellous, as, indeed, so does the ordinary woman, but I may state for the first time in Great Britain that Miss Proctor resisted the attraction of a high salary in New York in order to remain in England.

Had I to decide between caring for snakes or insects, I know which I would choose, though the average woman would rather study insects in theory than in practice. We have in England even one or two women "insect artists," who specialise in meticulous pen-and-ink drawings of the structure of insects, mainly for book-plate illustration in scientific works. Sometimes these are coloured, sometimes not, but the illustration has to be scientifically correct, and therefore must be done by one who is an entomologist as well as an artist.

Cutting from the *Daily Chronicle*

Address of Publication

Issue dated 25.10.23

BRITISH WOMEN AS PIONEERS.

Engineers, Plantation
Manager and Diver.

RESEARCH CRUISE.

Are British women more or less enterprising than their American cousins?

As reported in the "Daily Chronicle" recently, eight American women claim to hold positions never before occupied by members of their sex. Now a woman correspondent names nine Englishwomen prominent in industry and the professions, some of them pioneers.

Miss F. J. Wakefield, an Englishwoman chiropractor, is the first and only woman pioneer of this new science in London. She is trained in a scientific method of adjusting the cause of disease without drugs or instruments, based on a correct knowledge of anatomy, and especially the nervous system.

Another Miss Wakefield, a mycologist, is in charge of the Mycological department at Kew (mycology is the study of fungi). She had a similar position in Barbados before coming to London.

FIRST ELECTRICIAN.

The first woman electrical engineer to set up her own business in Exeter less than two years ago. Miss Margaret Partridge, has now taken a partner, Miss Lees, who is in charge of the London office of M. Partridge and Co., recently opened.

Miss Griffith, another woman engineer, who initiated the Stainless and Non-Corrosive Metal Co., of Birmingham, has also taken a partner, Miss Davis, and runs a foundry.

Miss Margaret Naylor is the only British woman diver, and is famed for her intrepid operations at Tobermory Bay, where the Spanish treasure galleon lies.

The only British woman who owns and manages a cocoa-nut plantation is Miss Hamill Smith, Tobago, near Trinidad.

A research journey through the Pacific has been undertaken by Miss Cheesman, curator of insects at the London Zoo. Her colleague, Miss Proctor, is curator of reptiles.

An out-of-the-way occupation has been chosen by Miss Gertrude Rosenberg, who breeds butterflies for sale to schoolboys and other collectors.

THE FAMILY HERALD AND WEEKLY STAR,

MONTREAL, CANADA.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1923.

Expert On Snakes



Miss Joan Proctor, an English girl of 25, has just been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. She is one of the best known experts on snakes in the world.

BOSSSES SNAKES.

Ottawa (Ottawa)



Miss Joan Proctor, an English girl of 25, has just been appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens. She is one of the best known experts on snakes in the world.

RULES SNAKES



JEAN PROCTOR.

[Kadel & Herbert Photo.]

This young woman has specialized in the study of reptiles and is said to be able to handle snakes which would be enraged at the touch of the ordinary person and show the resentment by a poisonous bite. Miss Proctor recently became curator of reptiles at the London Zoological gardens.

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Register
Adelaide
Oct 16 - 1923

CURATOR OF REPTILES AT THE LONDON "ZOO," MISS JOAN PROCTOR, WITH A FRIEND.



Preserving reptile is the grisly occupation of Miss Joan Proctor, F.L.S., F.L.S. In her spare time she studies their habits. One of the greatest experts on snakes in her day, Miss Proctor has worked since 1916 in the reptile department at the British Museum—first as a voluntary assistant, and then as expert in charge. She is the author of a large number of papers on the anatomy, classification, and habits of reptiles and batrachians, and owns a private collection of living specimens.

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Register
Adelaide
Oct 11/23

Her Reptilian Family.

The second of the lady curators appointed by the Zoological Society, Miss Joan Proctor, will take over her duties in charge of the reptiles at Regent's Park during the autumn. Miss Proctor has plenty of practical experience of these strange pets, for, apart from work which she has fulfilled in the reptile department of the museum at South Kensington, she has for several years kept a private collection of live snakes and batrachians. She has designed the whole of the rockwork for the new aquarium at the Zoo.

Reptiles Put Under Care of Woman Expert

Snakes Are Special Pets of Miss Joan Proctor, Who Has Been Appointed as a Curator in London Zoo

New York Tribune LONDON.

Snakes and crocodiles are not, perhaps, the most pleasant creatures with which to live, but Miss Joan Proctor evidently thinks otherwise. This young Englishwoman has just been appointed curator of the reptile house at the London Zoological Gardens, where she will have entire charge of the cobras, the pythons, the alligators and all the other reptiles.

Miss Proctor's grandfather was a famous entomologist, so possibly her interest and aptitude in the subject are inherited. It certainly looks as though she is going to become as well known as he was, for already she is looked on by zoologists as one of the greatest of snake experts.

When in her very early teens she happened to visit the chief of the reptile department at the South Kensington Natural History Museum and so astonished him by her knowledge of ophiology—she had kept snakes and lizards as pets since her tenth birthday—that he offered to train her in the subject. Accordingly, as soon as she left school she became Dr. Boulenger's assistant, this at the age of eighteen, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post. Last year the New York Zoological Society offered her a job, but she would not leave the Kensington Museum. Now, of course, she will have to give up her work there.

The young expert came into real contact with the zoological society at the age of nineteen when she read her first paper, on pit snakes, before them. A year later they made her F. Z. S. At the beginning of July she gained another distinction by being elected F. L. S., Fellow of the Linnæan Society, one of the foremost scientific organizations in the world.

Being surrounded by snakes during her attendance at the zoo apparently is not enough for Miss Proctor, and she keeps six Brazilian snakes in a glass cage in her drawing-room. These were sent her as a gift. Noted scientists in South America and South Africa have frequently sent rare and deadly reptiles to England, knowing her interest, and most of these she keeps at her own home.

TUESDAY,

WOMAN'S INSECT
HUNT.20,000 MILES' JOURNEY
TO SOUTH SEAS.

A journey of more than 20,000 miles is being undertaken by the London Zoo's Curator of Insects, Miss L. E. Cheesman, to see if some interesting problems can be solved by following the great circle of the Pacific trade winds.

She is one of a party of eight zoologists who are going to the South Seas in the Scientific Expeditionary Research Association's yacht St. George. To Miss



The cruise of the St. George.

Cheesman the route of the ship is especially valuable. Look at a wind-map of the world, and notice the great march of steady winds which flow to the north-west from Ecuador and the corresponding return sweep to South America across the southern portion of the Pacific.

It is clear, as Miss Cheesman points

out, that insects must migrate down these great wind-paths, blowing to leeward from one island to the next. Those winged emigrants who are lucky enough to make port often find themselves in enormously differing surroundings, and have to adapt themselves to the new conditions. How have they succeeded, and what physical changes have these winged emigrants undergone?

The answer to these riddles may provide some interesting facts. Creatures now regarded as totally different varieties, sub-species, and species, may prove to be old friends who have had to make the best of new surroundings by changing their bodies.

Jaws and digestive arrangements, for example, might change in the course of many insect generations to make the best of new food.

Miss Cheesman has a most happy genius for handling even the most "shuddersome" insects. She picks up poisonous bird-eating spiders, maintaining that they are intelligent enough not to injure a well-wisher.

L. G. M.

TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13,

TREE HYRAX AT THE
ZOO.

A CAPRICIOUS PET.

Hyraxes, rock-rabbits, or damies, described as a "feeble folk, although exceeding wise," are known to have great spirit and unexpected powers of defence. The inner toe on each hind foot is provided with a claw, but this is used only in the animal's toilet, never as a weapon of offence, and the other toes on both fore and hind limbs have flattened, almost hoof-like, nails. The teeth are plainly adapted for gnawing, and the general appearance of the animal is most inoffensive. They are very alert, and generally dart away when disturbed, but if they cannot retreat, they will stamp on the ground, bristle their fur, and steadily advance with an air of resolute ferocity that puts to flight animals much larger than themselves. If the enemy comes nearer they are able to give a sharp and powerful bite.

But the few persons who have had the pleasure of possessing one of the smaller and gentler tree-hyraxes have had nothing but praise for their intelligence, gentleness, and affection. They are shy, and will not readily take to strangers, but have been allowed complete freedom in a house, following their owners from room to room, climbing over the furniture without clumsy breakages, sleeping on beds, and showing taste for such unwanted luxuries as hot tea or wine-and-water. One such tree-hyrax, taken as a very young animal in Nigeria, and kept for more than two years as a private pet, was brought to the London Zoo last week, as its owner could no longer keep it, on account of a change of residence. It appeared to make friends quickly with one of the officers, settled down in his room, explored the bookshelves, took food from his hands, and climbed freely over his arms and shoulders. All seemed well, and it was to be transferred in the afternoon to another private house.

But the door of the room was opened by a clerk bringing some papers, and the tree-hyrax jumped down from the lap on which it was reposing and trotted along the floor and drove the intruder back. The temporary owner followed it, stooped down to pick it up, when the little animal suddenly behaved like a cat defending her kittens, leaped up at his face, drawing blood from his cheek, and then, in a series of rapid attacks, biting him severely on the legs and hands, hissing violently. Nothing could be done with the little fury, until, when its first rage was exhausted, it was deftly captured in an overturned waste-paper basket, which was secured by some heavy books placed on it. The hyrax appeared to settle down, and was certainly not in the least alarmed; presently it took some dainties from a hand passed under the edge of the basket. But when it was released again it returned to the attack, and there was nothing for it but to take it to one of the large compartments of the Old Insect House. There, for the present, it has settled down on amiable terms with some marmosets, responds when called by name, but resolutely declines to make friends.

WOMAN ZOO RULER.

NEW CURATOR OF REPTILES
"TAKES OVER" TO-DAY.

Miss Joan Procter, who was recently appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo, officially takes over her new duties to-day. She is the first woman to undertake such work.

"We welcome her," said a Zoo keeper yesterday. "We all know what fine work Miss Procter has done in the reptile department of the National History Museum. She knows more about snakes and reptiles than any other woman in the world."

Miss Procter has a special instinct for the handling of poisonous snakes. She has not the slightest dread of any kind of reptile.

from the *Evening Chronicle*
of Publication *Manchester*
1.11.23

SNAKE KEEPER.

Lady Takes Up Novel
Duties at Zoo.

Miss Joan Procter, the newly-appointed curator of reptiles at the London Zoo, took over her duties to-day.

This is the first time a woman has undertaken such work, but Miss Procter has a special aptitude for the handling of snakes and alligators.

"One of my principal duties," Miss Procter, who is a very retiring young lady, was persuaded to tell an interviewer to-day, "will be to look after the health of the inmates of the reptile house. All the new arrivals have to be examined."

"Sickness is quite common among the reptiles, and it is chiefly caused by parasites. The snakes are very subject to diseases of the mouth, and when treating the poisonous varieties one has to be very careful not to be bitten."

In the reptile house to-day one could almost detect a stir among the specimens as if in excitement over the arrival of the new mistress. One of the crocodiles was observed to move his head twice in fifteen minutes, which betokens unusual animation in such undemonstrative creatures.

Thursday, November 1, 1923.

THE EVENING STANDARD.

WOMAN GUARDIAN OF REPTILES.

ANIMATION IN THE ZOO AT HER ARRIVAL.

NURSING THE SICK.

Miss Joan Procter, the newly appointed Curator of reptiles at the Zoo, took over for duties there to-day.

This is the first time that a woman has undertaken such work, but Miss Procter has a special instinct for the handling of such unpleasant things as poisonous snakes, snappy monitors, and those miniature alligators that look almost harmless, but could bite off a careless finger without much difficulty.

"One of my principal duties," Miss Procter said to-day, "will be to look after the health of the inmates of the reptile house. All the new arrivals have to be examined, and as a general rule are put in quarantine in the sanatorium for some time, among parrots, squirrels, or whatever newcomers there may be, until they are found permanent quarters.

"There is no room for them all in quarantine, but we can deal with the suspects.

What Snakes Suffer.

"Sickness," Miss Procter went on, "is quite common among the reptiles, and it is chiefly caused by parasites. The snakes are very subject to diseases of the mouth, although we do not quite know why. They get a sort of ulceration, and if not properly attended to they will die. Our method of cure is to bathe them with a disinfectant as strong as they can stand.

"When treating the poisonous varieties for sickness one has naturally to be very careful not to be bitten, and in the case of mouth disease it is practically impossible to give them a wash.

"The keepers are expert at handling them for the usual sores on the body, but if the mouth had to be treated it would be necessary to hold them in such a way that they would be almost sure to bite."

In a visit to the reptile house to-day one could almost detect a stir among the specimens as if in excitement over the arrival of the new mistress. One of the crocodiles was observed to move his head twice in the course of fifteen minutes, which betokens unusual animation in such undemonstrative creatures.



Miss Joan Procter.

NOVEMBER 2, 1923.

FRIDAY, The Daily Mail

ZOO'S NEW WOMAN CURATOR.

HUNT FOR THE "GOLDEN" COCKROACH.

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., took up her appointment yesterday as Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens.

In spite of her youth, Miss Procter is a recognised authority in this branch of science, and till now has been in charge of the Reptile Department at the British Museum of Natural History.

In the midst of "moving" troubles yesterday one of her first anxieties may be instanced as showing her attitude to her new charges. "I have lost my supply of golden cockroaches," she said, "and I would be grateful if any of your readers could tell me where they can be found in any numbers."

These yellow or "golden" cockroaches are the finest food for many rare reptiles, including chameleons. Miss Procter was able to obtain them from the basement of a certain public building until a catastrophic spring-cleaning with limewash wiped out the whole colony.

Chameleons, with their wonderful "lashing" six-inch tongues, select them as targets even should there be only one cockroach among 50 blue-bottles, and the best hope of nursing such creatures through the coming winter is to find the "golden cockroach" at once.

Should anyone know of a colony of these small yellow insects a post-card addressed to "Curator of Reptiles, Zoological Society's Offices, Regent's Park, N.W.," would be much appreciated—especially by the chameleons. The ordinary black cockroach is too big, tough, and indigestible as a diet.

the Manchester Dispatch
Publication

3.11.23.



Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., the girl snake expert, has started duty as curator of reptiles at the London Zoo.

NOVEMBER 8, 1923.

The Daily Mail

THURSDAY,

ZOO CHAMELEON ENDS ITS FAST.

WILL TO LIVE RESTORED BY NEW DIET.

The Zoo's Basilisk chameleon desires to thank the *Daily Mail* reader who saved his life by collecting and forwarding a tin of "golden" cockroaches.

Last Friday it was stated in these columns that meal-worms and the big black cockroaches had failed to tempt the chameleon to go on living. Only the small "golden" cockroach could save him, but no supply of these insects had been found.

It was quite a pathetic bedside scene before the post brought the life-giving insects. Showing evidences of his six weeks' fast, the chameleon had scarcely the strength to turn black in the face when the same old mealworms were offered at breakfast-time. Bilious waves of yellow mottled skin when an ordinary maggot was served up as an alternative.

He turned a shabby green and began to squint. The chameleon is the world's most gifted squinter. His eyes work quite indepen-



A Chameleon.

dently of each other. One eye may be seen riveted on the ceiling while the other idly swivels round like the second hand of a watch going the wrong way.

Then the golden cockroaches arrived. He unpacked his elastic tongue with its sticky tip, and slashed it out for a full six inches. The first cockroach vanished. In ten minutes 21 insects went the same way.

This was "heartily" for a chameleon in a decline, and no further bulletins will be issued. L. G. M.

THE NEXT TWO DAYS
WILL BRING THE
REPTILES AT THE
ZOO WHERE ABOUTS OF
COCKROACHES. ALSO
A TON OF THE 1. 1. 1.

Her Pets Are Ugly King Cobras Deadly Reptiles Won By Kindness

Miss Joan Proctor, Curator of Serpents in London Zoological Gardens, Tells How She Overcomes Her Terrible Playmates.

THE first woman in the world was on sociable terms with a serpent, and the world knows what came of that.

But here is one of Eve's youngest daughters handling, petting and caring for innumerable descendants of that wily snake of old. Her name is Joan Proctor and her official title is curator of reptiles of the London Zoological Gardens.

The feeling that soft, purring, cuddly little kittens awaken in other small girls came to Joan when, as an inquisitive ten-year-old, she first made the acquaintance of a shining, wriggling green garter snake, and that strange fondness for the first enemy of man has grown and grown until her greatest joy in life is playing foster-mother to all the alligators, toads, turtles and reptiles in London's famous zoo.

The family in which Joan belonged didn't exactly favor the predilection of its youngest member for crawling things when that first slimy, glassy-eyed creature was introduced into their happy home. But Joan was a positive little person. She made it plain that her motto was "Love me, love my snakes!" and presently the whole Proctor clan progressed from abhorrence to indifference. They could put their hands into a presumably empty vase on the living-room table, touch the cold coil of a snake and not fall in a faint.

From indifference, the Proctors went on until they began to share Joan's uncanny affection for creeping things, and now her home would not be home without at least three boa constrictors draping themselves about the furniture.

When Joan was seventeen she read her first paper about snakes before the Royal Zoological Society—a paper that attracted serious attention. A few years later she became the unsalaried assistant of the curator of reptiles at the British Museum of Natural History—truly a labor of love. In the museum laboratory she worked and studied amid hundreds of jars and bottles containing creeping things. And all the time at home she watched over the boas, the bushmasters, the asps and the black snakes that succeeded each other at home as the darlings of her heart.

So it was that when the council of the Royal Zoological Society found it necessary to engage a new custodian for its great collection of living reptiles, Joan, whose paper on snakes read before that august body so early in her career had made such an impression, was unanimously decided upon as the logical recipient of the honor.

"It's a very simple thing to get on with reptiles of any sort," says the new curator, illustrating her point by using one of her favorite poisonous-tongued friends as a neckpiece. "By using a handkerchief to make sure of my grip on his tail, he can't get too playful, you see. The dear things do love to twist themselves about people's necks, and then sometimes they squeeze too hard." Which, it may be clearly seen, is not so good for the neck.

"Kindness and real understanding are back of success with snakes," decrees the only woman occupant of a position of such scientific note in Great Britain.

SO great is the confidence reposed in this young woman by those who know that she is not only to care for the huge creeping things of the jungle, but has been empowered to design the new home for reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens, and is now engaged in deciding just where, what and how big the quarters for her favorites shall be.

"Woman snake-charmer!" shrieked local newspaper headlines, when this announcement was made.

"I'm not!" contradicted Miss Proctor, showing a surprising little glint in her eyes—a glint that may be the secret of her power over the descendants of that serpent that tempted Eve.

"You might call me a 'snake-keeper,' if you will, but not a snake-charmer. Do you know what a snake-charmer is? Some queer voodoo sort of person with supernatural powers. Of course, I'm not that! It's so easy to get on with snakes. Why, if you've learned the way to deal with a two-foot garter snake you know how to cope with an eight-foot python! They are all so much alike." The foster-mother of London's reptiles caressed the flat head of the amazingly powerful boa constrictor just then draped about her neck.

A neck, Miss Proctor explains, is an ideal "warmer" for a tropical snake. There's nothing he likes better than to coil about it. Coping with Mr. Boa in this case means keeping a firm

grip on head and tail so that his enthusiasm for the human heater doesn't carry him too far.

There are many problems for this little woman with the big nerve to solve, for snakes who come from other lands as captives are likely to behave as erratically as human beings under similar circumstances. They go on hunger strikes. They commit suicide. They demand one certain kind of food—usually expensive and difficult to obtain—and that only will they swallow.

How to combat this suicide tendency in reptiles will probably engross Miss Proctor as it engrosses most curators of these temperamental creatures. Raymond L. Ditmars, of the New York Zoo, reports that a continual offender in this regard is the bushmaster.



The neck of a human being is just the sort of a "warmer" that a tropical snake loves to coil about—and squeeze—so Miss Proctor adopts the simple "Safety First" measure of holding the head and tail securely as she handles this small but surprisingly powerful boa.

King cobras are another variety of Miss Proctor's charges likely to become obnoxious at times. Or, at least, that has been the experience of other curators.

WHEN this monarch among snakes arrived at the Bronx Zoo he registered his dislike of the institution and his objection to remaining in it by refusing to eat at all. As he is a cannibal he was offered every species of crawling thing the authorities had ever heard of a cobra eating. But no! Nothing doing! Never in this world, so said the cobra in question, if his expression mirrored his thoughts.

At length a "coach whip," a nice, five-foot appetizing morsel, was sent in for the rebel's breakfast. That hit the spot. The king cobra ate and demanded more of the same. And there the scheme struck a snag, for coach whips cost three dollars each and aren't to be had at all times for a striking monarch's fastidious taste. What was to be done? The diet of coach whip had been kept up while the curator engaged in thought, and now long, thin strips of beef were cut in the length of the favorite food, and each strip covered with one of the old skins the coach whip had shed. The skin was tied about the beef at intervals and the strips were offered to his majesty for the next meal. And he ate them.

Diplomacy, as will be seen, belongs not alone to court and political circles.

There are about one thousand species of snakes in the world and a goodly portion of them are represented in Miss Proctor's collection. There is, for instance, a twenty-foot python, weighing three hundred pounds, and a mature specimen of burrowing snake but five or six inches long and no thicker than a goose quill. And there is a squatty, flat-headed viper and an enormously elongated tree snake—and goodness knows how many more.

What's the good of snakes if you don't happen to love them for themselves alone, as does Miss Proctor?

California says they're good for exterminating gophers that destroy the crops on the Pacific Coast. Australia applauds reptilian efforts to help them get rid of the vermin plague, result of accumulation of stocks of wheat because of non-shipment during the war. Greenwich, Connecticut, urges that snakes be used to keep mole-infested lawns in order. And the departments in Washington point out that rats are the greatest destroyers of wheat the world ever knew, and snakes live on rats to a great extent!

So Miss Joan Proctor is not alone in her opinion that snakes are well worth cultivating.

Cutting from the Bamberwell & Peckham
Address of Publication Times
Issue dated 10-11-22

Miss Joan Proctor, the newly appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, has taken over her duties. There was great animation amongst the denizens of the reptile house when the lady made her appearance. The boa constrictor was guilty of a knowing little wink and the cobra actually grinned.

Daily Sketch

Shoe Lane, E.C., and Manchester.

Cutting from issue dated 2 Nov. 1923
Manchester Ed

EXCITEMENT AT THE ZOO

Woman Curator Takes Over Care of Reptile House

There was great excitement among the reptiles in the Zoo yesterday, when for the first time in the history of that favourite section a woman came to take charge of the inmates.

The new curator, Miss Joan Proctor, who has a special instinct for the handling of such unpleasant things as poisonous snakes, snappy monitors, and those baby alligators that look almost harmless but can bite off a careless finger without difficulty.

The reptiles seemed to know it, for one of the crocodiles was observed to move his head twice in the course of 15 minutes, quite an unusual thing for him.

from the Birmingham Daily Post
of Publication 10-11-22

A Lady Curator of Reptiles.

Miss Joan Proctor, who was recently appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo, took over her new duties last week. She is the first woman to undertake such work. Miss Proctor has a special instinct for the handling of poisonous snakes. She has not the slightest dread of any kind of reptile.

THE TIMES, SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 29, 1923.

THE ZOO IN 1923.

RECENT ADDITIONS.

Although there is still the attendance on Sunday and the attendance and gate money of Monday to be placed to the credit of the year, 1923 has already established a "record" in the history of the Zoological Society. The number of visitors has been over 1,600,000—that is to say, larger than the total of 1920, which until now was the largest attendance in any one year. The gate money has increased in proportion also, and the total number of Fellows, as well as the number of new Fellows elected, and the receipts from subscriptions, are also the largest in the history of the Society.

There have been, too, an unusual number of important additions to the collection, so that now there is an exceptionally fine display of mammals, birds, reptiles, and batrachians. Among the additions of special interest are a young African elephant presented by Sir Horace Rhyatt, two young giraffes, purchased from the Sudan and South Africa respectively, two great antelopes, purchased from South America, and the recently acquired walrus.

There have been important changes of staff. Mr. R. I. Pocock, formerly superintendent, has retired on pension on attaining the age of 60, and has been replaced by Dr. G. M. Vevers; Mr. D. Seth Smith, formerly Curator of Birds, has been promoted to be Resident Curator of Mammals and Birds; Mr. E. G. Boulenger has left the Reptile House to become Director of the new Aquarium, and has been succeeded by Miss Joan B. Procter, who was formerly in charge of the reptiles and batrachians at the British Museum. The staff of keepers has been subjected to careful survey, and there have been rewards and promotions for the more competent, while some of the older men have been retired on pension.

The Council and the Garden Committee have made great efforts to improve the general condition of the animals and of the gardens, and much more than has been possible in recent years has been done to improve the general hygienic conditions and to repair and redecorate houses and enclosures. The largest and most expensive work of the year has been the construction of the Aquarium. This is now practically completed, only minor details of lighting and decoration being still in hand. The difficult business of stocking has begun, and it is anticipated that it will be opened to Fellows and the public in the first fortnight of April.

ZOO VISITORS: A RECORD.

During 1923 the visitors to the Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, numbered 1,613,125, an increase of 185,276 as compared with 1922.

The number of visitors last year was the largest in the history of the Society.

from the *Yorkshire Post*
of Publication *Leeds*
dated *24.12.23*

HOLIDAYS IN LONDON.

HOW TO ENTERTAIN THE CHILDREN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

"NO," the clerk in a large theatre office told me, "they don't dare to try new Christmas plays in the West End. The old favourites are good enough for them. You must go to the theatres further out if you want something new in the way of plays for the children this Christmas."

The morning is often a difficult time to entertain children in London, but the Zoo is always open, and several new and interesting inmates have arrived since last holidays. Small boys frequently have a liking for creepy beasts, and the new reptile house, presided over by that young snake charmer, Miss Joan Procter, should give them the necessary thrills. Baby animals to rejoice the heart of the motherly little girl are also plentiful at the Zoo this Christmas. There is Percy, the six-months-old pigmy hippopotamus, already becoming quite friendly with visitors, while in a pen close by is the slightly older African baby elephant. It is amusing to see Andy, the youthful walrus, being fed, for, although he is five months old, he has not a single tooth, and his food—cut up strips of cod fish—is placed in his mouth by his attendant. For sheer grace and agility, the baby antelopes surpass anything I have ever seen, and one can understand their having an audience round their cage quite as enthusiastic as that which greets the Fairy Queen in the pantomime.

Telephone No. Central 7989.

International Press-Cutting Bureau
14, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.4.

Extract from

CAPE ARGUS CAPE TOWN.

Date

13 DEC 1923

Girl Curator of Reptiles.—The new Curator of Reptiles at the London Zoological Gardens is a young woman, Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., is a recognised authority in this branch of science; in fact, she is said to know more about snakes and reptiles than any woman in the world. Until now she has been in charge of the Reptile Department at the British Museum of Natural History. Miss Procter has a special instinct for the handling of poisonous snakes. She has not the slightest dread of any kind of reptile.

International Press-Cutting Bureau.

Extract from

SUNDAY MAIL BRISBANE.

Date

CURATOR OF REPTILES

Woman Appointed

4 NOV 1923

Miss Joan Procter, F.Z.S., F.L.S., an Englishwoman of 25, has been appointed curator of reptiles at the Zoo in London. She has complete charge of dozens of venomous cobras, deadly pythons, boa constrictors, alligators and crocodiles.

Miss Procter, unknown to the world at large, is famous among zoologists as one of the greatest snake experts of the day. The large, airy room in the basement of the Museum of Natural History, South Kensington, in which she works is filled with deadly snakes, some bottled and some alive.

"Her interest in the subject is probably hereditary," said her mother, a Press correspondent. "Her grandfather was a famous entomologist."

Miss Procter opened a glass cage in her drawing-room and six beautiful Brazilian snakes, which were sent to her daughter as a gift, were brought out. She allowed them to climb and wriggle and coil around her arm.

"At the age of ten my daughter had her first snake as a pet," Mrs. Procter added. "She also kept many lizards, some of them remarkably tame. One day she received a large and valuable crocodile as a present, and we took it to Dr. U. A. Boulenger, the famous chief of the department of reptiles at the Natural History Museum at South Kensington."

"He was astonished at my daughter's knowledge of ophiology, and offered to train her on the subject when she left St. Paul's School. She became his assistant when she was 18, and when he resigned she was appointed to his post. Scientists in South Africa and South America have sent Miss Procter eggs and dead reptiles from jungles and swamps. Occasionally a crate for them has been overturned on arrival, and they have been spoiled on the floor. Miss Procter, without the slightest fear, has collected the poisonous creatures from their hiding places."

She read her first paper on "The Pit Snake," before the Zoological Society at

the age of 19. She was made a Fellow of the society at 20. She was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society, one of the foremost scientific organisations in the world, last August. She is also a Fellow of the Zoological Society of Bombay, and last year was offered a remunerative post by the Zoological Society of New York.



WOMEN LAST YEAR—AND THIS.

Consolidation the Keynote ∴ No New Stars ∴ Some Notable Feats.

dated

24.2.24

ZOO BABIES.



A keeper at the Zoo with the baby crocodiles which have just arrived from the West Coast of Africa. Miss Proctor, the curator of the reptiles, is making a special nursery for them.

A Young Expert.

Another case in which a woman has been given an entirely new appointment is that of Miss Joan Proctor, F.Z.S. F.L.S., who, at 25, is Curator of Reptiles at the Zoo, and, although unknown to the world at large, is famous among

zoologists as one of the greatest experts on reptiles.

In 1923 the first woman—Mrs. Annie Swynnerton—was elected to the Royal Academy, since the time of Sir Joshua Reynolds.

In legal matters the right of a woman to divorce her husband for unfaithfulness without cruelty is one of the most important things that has happened to women since the passing of the Married Women's Property Act.

The Fashion World.

In the world of dress the most conspicuous of the successful fashions is the low heel for shoes and the maintenance of that silhouette which needs a "natural"—or no—corset.

The Women's Golf Union have decided to have a club tie of their own colours. So, probably, that will mean fewer woollen jumpers and more shirt blouses among golfing fashions of 1924. Miss Cecil Leitch has always been faithful to the shirt-blouse mode.

Literature and the Stage.

In the social sense the opening of so many men's clubs to women has marked an advance in the so-much-valued "equality." In literature no new stars have arisen on the firmament of women; at least, if they have risen we have not yet noticed them. Out of the thousands of books published during 1923 there has been no novel by a new author that is indubitably epoch-making. In literature

NURSERY FOR BABY CROCODILES

—AND A WOMAN AS "NURSE"
AT THE ZOO.

THREE MEALS A WEEK.

Miss Joan Proctor, Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Gardens, is very busy just now making a nursery for baby crocodiles.

Six of these have just arrived from the West Coast of Africa, and as they are only eighteen months old and very small and tender they need a lot of care.

Miss Proctor's nursery will consist of a special tank with rockwork and other decorations dear to the heart of the juvenile crocodile. To compensate the new arrivals for the loss of the African sunshine, and to make them feel as much at home as possible, a radiator is being buried in the sand under the bottom of the tank, and by this means the temperature of the water will be kept at 85 degrees.

Young crocodiles like to be kept warm.

LEISURELY GROWERS.

The tank will be fixed in the Reptile House and is to be officially known as "The Nursery."

When first hatched these baby crocodiles were only six inches long, but if they keep fit and well, and make normal progress, they may reach a length of thirty feet in time, though no one now living is likely to be here to see them then.

These crocodiles, which are similar to those found in the Nile, live to a tremendous age, and go on growing for years and years.

The biggest crocodile now in the reptile house is getting on for 90. He is about 14 feet in length, and still has a long way to go. The older he gets the less often does he feed. At present he only has a meal once a fortnight. It generally consists of a pound of meat.

NO HUSTLING FOR THEM!

Young crocodiles, however, need feeding two or three times a week, and the lusty youngsters who have just arrived at the Zoo are doing very well on a diet of chopped meat and small fish. All being well, they will grow quickly at first, and two years will make an appreciable difference to their size.

But when they are about 6 feet long they will slow down and begin to take life easily. From then onwards their rate of growth will be about an inch a year!

That is the way of crocodiles. You cannot "hustle" them.

BABY ALLIGATORS



Two of the six baby alligators which have arrived at the Zoo and are in a special nursery designed by Miss Joan Proctor.

"NURSERY for Baby Crocodiles," says a headline. A lover of children says he's going to write to the N.S.P.C.C. about it.

* * *

LIZARD'S NEW SUIT.

ZOO CURATOR MAKES
HIM FIT TO BE SEEN.

The Zoo's new Teguxin has seen trouble recently—trouble fore and aft. This fine big snake-killing lizard from South America had a badly swollen jaw when he arrived, and while this was gently being dressed he lashed out with his long, slender tail and snapped off the tip.

This made it necessary to bandage up the tail in the hope of saving the damaged portion. Eighteen inches of plaster of paris swathed in lint did not add to the Teguxin's smartness on parade, and he also blackened his record by biting the curator of reptiles through the finger-nail while his injuries were being attended to. Sympathetic handling won him over to better behaviour, and he has grown quite tame in these last few days.

His moulting-time was overdue and it was most interesting to see the curator remove his old skin-overalls. They were shiny at the seams and very frayed round the hem, but gaps in the material showed a promise of better things in the background.

When the curator started to peel away the old suit the great lizard's attention was distracted with a beaten-up egg in a bowl. He lapped it up with his long, flat, forked, pink tongue, while his rags were coming off with a sound of silky rustling. As the overalls ripped away from the back you glimpsed a smart check suit in black and ivory, and when his old socks and gloves were also removed the improvement was astonishing.

From a horrid-looking tramp he had been changed into a little gentleman.

L. G. M.

JANUARY 16, 1924.

SAW-BILL DUCKS AT
THE ZOO.

THE WADERS' AVIARY.

The Waders' Aviary at the Zoological Gardens has been enriched by the addition of six ducks with serrated bills, purchased from Holland. Four of these are goosanders, the largest of the British "saw-bills," and two are smews, or "nuns," the smallest of the mergansers which visit us in winter. The goosander reaches the length of 26in. and the males are brilliant birds with blood-red bills, glossy bottle-green heads and necks, the under parts white with a tinge of salmon-pink, the upper back and scapulars black. The female is a dull, washed-out imitation of the male. The male smew has a slate blue bill and the general colour of the plumage is in strongly contrasting bands and markings of black and white.

The goosander and the smew visit our estuaries and inland waters in the cold season, sometimes remaining as late as May. The goosander nests in Sutherland and many parts of the Highlands, but most of those seen in this country are visitors from Europe. The smew nests close to the Arctic circle. Both species prefer hollow tree stumps for breeding, but have also been found in clusters of roots, in hollows in peat, and even on sheltered rocky ledges. They are fishing birds and their elongated, narrow bills are armed with a short down-turned "nail" at the tip, and with transverse saw-like ridges along the sides. The goosander in particular does much damage to fishing streams, and there is a conflict of interest between owners of fishing rights, who justly regard these fine birds as vermin, and bird lovers generally, who with equal justice wish to protect these attractive winter visitors.

The Diving Birds' house is now nearly reconstructed, two large aviaries with pools and rockwork having been provided for delicate waders. The very beautiful scarlet ibis, snowy egrets, and several other semi-tropical waders will be on view there again in a few days.

Two of the large lizards known as teguxins, which have been on deposit at the Reptile House, have now been purchased. They are forest-living creatures from Trinidad and tropical South America, reaching a total length of nearly four feet. The head is very large, and passes almost without change of size into the neck and body. The cheeks have pouches which are inflated with air when the lizard is angry. The markings are beautiful, the ground colour being olive-brown with transverse bars of black. When they arrived the teguxins were in poor condition, the mouth of the larger one being badly affected with a kind of canker. At first they were wild and very shy, and as they not only bite severely but use their powerful rounded tails as weapons, they were not easy to treat. The new Curator of Reptiles succeeded in taming them, inducing them to take raw eggs until they became sufficiently docile to be handled, and to submit under not more than reasonable protest to dressings. They are now in good condition and, with some assistance, have sloughed off their old skins, so that they are extremely beautiful.

JANUARY 19, 1924.

CHANGES AT THE ZOO.

THE TEMPER OF
CROCODILES.

In this cold weather the Reptile House, which was supplied with a new heating system last autumn, is one of the pleasantest resorts at the Zoo. Nearly all the fish which were formerly exhibited there have now been transferred to the Aquarium tanks and the new Curator has had the opportunity of making many changes which will give the snakes, lizards, crocodiles, and terrapins better accommodation. The high spirits induced by the more genial temperature add to the health and appearance of the reptiles, but also increase the risk of handling them.

The poisonous snakes are not the most difficult to tackle, as few of them are specially strong or specially irritable.

Most trouble has been given by a giant python, which, with a mate, occupied one of the large cages. It was desired to move it to a smaller adjoining cage in order that its own compartment might be cleaned out and provided with a more suitable bath and sliding partitions for convenience in shutting it off for cleaning purposes. Force could not be used as it would have required a dozen strong men to hold it, and the first few who entered the den would have had to face alarming trouble. It was deprived of its bath but seemed contented with the empty tank; the substitution of cold for warm water only made it sulky; its prey (freshly-killed rabbits and fowls), was dangled in its view in the cage into which it was to be lured, but it either took no notice or was so quick as to get the food and retreat again to its old home. After some weeks it was shifted by a steady spray of warm water with an unpleasant disinfectant, and now its home is being refitted.

The crocodiles, alligators, and gharials show a marked difference of natural disposition. The gharials, now in the Tortoise House, are quick, savage, and cunning. They appear to take no notice of the keeper, but their alert little eyes are watching him unceasingly, and if there seems the slightest chance their narrow and well-armed jaws are shot out at him. Alligators even of large size are dangerous only in a blundering way; they might mistake a hand or arm for food and snap at it by mistake. But young alligators become tame very easily, and can be handled and petted with safety. Adult crocodiles are always treacherous, and baby crocodiles in good health have always had tempers. Pond nurseries have been made for the young crocodilians, which have to be carefully graded in size, as the smaller ones are frequently attacked and always bullied by their larger relatives.

P.C.M.

TRIALS OF A HERPETOLOGIST'S MOTHER
THE SEVENTEENTH REPORTER



"AND DOES SHE GET HER BRAINS
FROM YOU OR HER FATHER?"

E. H. P.

