

colouration of the bill and quills; and another which approaches the American form in the colouration of the bill only. It is, of course, just conceivable that a specimen of *P. americanus* strayed at one time to Mauritius and interbred with the local birds; but the distribution of the form renders this unlikely, and I should be rather inclined to put down the peculiarities of these birds to simple variation.

VII.—*On hybrids between the Guinea-fowl and Common fowl.*—By
F. FINN, B.A., F.Z.S., *Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum.*

[Received March 26th; Read April 2nd, 1902.]

A good account of this cross, which is not by any means common, has been given by Dr. Juan Vilaro, in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. IX. (1897), p. 225.

The hybrid, as represented in the plates accompanying Dr. Vilaro's papers has a very characteristic appearance, its general form and carriage being intermediate between the Fowl and Guinea-fowl, and its head devoid of the comb and gular wattles of the one and rictal wattles and casque of the other. I was thus easily enabled to recognize as Guinea-fowl hybrids three curious fowls received by the Calcutta Zoological Garden from Mr. A. T. Blewitt, of Kalka, early in 1899.

They had been caught in a wild state, but this is not surprising as the tame-bred hybrid between the domestic Muscovy Duck and Common Duck is known to become feral at times.

These birds all resembled Common fowls in colour, the largest being splashed with white and red-brown, and the other two (one of which is figured on Plate VI) being red-brown with black necks and fine black pencilling on many of the feathers. The characteristic spotting of the Guinea-fowl was altogether absent. All had bare flesh-coloured faces, and a pendulous dewlap, most marked in the large white-spotted specimen. There was no comb, although a bare median area at the base of the bill above seemed to indicate a rudiment; and the rictal wattles of the Guinea-fowl were just indicated at the gape; of the horn of the Guinea-fowl and gular wattles of the fowl there was no trace at all. The specimen figured was a male, the testes being about the size of haricot beans; of the others, which have also died and been transferred to the Museum, the brown specimen has been preserved entire in spirits, and the other made into a skeleton. The taxidermist who prepared it states that it was a female, which I should certainly not have suspected from seeing the three birds alive. All were larger than a Guinea-fowl or ordinary Indian fowl, and had particularly strong

bills and legs, the latter of a black colour. Their behaviour was quiet; but they were never placed with other birds, so I do not know how they would have treated these. Like Dr. Vilaro's specimens, they seemed to be very sensible to heat, panting more than other birds, and their only cry was a piping, chirping sound, very different from the harsh note of the birds which came under Dr. Vilaro's observation.

VIII.—*Notes on Animals kept in the Alipore Zoological Garden.* No. I.—
By RAI K. B. SANYAL BAHADUR, *Superintendent of the Garden.*

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE HABITS OF ORANG OUTANG IN CAPTIVITY.

Orang Outang thinks and acts with a view to accomplishing an object. An *Orang Outang* and a *Proboscis Monkey* (*Semnopithecus [Nasalis] larvatus*), lived in two contiguous cages separated by iron gratings. Although of different temperaments—the *Orang Outang* lively, vivacious and prone to mischief, and the monkey phlegmatic and indolent—they were best of friends; and enjoyed each other's company as much as the intervening partition would allow. The *Orang's* friendship for the monkey was, however, not altogether disinterested. They were usually fed about the same time upon the same kind of food, and as the *Orang Outang* was blessed with a keen appetite, he had no scruple to help himself, to as much of his friend's share as chance brought within his reach. One morning he was found making desperate attempts to annex the remnants of the monkey's breakfast by repeatedly thrusting his arms through the gratings. But all his tricks and trouble availed him not, as the light tin vessel containing the tempting morsel lay beyond the reach of his long arms. Having failed in his attempt to get at the food, he sat still for a few seconds as if to collect his thoughts, and to devise means for the accomplishment of his object, and presently made a rush into his sleeping apartment, fetched a quantity of straw, and twisted it into a sort of rough rope, and with it began striking the tin vessel containing the food, and ultimately succeeded in bringing it within the reach of his arms.

Orang Outang imitating human action. It is well known that in their wild state *Orang Outangs* indulge in the habit of building platforms of twigs and branches on large trees. Given opportunities they would do the same in captivity also.

The *Orang Outang* whose habits are here chronicled, was a remarkably docile animal, and was, therefore, allowed to enjoy as much free-



Finn, Frank. 1903. "VII.—On Hybrids between the Guinea-Fowl and Common Fowl." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 71(II), 91–92.

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