

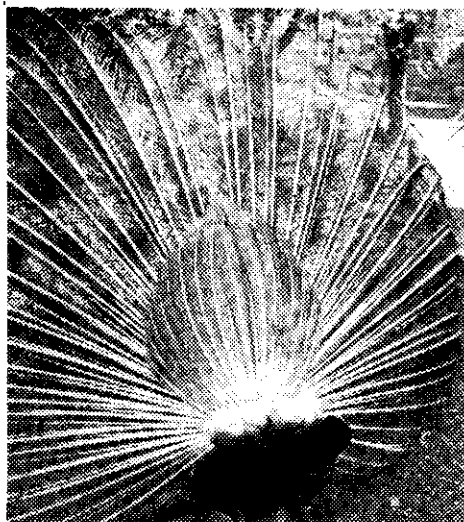
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has a pet kitten as well, and that kitten Jumuna cannot abide. If the keeper calls Jumuna and she does not come at once, he has only to say "Puss-puss, meow!" and Jumuna comes up at a lumbering canter and looks jealously round for that brat of a kitten to hunt it away.

When Jumuna got up off the ground, by the way, she seemed to do so all at once, not distinctly front first like a horse, or hind first like a cow.

### "A Wicked Old Devil"

At the apple-weighted request of the keeper, Jumuna played us a tune—well, it had two notes, anyway—on the mouth organ which she clutched in her trunk between her "nose" and "lip." That lip is a very mischievous member; with it Jumuna explores the concrete walls and floor (after she has eaten all her bedding, I suppose, and is rather bored), and finds at last a little crack. At this she will worry away for hours until she has dug "a hole fit to bury a wheelbarrow." Well, remembering that wallpaper above my bed in the nursery, I can sympathise with Jumuna—wonder-



• Back view also smart

ful patterns can be torn in wallpaper, and these days in plaster, I believe.

"She's a wicked old devil," said the keeper. But I've never known these words said with such an affectionate look before.

YOU need not expect to get away from Jumuna without paying court and making your bow to that most superior of creatures, the peacock. Ten to one he will spread his tail for you; and if you're very lucky he'll behave like a mannequin on the films and turn slowly round to show you that his back view is just as smart as his front view.

Meanwhile, that drab little person his wife, does no showing-off, but contents herself with keeping an eye as bright and watchful as an eagle's on her three chicks—built on her own ostrich-like lines. These are the pride of the zoo, the first to be raised.

It seems to me that if anyone wants a lesson in the art of walking gracefully, of catching public attention and holding it and yet appearing not to give a fig whether anyone watches or not—well he (or she) couldn't do better

### "So Little Nile"

THE hippopotamus is known in German as the "Nil-Pferd," the Nile-horse. And a few years ago, in those happy days, a little boy was taken by his mother to the Vienna Zoo. He, being eight, and educated, knew all about the "Nil-Pferd," and gazed upon him in his little pond with pity saying: "But mummy, the poor Nil-Pferd has so little Nile under him." That, of course, is the chief trouble with zoos.

than watch the brilliantly-coloured peacock for a while. But I intend to go to see him in April when he has cast his beautiful feathers; I want to know if he is really a fine bird or if it is just the fine feathers that make him one.

I'VE already been here three and a-half hours, but there's someone standing here on tip-toe begging for a word before my bread is all gone. He whistles the first three notes of Beethoven's Archduke trio, and I am so charmed I can scarcely leave him. He is Whistling Rufus, the pink-billed, pink-legged little duck from Australia. He keeps up his whistling without apparently pausing for breath, and replies with a fresh volley—though not a fresh tune—whenever the keeper speaks to him. Is it really a whistle or only a quack? Well, compared with the quack of a duck it's a whistle; but compared with the whistle of a musterer it's a high-pitched quack.

"What's your favourite creature in the zoo?" my friends ask me. "Whistling Rufus," I promptly reply. "And, of course, the fallow deer, and Jumuna, and I'm very, very fond of the smallest tortoise. Oh, and did I mention the sea-lioness? She's charming. Oh, yes, you did say favourite, didn't you? All right, if I must have only one, I'll have Whistling Rufus."

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