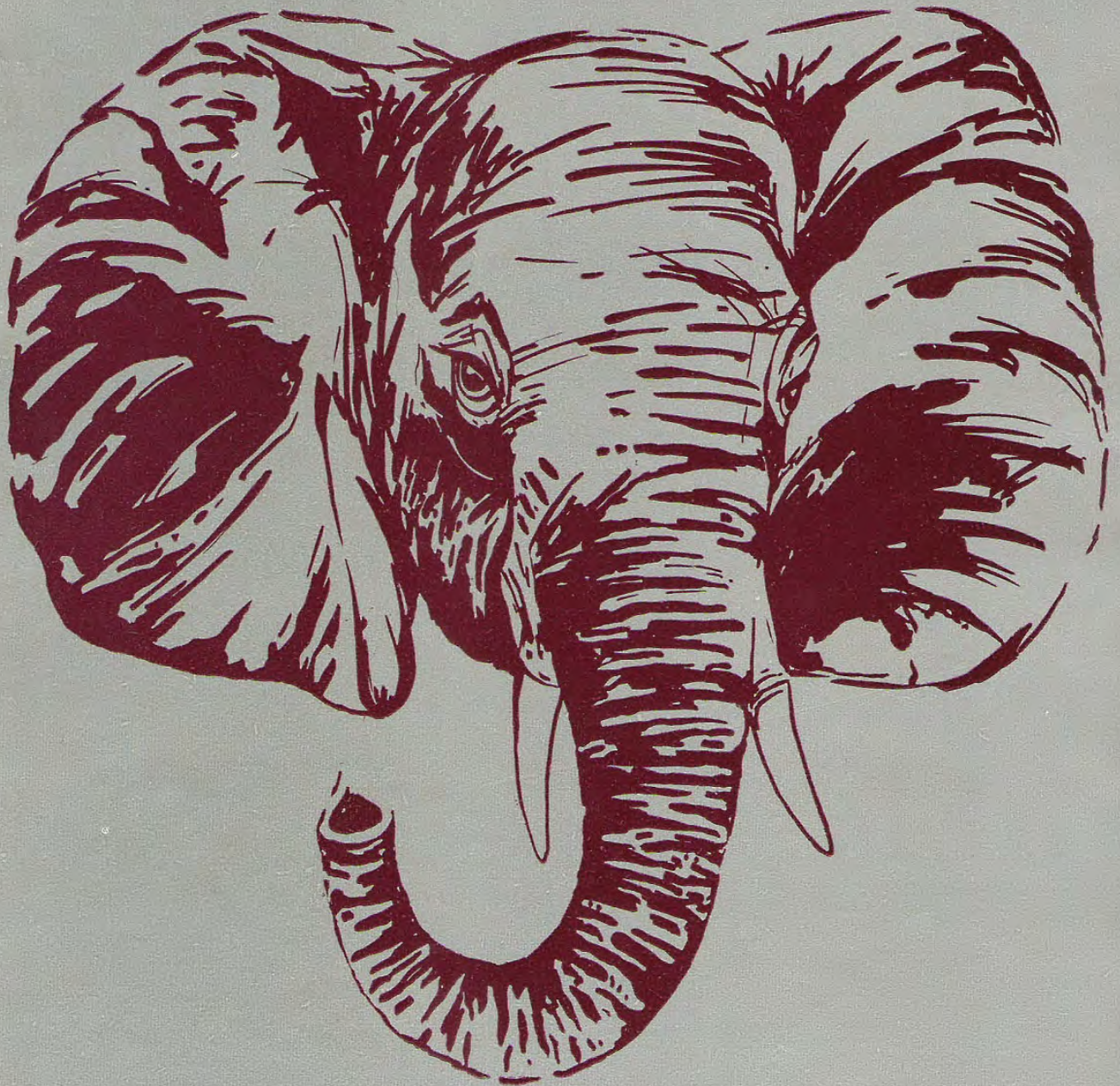


COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



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Cover

ELEPHANT

Illustration : Rita Braganza

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EDITORIAL

Sighed a Roman poet : " Everywhere is heart-rending wail, everywhere consternation, & death in a thousand shapes". Pygmies harass giants & the latter in their nobility give all the valuable service & even provide livelihood to the former. This applies more or less to benefaction bestowed by one of the largest animals on earth - the elephant - on his unscrupulous masters. As ingratitude & compassion never dwell together in the same breast, the value of dedicated work is lost to those addicted to aggrandise personal fortune at any cost. Such sordid fortune climaxing on the murder of elephants has led to the elephant population being decimated gradually.

Elephants are hunted and killed and ivory is hacked out of the faces of these magnificent animals. With ivory prices soaring in the international market, tuskers are more and more subject to the guns of the poachers and hunters. At \$ 40 per pound, a pair of ivory tusks fetches nearly \$ 3000. Even the prestigious Periyar Sanctuary does not afford a safe habitat to the elephants. Habitat destruction due to deforestation, also due to the need of expanding population, is the main reason for the dwindling number of elephants and other colourful wild-life, who need large forest areas to roam about for their survival.

The glamour for "real" stuff such as ivory ornaments provides impetus to possess ivory at exorbitant prices, even if it involves suffering that such adornments entail. Fashionable society gets itself paraded in the sickening craze for ivory jewellery and ornaments. A lot of animal wastage and sacrifice can be avoided if synthetic substitutes, which in no way detract from the real stuff as show pieces, are used. "Ivory" is the name given to synthetic ivory. Bracelets, bangles and other decorative articles are manufactured from simulated ivory and from their look and feel, they appear a prototype of ivory. Some of the designated ivory pieces displayed in a number of five-star hotels are actually "ivory" products. An increasing use of high quality "ivory" should diminish killing of elephants, though it may be prejudicial to the flourishing luxury trade, master-minded by prosperous tycoons dealing in sale of ivory goods.

If one can satisfy one's vanity in a compassionate way, discarding tyrant's cruel glee, there may be some derision against display of ostentation, but it may not infringe the right of animals to live peacefully. The groundswell of resentment is only against man's inhumanity to the living creation, involving many forms of exploitation and injustice against defenceless creatures. Rev. R. C. R. Adkins has described pithily how man's brutality disfigures his spiritual upliftment - he says: "When we condemn the hunting of animals for pleasure or profit, we are not only trying to save the animals from agony, but we are also trying to prevent men and women from so brutalising themselves as to mar their spiritual selves".

S. M. Masani

(This issue has been kindly sponsored by M/s. Bulwark Warehousing Co.)

FROM MY DESK ...

"The fur trade is really fighting us very hard now, and we cannot let them get away with it..." writes Lady Dowding who flew to America because of the International Fur Fair being held from 17th - 21st March 1979. B.W.C.(New York Branch) & other animal welfare associations protested nearby. A Film & Simulated Fur Fashion Show organised to offset the Fur Fair, proved to be a great success. The T. V. showed the fur people trying to make out that there was no cruelty involved... then it switched over to the cruelties that B.W.C. was making known to the public. Two B.W.C. Members overheard a Furrier lady remark "When we have spent millions on advertising how is it that these B.W.C. anti-fur people have got all the publicity?"

The latest statistics available state that India exported Rs. 1,554,018 worth of ivory artware during the first three months of 1977-78. Our country also imports ivory mainly from Africa and Hong Kong. The price of ivory is believed to be anywhere upto Rs. 1,000/- per kg. today - and then too it is difficult to obtain legally. Unfortunately, elephant poaching continues as a B. W. C. Member recently discovered on a trip to the Similipal National Park. The villagers have taken to poisoning jack fruit and leaving it for elephants to eat and die. B. W. C. always believes in providing humane alternatives. Our organisation is therefore encouraging the use of "Ivory" which is already available in India in its raw form. We have recently obtained some raw material and will be giving it to carvers to try out. Till now many craftsmen have used this material which we believe could be improved. B. W. C. (India Branch) has also discovered a firm in New York which manufactures machines (centrifucast plastic moulding system equipment using liquid resins poured into silicone rubber moulds) which make high standard "Ivory" items.

There are many vegetarians amongst our Members who eat cheese, not knowing that Rennet - essential for the making of cheese - is obtained from the stomachs of unweaned calves (less than two weeks old) which have been specially slaughtered for this purpose. The cow and calf are worshipped in this country, yet ironically India imports this animal rennet for cheese manufacture. B. W. C. (India Branch) has been instrumental in supplying the Aarey Dairy at Bombay with non-animal rennet for experimental trials in cheese making. We hope that this dairy will be able to switch over entirely to the use of non-animal rennet and thus give India its first vegetarian cheese.

We are particularly happy to have been able to publish the latest (March 1979) All India List of Honour of cosmetics and toilet preparations made as per B. W. C. specifications. This list nullifies all previous Lists of Honour. Much labour has gone into this Cosmetic Research...however, it is our earnest hope that all who are sensitive to animal suffering will make full use of it.

Diana Ratnagar
Chairman

ELEPHANT MYTHS, LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

by Jeheskel Shoshani

Elephant Interest Group (Associated with the American Society of Mammalogists)

One of the most common beliefs even today, is the concept of elephant's graveyards. The origin of this myth probably stems from the fact that certain African tribes hunted elephants by building a ring of fire around one or more groups of elephants. These animals are suffocated and then killed with most of the remains staying in place. In addition, old elephants require soft vegetation and therefore they stay and die near rivers and swamps, whereafter many skeletons are found.

Elephant "askaries" (soldiers) is one of those legends still prevailing. In this case, it is believed that old elephants have special young body guards ready to protect the old and the experienced. This does not seem to be true; it is probably the result of coincidences, false interpretation and exaggeration.

White (albino) elephants are regarded as sacred animals in the East where they enjoyed immense symbolic importance. In Thailand, past and present, the law specifies that all white elephants are the property of the King where they are used in special ceremonies, parades and royal exhibits. This sacredness surrounding the white elephant possibly has its origin in the Dream of Queen Maya (185-72 B.C.) where she conceived Lord Buddha in the form of a white elephant. Thereafter elephant images were incorporated in different idols, e.g.: the elephant-headed Ganesa, God of wisdom, good fortune and prudence, who is one of the best loved Hindu deities. Elephants have not only been worshipped but are believed to be worshippers themselves; the sun, the moon and the stars are just examples of what the elephants supposedly have worshipped.

"Do elephants have four knees?" No. No mammal has four knees. These so called knees are nothing but the wrists of the elephant; they are situated, relatively speaking, high above the ground and therefore mistakenly referred to as "knees".

Captive as well as wild elephants are said to have a passion for alcohol. In the wild they are known to be fond of the fruits of the umgamu-tree. "This fruit is capable of being made into a strong intoxicating drink, and the elephants after eating it become quite tipsy, staggering about, playing huge antics, screaming so as to be heard miles off, and often having tremendous fights".

Elephant anecdotes cannot be complete without mentioning three famous elephants - Ahmed, Pickaninny and Jumbo. Ahmed, an African elephant became a walking legend while still alive. Hunters were after his huge tusks (about

148 lbs., 67 kg., each), a thought that ignited a worldwide protest and a decree by the President of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta that Ahmed be Protected. Ahmed was not a victim of the "Ivory Rush" but died a natural death at the age of 55. Presently, he is preserved at the National Museum of Nairobi, Kenya, where he became the symbol of conservation.

The episode of Pickaninny involves him appearing in court as a witness to give evidence that his trainer did not mistreat him (the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals indicted the trainer for cruelty). This event took place in Cleveland, Ohio, during the last century. The trainer won the court case and was discharged; and "Pickaninny was congratulated by all present, and received loaves of bread, fruit, and other delicacies as a reward for his loyal support".

The fame of Jumbo was of a different nature, it was not short but long-lasting fame whose career and ultimate fate caused a sensation on two continents. Jumbo was an African elephant raised in the London Zoo, England, for almost 17 years (1865-1882). He soon became a popular favourite of all visitors, young and old. Children loved to ride on his back, pet him, present him with buns or perhaps just be in his vicinity and catch a glimpse of the majestic animal. At the age of 21 Jumbo began to show signs of an unreliable temper; a temper that was considered dangerous enough to warrant a search for "... the means of killing this animal should such a necessity arise". Those who had to deal directly with this dilemma were relieved due to an offer made by the American showman, P. T. Barnum, who ventured to purchase Jumbo. The news caused a reaction of horror and dismay that could only have been exceeded by the sale of Queen Victoria herself to the Americans. Jumbo was regarded as a national monument and his departure was considered as a slur upon the honour and patriotism of all true Englishmen. Letters, telegrams, songs, poems and telephone calls were some of the means used to persuade Barnum from his "evil" move. Nothing changed Barnum's mind and Jumbo finally sailed across the Atlantic Ocean for America on March 25th, 1882. For three years he delighted the Americans as he had formally done for the British. Jumbo was the greatest and largest attraction ever shown in the Barnum and Baily Circus; "the towering monarch of his race" so he was heralded by Barnum himself. Jumbo's glorious career came to a tragic and sudden end on September 15th, 1885, when he was struck by a freight locomotive at St. Thomas, Ontario. At his death, Jumbo stood more than 11 feet high at the shoulder and weighed 6 and a $\frac{1}{2}$ tons; he was actually very young, only about 25 years old. His mounted skin was destroyed in a fire at Tuft's College in Boston, but his mounted skeleton is still at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. A book dedicated to Jumbo has been recently written honoring his life's history. Jumbo will never be forgotten, his name lives on as a gift to the English language... the universal synonym for all stupendous things.

" SATI " BY A BIRD

by J. Dayanand

It happened many years ago when I was in my twenties. I was serving in the Forest Department then and acquired the habit of bringing down a bird or two for dinner now and then.

The day was particularly hot and it had taken a long time and much effort to stalk a pair of birds, a variety of pigeons locally called 'manipura'. Finally, the pair rested on an elevated piece of ground. Carefully I got within range, took aim and fired. One bird lay dead in the ravine below and the other was nowhere to be seen.

As I approached to collect the dead bird, a male, my attention was drawn by its mate circling above. Hardly had I retreated some distance when I observed a strange and most moving scene.

The female came down and was pecking at something. Closer scrutiny showed that it was swallowing something, I do not know what. There was no food there to feed on. It was in fact swallowing pebbles. After it had swallowed a good quantity, the bird flew straight up, high in the air, closed its wing and dropped straight to earth like a rocket, and lay dead.

The strange spectacle of suicide of the female at the death of its mate moved me so much that I gave up bird shooting since that day.

Courtesy : Indian Express

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CHANT OF THE CREATURES

by Sylvia Barbanell

Speak for us : we are the voiceless,
Speak for us : we are the dumb;
Speak for us : we are the helpless,
Speak for us : everyone.

Speak for us : hunted for pleasure,
Speak for us : choking in snares;
Speak for us : clubbed on the ice-floe,
Speak for us : caught unawares.

Speak for us : victims of science,
Speak for us : tested and slain,
Speak for us : tell of our pain.

Speak for us : monkeys imported,
Speak for us : huddled in fright;
Speak for us : dying in transit,
Speak for us : dire is our plight.

Speak for us : trained for the circus,
Speak for us : in misery;
Speak for us : balancing tigers,
Speak for us : we were born free.

Speak for us : unwanted horses,
Speak for us : shiploads of shame;
Speak for us : bound for the knackers,
Speak for us : we do not blame.

Speak for us : mangled in steel traps,
Speak for us : caught in a vice;
Speak for us : blood spilled for fur wraps,
Speak for us : death is our price.

Plan for us : we are your brothers,
Work for us : we are oppressed;
Care for us : we are God's creatures,
Pray for us : you will be blessed.

Courtesy : Compassion

SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

by **Maria Hennessy**

Founder President of SOCELEX, worldwide organisation to protect elephants.

Deep in the jungle, atrocities are being committed against the world's biggest animal on four legs: the elephant.

Indian elephants are nearly wiped out and African elephants are being slaughtered daily.

The last two remaining species of elephant, *Loxodonta africana* and *Elephas maximus*, are both officially listed as endangered species.

Elephants are often the victims of a slow and painful death at the hands of the ivory hunters. The sickening craze for ivory jewellery and ornaments is sweeping the modern world. Callous business concerns and skilled jewellery makers harden their hearts to the fact that ivory has to be hacked out of the faces of these magnificent animals – the last of their kind.

Do pretty ivory broaches and expensive ivory ornaments justify the enforced extinction of these gentle giants? What price glamour? The agonising deaths suffered by these hunted animals will surely rebound on their tormentors. We reap what we sow.

Next time you admire a piece of carved ivory, close your eyes and see the face of an elephant running red with blood, and you will see the elephant cry – and you will hear my heart breaking.

ELEPHANTS TO PARAGUAY

by **Yoshima Mori**

“Save the Elephants” says Maria Hennessy, President of SOCELEX, who came half way across the world to join forces with Mr. Shujiro Shinoda, representative of SOCELEX in Japan.

They have had talks with the Ambassador of Paraguay who has negotiated with the President of Paraguay, General Alfredo Stroessner and his Government, on

behalf of SOCELEX. This year (1979) nineteen elephants now captive in Thailand plus one rescued from a Japanese zoo, will be taken as a gift to Paraguay.

There they will be set free into the vast jungle which is about the same size of Japan. In return for the gift, the Government of Paraguay has promised that the elephants will be protected by the army. This is to ensure that no ivory hunters and other atrocious people such as those in zoos and circuses will endanger the lives of the elephants. These commercial concerns are a big drain on wildlife and they have no successful breeding programmes for elephants, therefore they are no aids to conservation as some people mistakenly think.

In the past – before the Great Ice Age – elephants roamed free in Paraguay. So SOCELEX is returning to Paraguay a piece of her past and a gift to her future generations, Paraguay's lost heritage.

Like a beautiful red flower, love for animals will bloom in the hearts of the children of Paraguay. Four nations – Japan, Britain, Paraguay and Thailand – will have joined hands across the mighty oceans of the world in a message of Peace. Once more human beings will deserve to be called mankind.

So please save the elephants – for the people's sake as well.

FINAL PLANS

by Maria Hennessy

During the final meeting it was agreed that a declaration be drawn up by the Government of Paraguay. The declaration would be an acceptance of the gift of 20 elephants and would contain a pledge to protect the elephants. The Paraguay Ambassador will come to Japan for the signatures to be written in front of the Press, the Public, the School Children and last but by no means least, in front of our wonderful elephant – Hanoko. Who is Hanoko? Hanoko is the 16 year old Indian elephant who was sent from Thailand to a Japanese zoo. Suffering from ill health and malnutrition, she was rescued.



NATURAL BEAUTY WITH HERBS

Making Your Own Cosmetics - 3rd Instalment

In pursuance of our aim to encourage readers to make their own cruelty-free beauty aids, we give below simple recipes for the making of soaps.

Taking a bath can be turned into a luxurious and deliciously scented event with the help of a few well chosen soaps, herbs and oils.

The most usual cleansing ingredient in taking a bath, apart from hot water, is a cake of soap, and there are several ways of making them at home without using animal fats or tallow. One of my favourites is a rich one, particularly suited to cleansing the face with a complexion brush.

Before you start making your own soap, a few words of warning: Be very careful when using caustic soda - if even a speck of it gets on to your skin, wash immediately with cold water, lemon juice or vinegar, or you may get a horribly painful burn. Always wear rubber gloves to avoid this.

Try not to breathe the fumes from the soda when mixing it with the water or the oils - it could damage your lungs!

Never use aluminium, tin, or foil containers, because the soda will gradually eat its way through amidst frothy evil smelling bubbles!

Bearing these words of caution in mind making soap is quite straightforward.

Rich Complexion Soap

2 level tablespoons caustic soda

7½ fl. oz. water

10 fl. oz. almond or olive oil

4 oz. coconut oil

2 teaspoons glycerine (of vegetable origin) or honey (apiary)

Put the water into a glass or ceramic bowl and, wearing rubber gloves, carefully measure the caustic soda and slowly stir it into the water using a wooden spoon until dissolved. Melt the coconut and almond oils with the glycerine in an enamel saucepan until warm. The soda solution will have got quite hot so leave it until just warm before pouring it slowly, while stirring, into the oils. Keep stirring until the mixture thickens (this could take up to 15 minutes, so do persevere). If the mixture congeals just place the saucepan in a basin of hot water and stir it till it gets back to a

good pouring consistency.

Line three plastic or wooden boxes, about 2½" x 3" and 1" deep, with pieces of polythene (to help lift the hardened soap from the moulds) and pour the thickened mixture into them. Put the boxes on a tray, cover with a piece of cardboard, wrap in a towel or blanket and put in a warm dry place to set. (This should happen in 24 hours but sometimes it takes longer.) When set, lift the soap from the moulds, peel off the polythene, wrap it in greaseproof paper and store in a cool dry place until quite hard (atleast two weeks). This makes a lovely pure white soap.

Simple Bath Soap

- 4 heaped tablespoons caustic soda
- ½ pint water
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 2 tablespoons vegetable margarine

Proceed exactly as before, substituting the margarine for the glycerine or honey.

If you want to add colour, perfume or nourishing ingredients to your simple soap do so just before pouring the thickened liquid into the moulds for setting, and combine thoroughly by stirring. Add a few drops of any essential oils - only two at a time and stir thoroughly-too strong a smell will be offputting. Try adding a couple of spoonfuls of mashed avocado, strawberry, cucumber, oatmeal, Irish moss, ground almonds, chopped fresh herbs or flowers, and a little colouring either to match your bathroom decor or echo the natural colour of the extra ingredients or perfume. Try carving the soaps into shapes or engraving your initials into it before you wrap it up to finally harden.

Almond Soap Substitute

If the idea of using caustic soda frightens you, try making a soap substitute:

- 2 tablespoons finely ground almonds
- 2 tablespoons kaolin powder
- ½ tablespoon borax
- Few drops oil of almonds

Mix all the ingredients together and use a knob of it instead of soap.

From the book "Natural Beauty with Herbs" by Alyson Huxley.

GHASTLY USE OF ANIMALS IN CIRCUS & CINEMA

by S. M. Masani

Let us not be misled into the belief that Circus and Cinema provide fun and entertainment only. When they exhibit feats of animals, attractive though they may be, they are not devoid of cruelty. We certainly would not wish that for providing entertainment, animals must pay a very heavy price. Confining ourselves to trials and tribulations undergone by the elephants, let us consider the amount of sacrifice given by them for the fun and frolic enjoyed by people visiting cinema and circus; to put it more poignantly, let us consider the sacrifice of elephants for enriching their masters or sponsors of the shows. We are not dealing with this matter exhaustively but cite only one or two concrete instances.

Circuses depend for their fortune mostly on the feats of animals, who are under a strain of painful emotion. Various methods of torture and threat are used to train and control elephants. In spite of all the agony, the loyal elephants soldier on in the service of their masters. Authentic information reveals that trainers in the circus ring use goads, protruding sharp hook and spike. The piercing instrument about twelve inches long is reported to be used on the ears, the backs, the thighs and the most tender parts of the circus elephants, leading to the oozing of blood from their body. During the training of the elephant, the elephant groom goes round with a bucket of water to wash off the blood with a sponge and treat the scars. Even with the uncanny capacity to suffer the torture, the animal has to bend when subjected to repeated lethal blows. The acts of tiger tamers in taming the tigers are no less ghastly.

In Cinema film-making also, animals are made to face many hazards. It is reported that during the shooting of a film at a Game Sanctuary, a sequence showing 23 elephants escaping from the fire through a small exit was about to be filmed. In the process some of the elephants succumbed to the burns and the condition of some became serious. It was too much to expect 23 elephants encircled by a ring of fire, making good their escape through a narrow passage. This happened in spite of legislation concerning use of animals for film purposes. Obviously the legislation is circumvented and rendered otiose.

These harrowing tales make our flesh creep and we would not be surprised if, exasperated by the agonies of life, suffering animals echo the words of an author: "Life is the jailer of the soul in this filthy prison and its only deliverer is death".

NEWSPICKS

The Times of India, 17th March, 1979, Letters to the Editor

TOURIST SNAKE-PIT

by Shankar Ranganathan

It is reported that a snake and crocodile park is to be set up by the tourist department near the film city at Borivli and that work on it has been started. India is of the few so-called democratic countries where matters of public interest are rarely discussed in public until it is too late. The people are merely informed of what is being done for them with their money. Whether they approve or not is not important. So much for public participation which is supposed to be the basis of democracy.

Few will disagree that there is need for a snake and crocodile park in Bombay. But to what extent were experts of the Bombay Natural History Society, World Wildlife Fund - India, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources consulted?

Details of the proposed exhibition of snake skins and crocodile hides and possible culinary demonstrations of dishes made of frogs' legs (for export) are revolting. They are alien to conservation ideals. Is the tourist department so ignorant of the useful service that frogs and snakes perform in pest control? Frogs kill many crop-destroying pests and snakes eat rats and mice which destroy stored grain worth several crore rupees.

The snake and crocodile park, planned by the tourist department appears to be primarily a permanent exhibition to sell leather goods and frogs' legs to foreign tourists. Do the citizens of Bombay want this? If not, they should protest in the name of democracy and conservation.

The Statesman Ltd., 25th March, 1979

BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY, an international organisation based in Kent, is campaigning against indiscriminate killing of fur-bearing animals. In protest against the fur fair held in New York from March 17 to 21, it organised a fashion show of synthetic furs. A Press release issued by the Indian Branch in Pune opposes the setting up of ranches for jackals, foxes, lynxes, karakul lambs and rabbits. To kill an animal simply for its pelt, the release adds, is degrading to the human race.