

judge, says, "it is remarkable that lions breed more freely in travelling collections than in the Zoological Gardens; probably the constant excitement and irritation produced by moving from place to place, or change of air, may have considerable influence in the matter."

Many members of the Dog family breed readily when confined. The Dhole is one of the most untamable animals in India, yet a pair kept there by Dr. Falconer produced young. Foxes, on the other hand, rarely breed, and I have never heard of such an occurrence with the European fox: the silver fox of North America (*Canis argentatus*), however, has bred several times in the Zoological Gardens. Even the otter has bred there. Every one knows how readily the semi-domesticated ferret breeds, though shut up in miserably small cages; but other species of *Viverra* and *Paradoxurus* absolutely refuse to breed in the Zoological Gardens. The *Genetta* has bred both here and in the Jardin des Plantes, and produced hybrids. The *Herpestes fasciatus* has likewise bred; but I was formerly assured that the *H. griseus*, though many were kept in the Gardens, never bred.

The Plantigrade Carnivora breed under confinement much less freely than other Carnivora, although no reason can be assigned for this fact. In the nine-year Report it is stated that the bears had been seen in the Zoological Gardens to couple freely, but previously to 1848 had most rarely conceived. In the Reports published since this date three species have produced young (hybrids in one case), and, wonderful to relate, the white Polar bear has produced young. The badger (*Meles taxus*) has bred several times in the Gardens; but I have not heard of this occurring elsewhere in England, and the event must be very rare, for an instance in Germany has been thought worth recording.¹⁹ In Paraguay the native *Nasua*, though kept in pairs during many years and perfectly tamed, has never been known, according to Rengger, to breed or show any sexual passion; nor, as I hear from Mr. Bates, does this animal, or the *Cercoleptes*, breed in Amazonia. Two other plantigrade genera, *Procyon* and *Gulo*, though often kept tame in Paraguay, never breed there. In the Zoological Gardens species of *Nasua* and *Procyon* have been seen to couple; but they did not produce young.

As domesticated rabbits, guinea-pigs, and white mice breed so abundantly when closely confined under various climates, it might have been thought that most other members of the Rodent order would have bred in captivity, but this is not the case. It deserves notice, as showing how the capacity to breed sometimes goes by affinity, that the one native rodent of Paraguay, which there breeds freely and has yielded successive generations, is the *Cavia aperea*; and this animal is so closely allied to the guinea-pig,

¹⁹ Wiegmann's 'Archiv für Naturgesch.,' 1837, s. 162.