

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I.—MIGRATION OF RATS.

The migration of rats from one part of the country to another is not unknown, and I was fortunate enough, quite recently, to witness another instance of this interesting habit of theirs. It was all the more extraordinary as it led them to their own destruction. The occurrence took place in September last, when I was stationed at Koh Lak, and lasted for nearly a week. My section-house lies close to the beach, and the first intimation I received of anything unusual, was in discovering one evening that my abode seemed to be full of rats. They swarmed everywhere, running along the beams and rafters, and over and under the floors. I could see also, from my verandah, many more upon the beach, running across the sands and making straight for the sea. Their one idea appeared to be to leave the land. None turned back except when attacked by hawks or crows, of which they had attracted a good number. The following day, when going out to meet the steamer in Koh Lak bay, I noticed several rats well away from the shore, still swimming straight cut to sea, and for days afterwards I found their dead bodies on the beach, washed up by the tides. This I observed throughout the whole length of my section, a distance of 30 kilometres.

I am unable to give any explanation to account for this migration. The only thing which I noticed at the time was an unusually large number of jungle fowl about. This I look upon as a coincidence, as I can not see in any way what relation the one creature could bear to the other.

I did not, unfortunately, keep any specimen so that the animals could be positively identified, but they appeared to me to be the ordinary house rat which is common everywhere.

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No. II.—SORE NECK IN SAMBAR.

From 1910 to 1913 I was engaged on Survey work in the district lying approximately between Lat. $14^{\circ}.00'$ and $16^{\circ}.00'$ N. and Long. $98^{\circ}.30'$ and $100^{\circ}.00'$ E. Most of this area is in the valleys of the Me Klawng river or its tributaries, the remainder being on the edge of the watershed of the Menam Chao Praya. During those years, between the months of December and June, I shot several Sambar in this district, all of which were affected by a peculiar sore upon the