

GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

An ordinary General Meeting of the members of the Society took place on June 23rd, 1915, to hear the paper by Mr. Adey Moore. The President, Dr. O. Frankfurter, was in the chair.

In opening the proceedings, the President said :— Before we proceed to the business for which our meeting has been convened, the reading of Mr. Moore's paper on the earliest British merchant in Bangkok, I may be allowed to make a few statements regarding our Society. In accordance with the law of 1914, the Society has been registered in due form and, being a purely scientific society, no fees for such registration have been exacted by Government. Further*at a meeting of the Council held lately it was decided that for the period of 1914 and 1915 only the subscription for one year should be called and that consequently members who have paid their subscription in the commencement of the year 1914 are considered to have paid it till the end of 1915. New subscriptions will be called with the issue of the second number of the Journal. With regard to our publications you have received the first part of Volume XI early in September 1914, and the second part containing a translation of the Preface to Prince Damrong's History of Siam and the paper of Mr. Moore on Robert Hunter will be issued in the course of the next month. The third number will contain the concluding part of Khun Phraison's translation of the Burmese history of the intercourse between Burma and Siam, whilst it is intended to commence after that with the publication of Mr. Craib's and Dr. Kerr's articles on the Flora of Siam. We trust we shall also be able to print in the near future some important historical documents having reference to the intercourse of Siam with the East India Company, in the time of King Narayana. I have now to ask Mr. Moore to read his paper.

At the conclusion of the paper, the President said :—I am sure we have all listened with great interest to Mr. Moore's paper, and it is no mere phrase when in the name of the Society I thank him most cordially for what was surely a real labour of love. As things are, the period in which Mr. Hunter was in Bangkok is not so very distant, and still it is as if an age had elapsed between the first real merchant

appearing in Siam for trade and the present time. The way in which Mr. Moore brought out these different points entitles him to a full share of our thankfulness, combined with the hope that he will find leisure to show us something more of the past of Siam. I have now the honour to propose a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Moore.

Mr. J. Crosby said the paper covered the ground very well, and many facts had been unearthed that were unknown to most of them. One additional fact that might be noted was that, according to Neale, Hunter was the man who discovered the Siamese twins. With regard to houses built in European style, the Borneo Company's house had not been mentioned, and he believed that was older than the British Legation. That house, however, was now demolished. On another point it might be noted that, although there had been no British factory here since Bangkok had been the capital, he believed there was an earlier British factory at Ayuthia. He believed Hunter was the first European allowed to build a house on the land. The name of Robert Hunter the second was the first on the register of British subjects here, and the second name was that of the late Dr. Samuel Smith, who probably met the original Robert Hunter. He had pleasure in supporting the vote of thanks.

This was cordially passed, and the proceedings terminated, those present then proceeding to examine the small loan collection of "Hunteriana" which had been arranged. The following is a list of the things shown:—

Drawing of the British "factory," from Neale's "Residence in Siam."

Photos of "factory" as it is at present.

Woodcut of lady said to be Angelina Sap, taken from Bishop Pallegoix's "Description du Royaume Thai ou Siam."

Original application of the second Robert Hunter to the Head of the Catholic Mission, dated Sept. 1849, for permission to marry Rosa Ribeiro de Alvergarias Noi, Catholic daughter of Phya Viset Songkram.

One of the copper coins imported by the original Robert Hunter.

Decanter stand with Hunter's crest.

Cut glassware, china and silver imported by Robert Hunter.

Old Racing prints formerly belonging to Hunter and taken from his house.

