

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY,

---

9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held at the Bangkok Times Office on March 8th, 1922, and was attended by 18 members and 3 guests. The Vice-president, Dr. M. A. Smith presided.

The minutes of the previous General Meeting having been read and confirmed, Dr. Smith presented the statement of accounts for the past year, and reported on the work of the Society during that period. He mentioned that this had not been as great as in previous years, owing to the fact that several of the most active members were absent on leave. He mentioned also that two newly joined members of the Society were botanists and would be glad to assist any others who might care to take up this study.

The accounts were then adopted, and the election of officers for the ensuing year took place. The result was as follows:—

President: Dr. M. A. Smith.

Vice-president: Mr. E. J. Godfrey.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. A. Marcan.

The committee consisting of the above-mentioned together with Messrs. S. G. Lambert and C. J. Aagaard.

A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. S. H. Cole. Dr. Smith and Mr. Godfrey were elected co-editors of the Journal.

The Chairman then referred to a question of amalgamation with the Siam Society which had arisen and was under consideration between the committee of the Natural History Society and delegates from the Siam Society. He pointed out that it was not open to the members at the present meeting to do more than discuss the matter, and that voting could only take place after the matter had been fully considered by every member of the Natural History Society.

He outlined the advantages and disadvantages to the Society of amalgamation, stating that whereas, on the one hand, the Journal of the Society would reach a larger number of people, and it might be possible with the conjoint funds of the Societies to rent or obtain a room for the permanent and exclusive use of the members of the two Societies,—on the other hand, the Natural History Society would lose its identity, and in particular its Journal would thenceforth be published under the name of the Siam Society. There would also not be the complete independence of control over natural history matters that they had while existing as a separate Society. However, it would be insisted upon, on behalf of the Natural History Society, that, in case of amal-

gamation the section of Natural History would continue to publish its papers separately and not interspersed with the Siam Society's usual papers.

Mr. Brewitt Taylor suggested that it would be better to defer the question of amalgamation until the Natural History Society was in need of the help which such amalgamation might bring, and that such did not appear to be the case at present.

No further remarks being offered, the business part of the meeting concluded, and a display of specimens followed.

Mrs. Malcolm Smith exhibited specimens of fish obtained in and around Bangkok; Mr. A. Marcan exhibited a specimen of a new tree (*Bignonia* species) found in Bangkok, which would shortly be described. Mom Luang Pé exhibited a living specimen of the Golden Cat (*F. chaus*), and Dr. Smith exhibited some live reptiles and batrachians that he had recently obtained in the Nakon Sritamarat hills.

#### 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held after dinner at the British Club on July 4th, 1922, and was attended by 14 members and 4 guests.

Dr. Smith shewed a specimen of the Yellow-headed Krait (*Bungarus flaviceps*) which he had recently obtained in the Nakon Sritamarat mountains, and compared it with the other two species of Krait found in Siam. He shewed also a series of the frogs allied to *Rana dorice*, and pointed out the remarkable changes which had taken place in the various members of the group in the course of evolution.

He exhibited also specimens of a new frog (*Rana cataracta*) from the Nakon Sritamarat mountains and the mountains of Pahang, which would shortly be described.

Major W. R. S. Ladell then read a paper upon "The Chemistry of Plant Life," being the first of a proposed series showing the relationships between the chemistry of plant and the chemistry of animal life. A number of experiments were shown indicating the general composition of leaves and seeds; (1) water (2) carbon (3) nitrogen (4) mineral matter.

The composition of the combustible portion of plant tissues was dealt with briefly, and the importance of carbohydrates, proteins, oils and fats, emphasised. The changes occurring during the growth of plants from the seed were considered generally, experiments being shown relative to the conditions necessary for the proper germination of seeds, (1) moisture required (2) air is essential (3) the seed changes the air from a supporter to a non-supporter of combustion, oxygen being replaced by carbon dioxide (4) heat is evolved during germination.

Ewart's work on the longevity of seeds was touched on. The inhibiting effect of carbon dioxide on the germination of seeds was mentioned. Details were given of various methods for storage and preservation of seeds in damp and tropical climates. The importance of enzyme action, illustrated by the conversion of starch into sugar by saliva. Structure and use of the leaf. Experiments illustrating assimilation, formation of starch in daylight, and its removal in the dark. Plants purify the atmosphere for animal life by absorbing the carbon dioxide and replenishing the oxygen. The processes of respiration and transpiration were shown practically. Transpiration coefficient.

The structure and use of the root. How the plant absorbs mineral matter from the soil by osmosis. General nature of the mineral matter as represented by the ash of plants.



PUBLICATIONS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE NATURAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY OF SIAM.

The Society's Library is at present located in the Bangkok Times Building. Applications for the keys may be made there at any time between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Members are requested to enter in the book kept for the purpose, the name of the publication borrowed, with the date when taken out and returned.

**BOOKS and PAMPHLETS.**

**On Mammals.**

Catalogue of Indian Big Game. 1913. R. Lydekker, F. R. S.

**On Birds.**

How to know the Indian Waders. 1906. Frank Finn, B. A., F. Z. S.

The Waterfowl of India and Asia. 1909. " " " "

The Game Birds of India and Asia. 1911. " " " "

A Bird Calender for Northern India. 1916. Douglas Dewar.

Guide to the Gallery of Birds in the British Museum. 1910.

Birds Beneficial to Agriculture. 1919. F. W. Frohawk, M.B.O.U., F.E.S.

**On Reptiles and Batrachians.**

The Reptiles of the Indo-Australian Archipelago. Dr. Nelly de Rooij.

Vol. I. Lacertilia, Chelonia, Emydosauria. 1915. II. Ophidia. 1917.

The Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes of our British Indian Dominions.

First Ed. 1908. Major F. Wall, I. M. S., C. M. Z. S.

The Snakes of Ceylon. 1921. Col. F. Wall, C. M. G., I. M. S.

Batrachians of Southern India. 1888. Edgar Thurston.

**On Fishes.**

Indo-Australian Fishes. Vol. I, II and III, 1911-1916. Dr. Max Weber  
& Dr. L. F. de Beaufort.

The Fauna of British India. Fishes. Vol. I and II. 1889.

Francis Day, C. I. E., L. L. D.

Bibliography of Fishes. Vol. I. 1916. Vol. II. 1917. Bashford Dean.

The Sea Fisheries of Malabar & South Canara. 1900. Edgar Thurston.

Poissons d'eau douce de l'Indo-Chine. 1907. Dr. Jacques Pellegrin.

**On Insects.**

- The House Fly. Life History. 1920. Ernest E. Austin, D.S.O.  
 The House Fly as a Danger to Health. 1913. Ernest E. Austin, D.S.O.  
 Furniture Beetles. 1920. Charles Gahan, D.Sc.  
 Mosquitoes and their Relation to Disease. 1916. F. W. Edwards, B.A..

**Botanical.**

- Contributions to the Flora of Siam. 1913. William Grant Craib, M.A.  
 The Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants. 1882.  
 Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S.  
 Mushrooms and Fungi. 1910. W. G. Smith.

**Miscellaneous.**

- The Spiders of Burma. 1895. T. Thorell.  
 Arachnida and Myriopoda Injurious to Man. 1917. Stanley Hirst.  
 The Louse and its Relation to Disease. 1915. Bruce F. Cummings.  
 Marine Boring Animals. 1919. W. T. Calman, D.Sc.  
 Ramesvaram Island and Fauna of the Gulf of Manaar. 1895.  
 Edgar Thurston, C. M. Z. S. etc.  
 Instructions for Collectors. No. 13. (Brit. Mus. pub.)  
 Alcohol and Alcoholometers. 1916. S. H. Harmer, D.Sc. F.R.S.  
 Guides to Museums, Catalogues, Reports, etc.

**Periodicals.**

- The Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam.  
 Vol. I, 1914 to date.  
 The Philippine Journal of Science.  
 Vol. X, 1915 to date.  
 Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums.  
 Vol. I, 1905 to date.  
 Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.  
 No. 66, 1914 to date.  
 The Sarawak Museum Journal.  
 Vol. II, Pt. 3, No. 7, June 1917.  
 Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.  
 Vol. XXIV, 1915 to date.  
 Records of the Indian Museum.  
 Vol. VIII, 1914 to date.

- Spolia Zeylanica.  
Vol. X, 1915 to date.
- Annals and Magazine of Natural History.  
Vol. XVII, Series 8, 1916 to date.
- Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society.  
Vol. XVIII, 1916 to date.
- Records of the Australian Museum.  
Vol. XIII, No. 5, March 1922.
- Proceedings of the United States National Museum.  
1902 to date. (Zoological papers only).
- Arkiv für Botanik. (Stockholm)  
Band 13, 1913 to date.
- Medeelingen Instituut voor Plantenziekten.  
(Originally Medeelingen Laboratorium voor Plantenziekten.)  
No. 18, 1915 to date.
- Bulletin du Jardin Botanique. (Buitenzorg.)  
Vol. XVIII, 1915 to date.
- Treubia. (Jardin Botanique du Buitenzorg.)  
Vol. I, 1921 to date.
- Bulletin du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. (Paris.)  
1915 to date.
- Arkiv für Zoologi. (Stockholm)  
Band 8, 1913 to date.
- Le Gerfaut. (Revue belge d'Ornithologie.)  
Dec. 1911 to date.

