

tainly bore a very remarkable resemblance to that snake, and the unanimous opinion of all the natives who saw it was that it was a "ngu how hom". Boulenger in his Fauna of the Malay Peninsula says that this snake, like the Common Indian Rat Snake (*Zamenis mucosus*) is sometimes mistaken for the Hamadryad.

H. W. JOYNSON.

Lampang, April 1924.

No. IV. Cobras and King Cobras.

The following record of an unusually large Hamadryad (*Naja hannah*) may be of interest to your readers. It was shot recently by my Dyak collector while on a visit to Nakon Sritamarat, Peninsular Siam. At the time the event happened it was unfortunately getting dark and having lost his way in the jungle my man had not time to skin the snake, so contented himself with measuring it by means of his gun and bringing back the head. According to this computation the creature was 18' 4" in length, which as far as I am aware is much larger than any specimen previously recorded.* My man is quite used to taking measurements and I have no reason to doubt his statement. The measurements of the head are as follows:—from the tip of the snout to the end of the occipital shields 98 mm., greatest breadth of head 72 mm., greatest breadth across the parietals 47 mm.

The King Cobra has the reputation of attacking people whenever it meets them, but that is not my experience. When living at Bangnara, Patani, some years ago, I encountered them on several occasions, but I never found them vindictive unless I barred the way to their hole, which was generally in an old ant-hill. One of my tappers, however, was attacked while at work. He told me the snake went for him, raising its head about five feet from the ground and striking at his face. He succeeded in killing it with a long stick and it measured 12' 6" in length.

The Common Cobra was very numerous at Bangnara and I often used to amuse myself when I met them, by hitting them up with a stick, when they would rise and move towards me practically upon the tail, at least three-quarters of the body being raised from the ground. It was by no means a dangerous game as they were only able to move slowly when in that position.

I have been told that Cobras generally live in pairs and that if one of them is killed the other will come and take revenge upon the slayer. When living in Singgora I was having a nap after tiffin one day, when my boy came up and told me there was a cobra in the

* The largest specimen that we can remember was recorded in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, vol. ii p. 245, and measured 16' 4" in length; but it is seldom that specimens over 15' are met with. [Eds.]

garden, whereupon I went downstairs and shot it. I went and lay down again but shortly afterwards my boy came rushing to me a second time saying there was another cobra this time climbing up the stairs. By the time I could get my gun again and shoot it, it had almost reached the verandah where I was. The two snakes proved to be a male and female.

C. J. AAGAARD.

June 1924, Bangkok.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This was held in the Bangkok Times buildings on March 12th 1924 at 6.30 p.m.; Dr. Malcolm Smith, the President, was in the chair. The minutes of the previous annual general meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman then presented the statement of accounts for the past year. It showed a deficit of Tes. 1169.81 and this he explained was due to the unusually heavy expenditure incurred by the production of the Journal, not only in the volume of material which had been published, but also in the cost of numerous plates.

It was not, however, as bad as it appeared, for it included, first of all, the cost of plates that had been printed off in connection with Mr. Herbert's paper on Birds' Nests in Central Siam, half of which were destined for Journals that had not yet been issued, while another portion was covered by the fixed deposit held for the production of the special number of the Journal dealing with the Birds of South-West and Peninsular Siam. Thus the cost of publication for the coming year would be very materially lessened. He estimated that the actual deficit, after allowing for these sums, would not amount to more than 300 ticals.

The number of ordinary members on December 31st, 1923 was 67, against 61 for the previous year of the same date. Three Journals had been issued, two of them the ordinary Journals of the Society and one a special number in connection with the vertebrate fauna of South-West and Peninsular Siam.

The election of Officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with and the result was as follows:—President, Dr. Malcolm Smith; Vice President, Mr. E. J. Godfrey; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mr. J. Hunter; Members of Committee in addition to the above, Dr. Hugh Smith, Mr. A. Marcan and Mr. W. R. S. Ladell.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. A. Marcan for his valuable work as secretary of the Society during the last three years and regret was expressed by the Chairman that pressure of work had obliged Mr. Marcan to resign his office. The Chairman also proposed