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EDITORIAL.

This number, which is a continuation of Vol. VI, No. 3. of the Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam, is issued under the auspices of the Siam Society and as a Supplement to the Journal of that Society. By a resolution passed at a Council Meeting of the Siam Society on November 25th, 1924, the "Natural History Society of Siam" became amalgamated with the Siam Society and, from January 1st, 1925, was constituted the "Natural History Section" of that Society. The question of amalgamation had been under consideration by the committee of the Natural History Society for some time and when the matter was put before members it was agreed to unanimously. The committee in sending out a circular letter to members pointed out the advantages which would accrue from amalgamation, namely an extended scope for scientific activities and the certainty of being able to continue the publication of the Journal. The question of the publication of the Journal has always been the first consideration of the Natural History Society. The Council of the Siam Society have generously granted the Section the right to publish separately. An extract from "Notes of the Quarter" (Journ. Siam Soc., Vol. XVIII, Pt. 3, Jan. 1925) reads as follows:—"As regards their Journal, it will in future be published as a "Supplement" to the Siam Society's Journal, but in order to preserve its identity to the many scientific societies with which it has been exchanged, the serial number and pagination will be carried on as formerly. The Siam Socie-

ty welcomes this addition to its usefulness, and to its investigations in Natural History which has always been one of the subjects within its charter." The first number of the Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam was published in February 1914, Dr. Malcolm A. Smith and Mr. W. J. F. Williamson being Editors. The Editors in their foreword pointed out that "an immense amount of work in every branch of Natural History" was "waiting to be done in Siam", hitherto "an almost untouched field." A great amount of work has been accomplished and the results obtained have more than justified the existence of the Society and its expectations. This is evident from the fact that the fauna and flora of the country have already yielded more than two hundred species and sub-species new to science. The late Society owes much to Mr. Williamson and Dr. Malcolm Smith, both of whom for many years maintained trained Dyak and Siamese collectors in the field. The loss of these two keen naturalists (both of whom have now retired from Siam) is to be regretted, but the good work initiated by them will continue. The field of Natural History in Siam is by no means exhausted; there is still work for years to come and although at present the actual workers are fewer, this doubtless will right itself in course of time. It has been advanced against the Journal that it is too technical for many readers. This may be so, but it is not proposed at present to deviate from the lines hitherto followed. The main success of the Journal in the past has depended upon the fact that it has been edited on strictly scientific lines. Field notes, of course, will always be welcomed and it is hoped that members of the Section will endeavour to assist the Supplement with such contributions. It is improbable that we shall be able to issue the Supplement as frequently as the Journal has been issued in the past, but we can assure members of the Section that the Council of the Siam Society have our interests well at heart and that they will always sanction publications on our part whenever material and funds are available.