

came from the Me Ing forest, and had a total length of 62 feet, mid-girth of 10 feet 6 inches and cubic content of 427 cubic feet. This, however, is beaten by a Burmese log, which had a total length of 82 feet 6 inches, a mid-girth of 10 feet, and cubic content of 515.6 cubic feet. As the author remarks, had systematic measurements of large teak trees been made in the early days, no doubt some striking data would have been obtained.

The measurements of a number of other large trees are given, several of which exceed records published elsewhere. The largest of all these is a *mai maka* (*Afzelia xylocarpa*), which is reported to have a girth measurement of 51 feet 8 inches; a truly enormous tree. The records of one exceptionally large takien (*Hopea odorata*), show a girth of 34 feet 4 inches and a height of 210 feet. In this case, however, there is a note that the tree is "Ficus-bound", and it is not stated whether the measurements include the fig or not.

There are two small errors in geographical names: Ohe Hom (p. 325) should be Che Hom, and Petchaburi (p. 326) should be Petchabun.

Mr. Bourke-Burrowes has done well to put these measurements on record and we hope his paper will stimulate Forest Officers and others to publish further records of the kind.

A. K.

OBITUARY.

CARL ROEBELEN.

The late Carl Roebelen must be placed among the small band of famous orchid hunters, such as Warcewicz, Roezl and Micholitz, who, at risk of life and limb, ransacked the tropics for plants to supply the great demand for orchids in Europe. The golden age of the orchid hunter was the period 1875 to 1890. During those years a constant succession of new and beautiful orchids appeared in the European markets. Since then striking novelties have become scarce and the orchid fancier has turned his attitude to hybridizing the known species.

Carl Roebelen was born in Geisslingen (Wurttemberg), on January 19th, 1855. He served his horticultural apprenticeship in the Royal Gardens of the King of Wurttemberg at Friedrichshafen. Later he gained experience in various other large gardens in Germany, Switzerland and France.

In the Spring of 1880 he entered the services of Messrs. F. Sander & Co., the great orchid importers of St. Albans. This firm sent him to the Philippines, where he discovered many fine orchids. The most famous of these is *Vanda Sanderiana*. His name was commemorated among Philippine orchids, in *Aerides Roebeleni* and *Cypripedium Roebeleni*.

About 1882 he left Sander's employ, and for the rest of his life, except for a brief period in 1884, when he returned to Messrs.

Sander, worked on his own account.

After finally severing his connection with Messrs. Sander, Roebelen travelled much in the Eastern Tropics; visiting Borneo, Sumatra, Java, many small islands, Burma and Cochin-China. His knowledge of languages, he spoke seven in addition to his mother tongue, was a great asset in these wanderings. He made Bangkok his head-quarters about 1886, but still continued to travel in Siam and the neighbouring countries. All his orchids were sent to London, there to be sold by auction.

During the war Roebelen was interned in India. At the conclusion of the war he went to Switzerland, and remained there till he was allowed to return to Siam in 1924.

On his journeys, which were mostly made on foot, he carried very little kit and cheerfully suffered hardships such as few would care to face. He never carried a gun or other weapon, maintaining that if one did no harm to the wild beasts they would do no harm in return. On one occasion, while he was out for an evening walk in Bangkok near Wat Poh, a ruffian gave him a blow on the head and made away with his hat. Instead of running after the man or calling for help, he simply said "I am safer among the wild beasts and I am going to the jungle." Next morning he was off.

Roebelen left Bangkok, for what proved to be his last journey, on 15th November 1926, going by rail to Korat, thence on foot for fifteen days to Nawng Kai. From Nawng Kai he proceeded to Wieng Chan (Vientiane). He started from Wieng Chan on December 9th in the direction of Chieng Kwang, through a very mountainous country. On January 6th he collapsed, and was carried unconscious to a village, where he died the next day.

As is usual with plant hunters, Roebelen did not give away the exact localities of his finds. He had, however, very kindly promised to give any assistance he could with regard to the localities of his Siamese plants, but the end came before this enquiry was undertaken. Unfortunately, too, all his diaries, manuscripts and photographic negatives have been lost.

One of the best known of his discoveries made after coming to Bangkok was *Phoenix Roebeleni*, which he found in French Laos, on the banks of the Nam U. This locality he reached by a 25 days march from Chiengrai. He made several journeys there. At first he could find no seeds and had to dig up living plants; later he found that his palm seeded in the rains. At one time it was thought that *Phoenix Roebeleni* might be a Siamese plant, but so far there is no evidence that it is to be found within Siamese territory, excepting the obviously erroneous statement about it in Mr. Graham's "Siam." There are, however, some undoubtedly Siamese species which were first described from plants sent home by Roebelen. *Dendrobium Friedrichsianum*, the subject of a note in the last number of this Supplement, was one of them; *Eria trilamellata*, described by

the late Mr. Rolfe, was another. The *Eria* is noted as coming from Bangkok, its exact locality has yet to be discovered. It is probable that *Rhynchosstylis coelestis*, one of the few orchids with blue colouring, which was described by Reichenbach in 1885 from specimens sent from Siam, was also one of Roebelen's plants, but there is no reference at hand to confirm this.

For most of the above information about Mr. Roebelen's life and travels we are indebted to his son, Luang Saner Bachanabakya.

A. K.

SIR HAROLD LYLE.

The news of the lamented death of Sir Harold Lyle reached us too late to prepare an adequate account of his contributions to the zoology of Siam. We hope to be able to do so in our next number.

Proceedings of the Section.

9TH. ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This was held on June 9th. in the Council Room of the Vajiravudh National Library, kindly placed at the disposal of the Society for the occasion by the Council of the Royal Institute. His Majesty the King, the Patron of the Society, with Her Majesty the Queen, honoured the Society with their presence. There were assembled to meet their Majesties: H. R. H. Prince Damrong, President of the Council of the Royal Institute of Literature, Archaeology and Fine Arts, and Vice-Patron of the Siam Society; H. R. H. the Prince of Kambeang Bejra, Honorary Vice-President of the Siam Society; H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana, Vice-President of the Royal Institute and Honorary Member of the Siam Society; H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat, member of the Council of the Royal Institute and member of the Council of the Siam Society; Prof. G. Coedès, President of the Siam Society and the Council of the Siam Society.

Prof. G. Coedès opened the proceeding's with an address of of welcome to their Majesties.

Major W. R. S. Ladell lectured on Paddy Pests in Siam, illustrated with show cases indicating various stages in the life histories of the insects concerned. Dr. T. F. Morrison spoke on (1) the electric organs of the ray fish (2) accessory breathing organs of the climbing perch and walking cat-fish (3) the pelvic girdle and limbs of the python, illustrated by museum specimens. Mr. A. Marcan exhibited some Siamese plants and dealt with their application to gardening. Dr. A. Kerr exhibited a peculiar genus of evil smelling plants, (*Amorphophallus*), a strange parasitic flower (*Rafflesia*), and Siamese rock plants. Dr. Morrison's and Mr. Marcan's papers were illustrated with lantern slides, the lantern being manipulated by Mr. Neilson.

After a short interval for refreshments a paper on "Wild