

reviewer no monkeys were seen or heard, and fishermen who have been resorting to the island at certain times every year state that there are no monkeys. No limestone occurs, the rocks being entirely granitic, as Dr. Kerr has pointed out.

This work has much interest for bird students in Siam inasmuch as it covers some 30,000 square miles of Siamese territory, or rather more than a third of the entire Malay Peninsula, and includes many birds that occur north of the Isthmus of Kra, some of them throughout the country. The work is heartily recommended to both amateurs and advanced specialists as the most complete, authoritative, and attractive of the books that pertain to the avian fauna of this part of the world.

H. M. SMITH.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS HAROLD LYLE.

Among the many British naturalists who have helped to improve our knowledge of the zoology of the East, the name of Mr. (later Sir) Thomas Harold Lyle takes an honoured place.

It was in 1896 that I heard he was interested in Natural History and on writing to him urging that he should collect mammalia for the National Museum I received a most gratifying response, and for many years, up to 1919, he took great pains in obtaining small mammals in the interesting and little known country where he was stationed. He was then British Consul in Nan, in North Siam, and he also collected largely in Chiangmai.

He took great interest in, and had a considerable knowledge of, the smaller mammalia of Siam, and sent home quite a series of collections, which on arrival were worked out by Mr. Bonhote and myself. He discovered a number of new mammals, such as the splendid Flying Squirrel, *Peraurista lylei*, the remarkable Bat, *Hipposideros lylei*, *Pteropus lylei* and others, while more recent work on the Indo-Chinese fauna has been greatly assisted by the good series obtained by him of all the local species. The accurate labelling and perfectly preserved skulls of the specimens he sent show the greatest aptitude for such collecting. In all, apart from duplicates, about 300 specimens, mostly from Chiangmai and Nan, have been registered as presented by him.

When in England he generally came into the Museum and had a talk about mammalia, so that I gained a great respect for his powers of observation. Later on at the time of his retirement he hoped to do further collecting for the National Museum in other parts of the world, but he was not able to carry out this scheme.

It may be conveniently recorded here that he was born at Newcastle, 17th January 1873; was appointed to the Consular Service 7th March, 1893; made a C. M. G. 1st January, 1916; a C. B. E.

in 1925 and died at Kingswear, Devon, 16th July, 1927.

OLDFIELD THOMAS,
British Museum (Natural History)
5 November 1927.

Proceedings of the Section.

10TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This was held in the Society's rooms on October 10th, 1927, with Major W. R. S. Ladell in the Chair.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman alluded to the resolutions on Wild Game Preservation in Siam, passed at a previous meeting of the Section, and which are given elsewhere in this number.

The Chairman then read some correspondence from the Minister of Lands and Agriculture concerning the Monitor Lizard about whose habits enquiries had been made by the Ceylon Government. Any member knowing anything of the feeding habits, breeding season, etc., of these reptiles was asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Section so that the facts could be sent to the Ministry in question.

Dr. Morrison then displayed an elephant's tooth and skulls of a tiger, cow, monkey, cat, rat, etc., explaining the relation of the structure of the teeth to the kind of food eaten.

This concluded, the Chairman briefly introduced Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, who proceeded to speak upon Kaw Tao, an island in the Gulf of Siam, illustrating his lecture with a series of lantern slides.

The Chairman in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Kerr, gave a short explanation of the mechanism of the sound producing apparatus of the cicadas whose synchronous singing at certain times of the day was noted by the lecturer.