

## NOTES ON SOME TRAPS MADE BY THE HILL PEOPLES OF SIAM.

BY H. B. GARRETT.

WITH PLATES 1-17.

Traps of many kinds are in common use in the forests, and range from the large ones employed for big game, to the simple contrivances for snaring small mammals and birds, with which these notes are mainly concerned.

They may be divided into traps :—

Where a pointed weapon is used Plate I Hāo or Sa Lāo ( ห้าว  
or ဆាលោ )

With a falling weight Plates II to IV Ka Tam ( កែតាំ )

With a scissor-like grip Plates V & VI Kap ( កាប )

Of various devices where a

noose is employed Plates VII & VIII Kerng ( កេង )

Plates IX & X Mēn ( មេន )

Plate XI Lawng ( លោង )

Plates XII to XV Hēo ( ហើវ )

Plate XVI Bawk ( បាហក )

Plate XVII Kūn ( គុន )

A feature common to nearly all is the catch-peg, or double catch-peg, to which, in the case of most of the last mentioned devices, a noose is attached ; and a surprising ingenuity is shown in the variety and arrangement of this simple contrivance.

*Catch peg and loop.*

Generally the small end of the peg, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of its length, serves to hold the spring in check, and the long end presses against some form of release ; thus the whole peg may be described as the "catch," and the various obstacles to its functioning, as "releases". Such a division, however, does not always strictly apply ; as in the case of one of the simplest of traps, plate XII, where it would be more correct to call the upright supporting stake, the "catch," and the peg

itself, the "release". The underlying idea however remains much the same. The head of the peg with the aid of the stake, holds the spring in check and the game moves the long end directly, or by interference with the loop.

String attachments are not always shown in the taut position they assume when traps are set. As success depends on fine adjustment, such points must be left to the imagination in diagrams intended primarily to be explanatory of detail. It is hoped too, that a certain lack of perspective may be forgiven when not accountable on the same grounds.

*The makers of the traps described here.*

It is inevitable that a collector of this information should be indebted to certain individuals of certain tribes with whom he chances to foregather. It is probably true that these traps are common to all the hill peoples of Siam, and that, as in the other affairs of life, here and there some persons show special aptitude in their construction—further—they were noted in the hill country, and are therefore referred to the hill peoples. Many may be equally common in the plains. Karens are certainly much addicted to the use of "sa lāo" and "ka tam." Laos and particularly Kamus are very skilful in making the other varieties.

*Sa Lāo.*

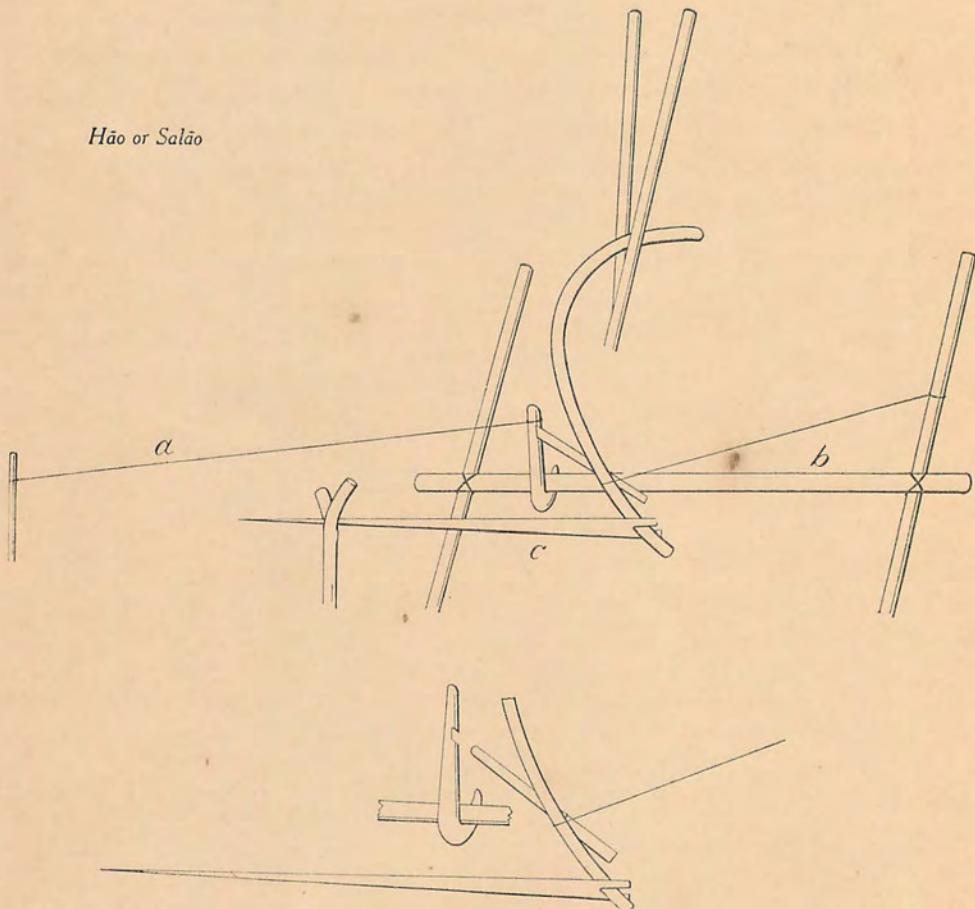
Is a dangerous contrivance, and I have at times received kindly warning from Karens to be aware of it, if going in certain directions; very necessary when one remembers that it will be screened in the hope of escaping the keen notice of forest creatures.

*Ka Tam.*

On the 12th Jan. 1927, near Karen cultivation, on the East slope of Doi Angkā (ดอย อังกา), Mē Kā Pāk (เมือง ปักษ์) drainage, I took measurements of a series of these traps. They were arranged in a low wall of vegetation, forming a big curve down the hill slope, in dense evergreen forest at an elevation over 4,000 ft.

Having only a 3 metre tape, measurement took a long time. The wall totalled just over 86 metres long, and contained 26 "ka tam" traps of simple construction.

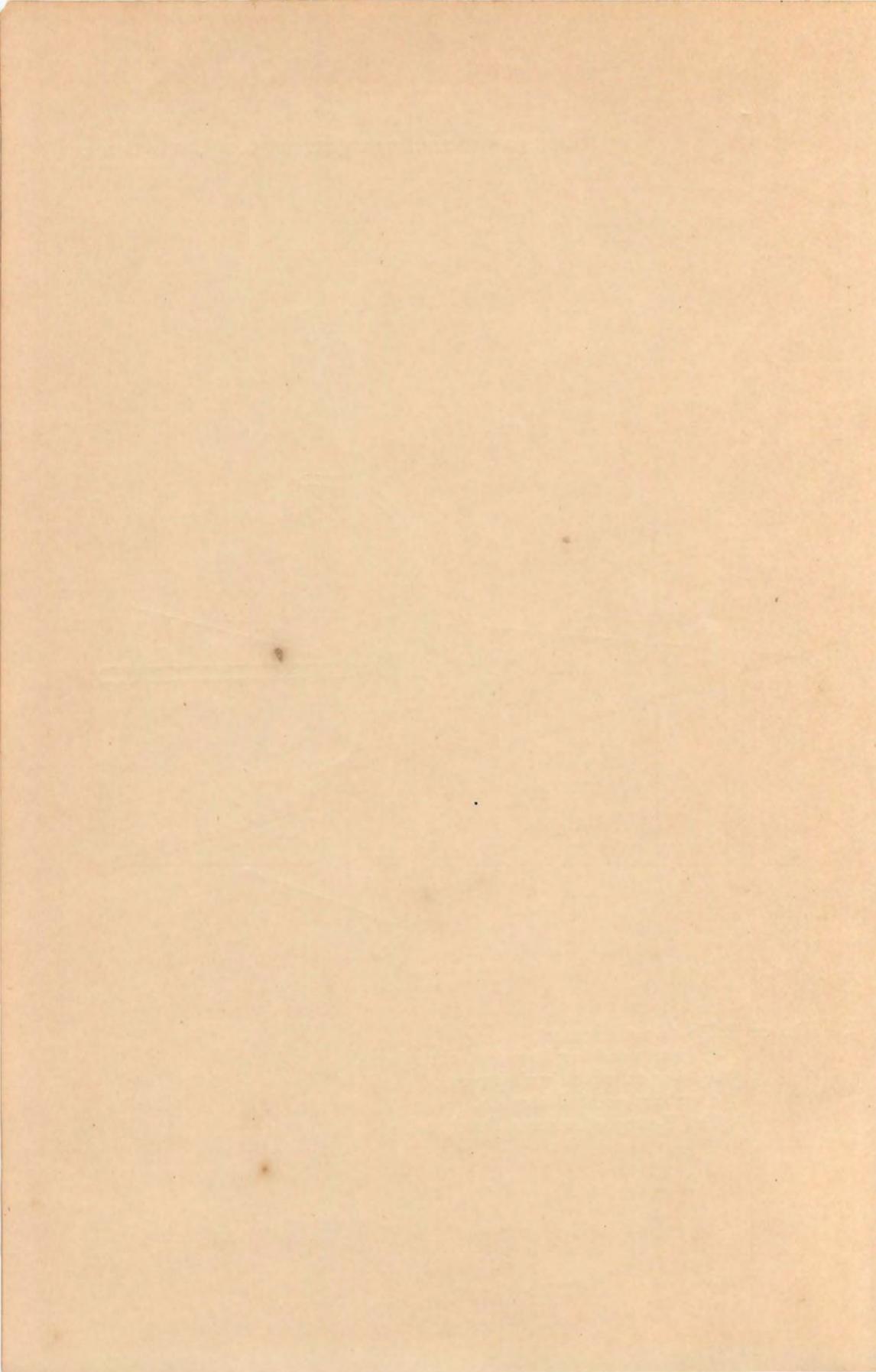
*Hāo or Salāo*



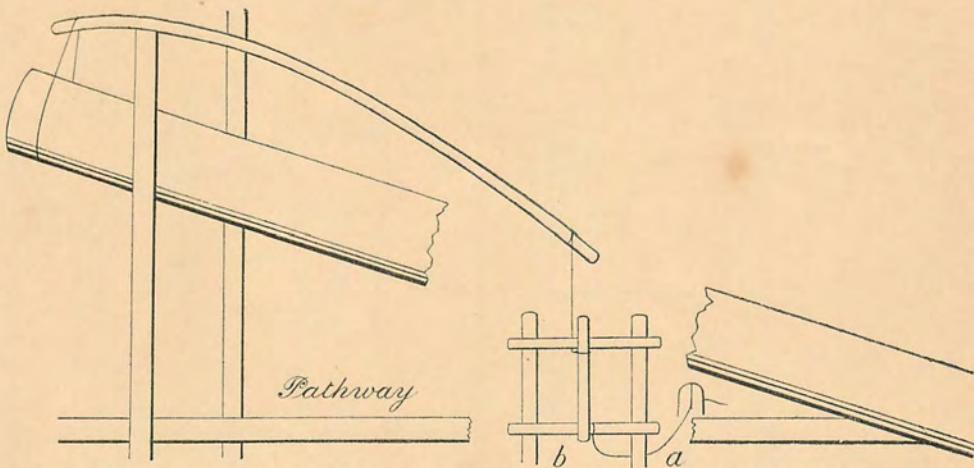
I. Hāo or Salāo (ຫ້າວ or ສະຫລາວ).

- a, game passing here disturbs release.
- b, bar on which spring runs.
- c, sharp pointed bamboo.

The Y-support ensures direct strike.



*Ka Tam*



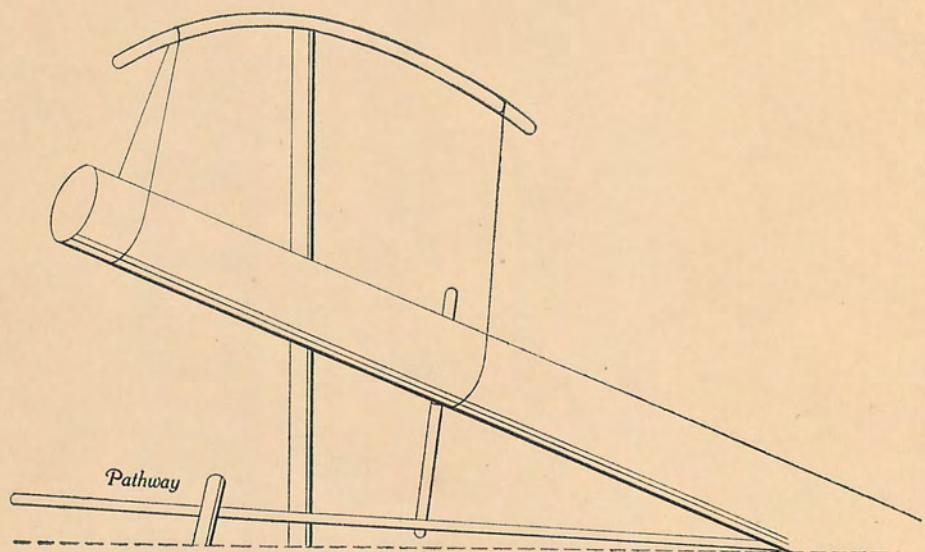
II. *Ka Tam* (កោតាំ).

The trap functions by weight of game on pathway which crosses release string at *a*.

*b*, loose cross-piece held in position by pressure of peg.



*Ka Tam*

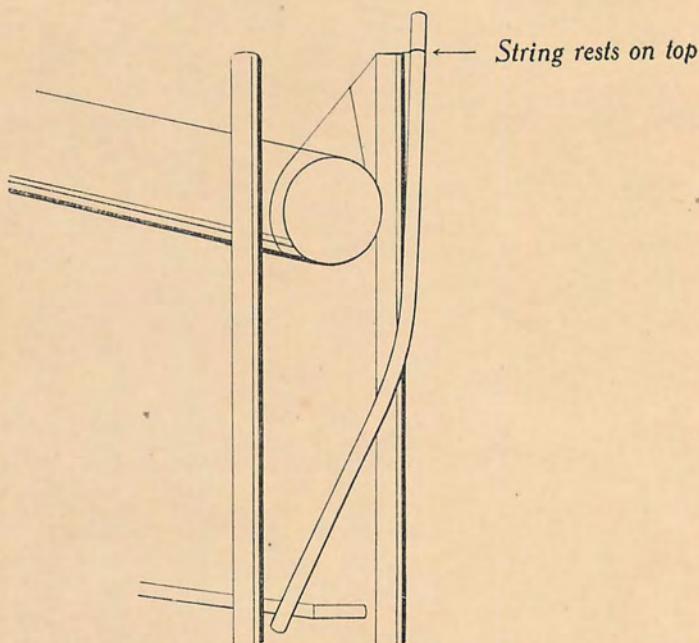


III. Ka Tam (ກະຕົມ).

Example of simple "ka tam" trap.



*Ka Tam*

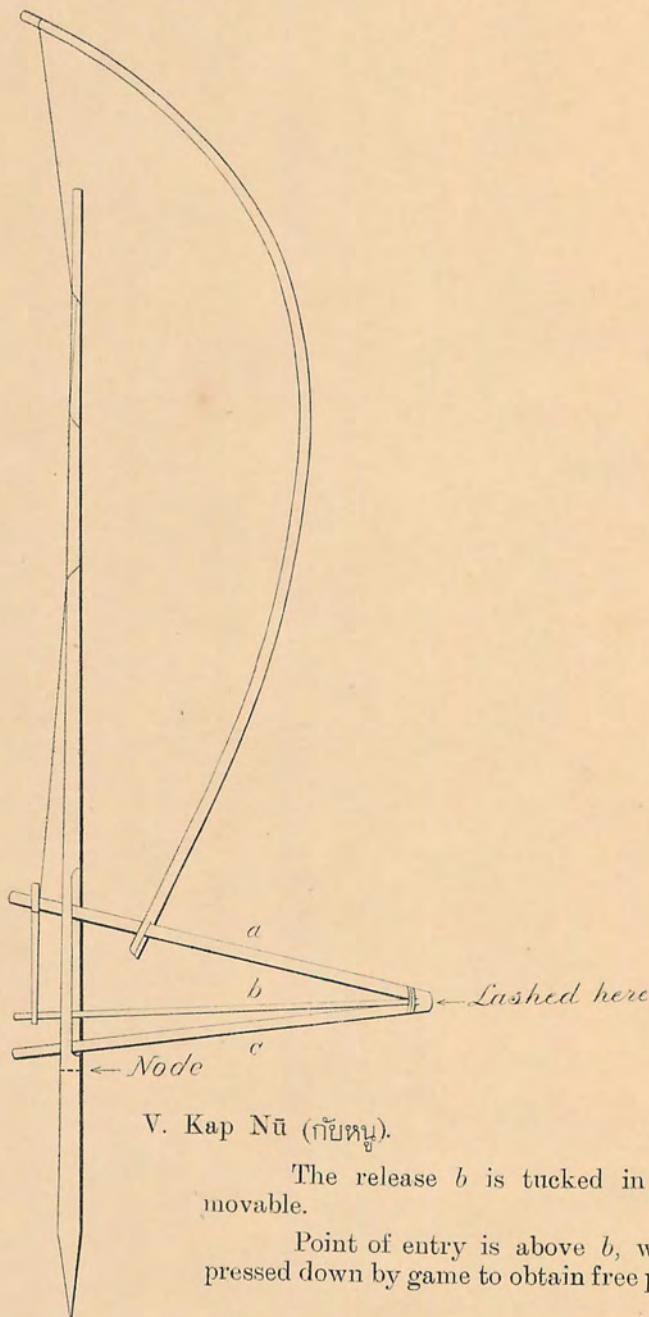


IV. Ka Tam (ກະຕຳ).

Example of a simple "ka tam" trap.



Kap Nū



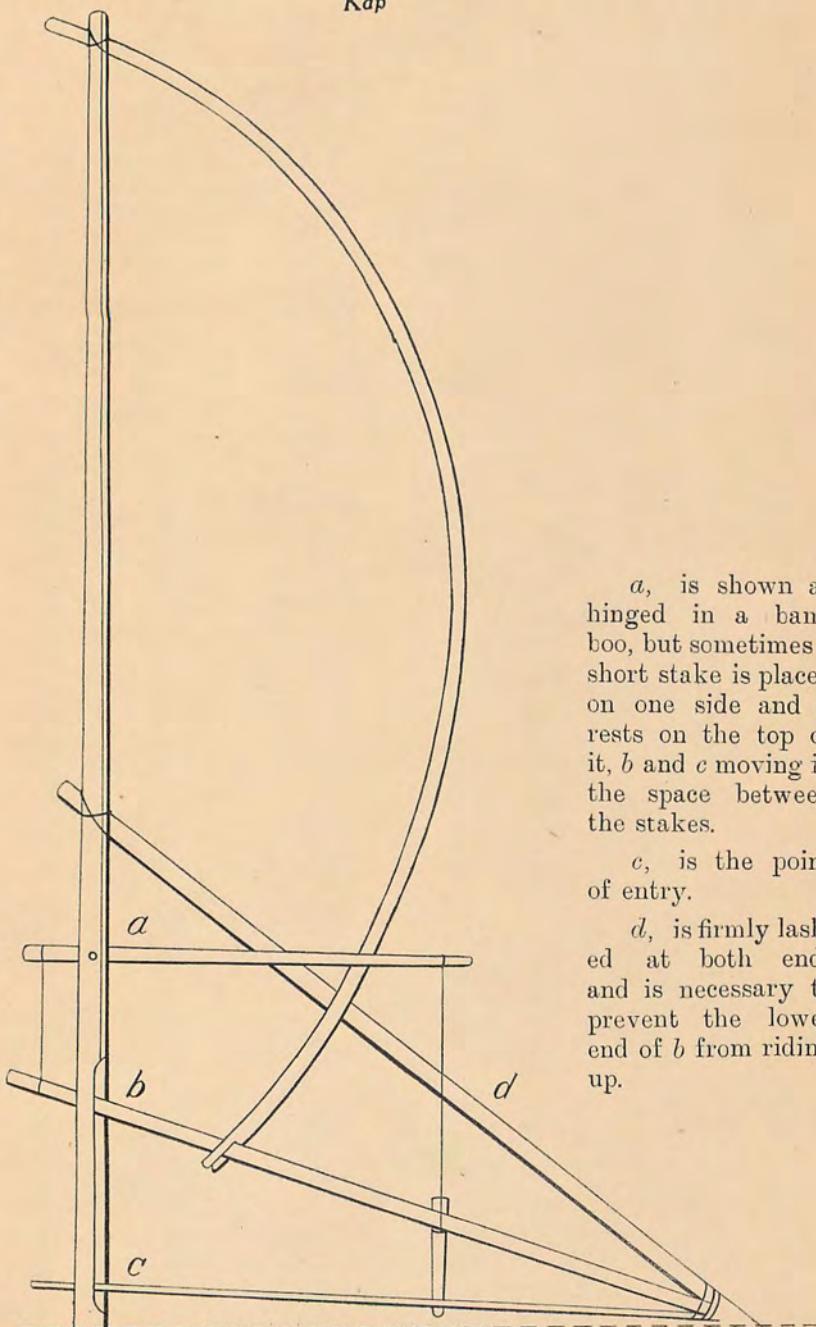
V. Kap Nū (កំបុង).

The release *b* is tucked in and is movable.

Point of entry is above *b*, which is pressed down by game to obtain free passage.



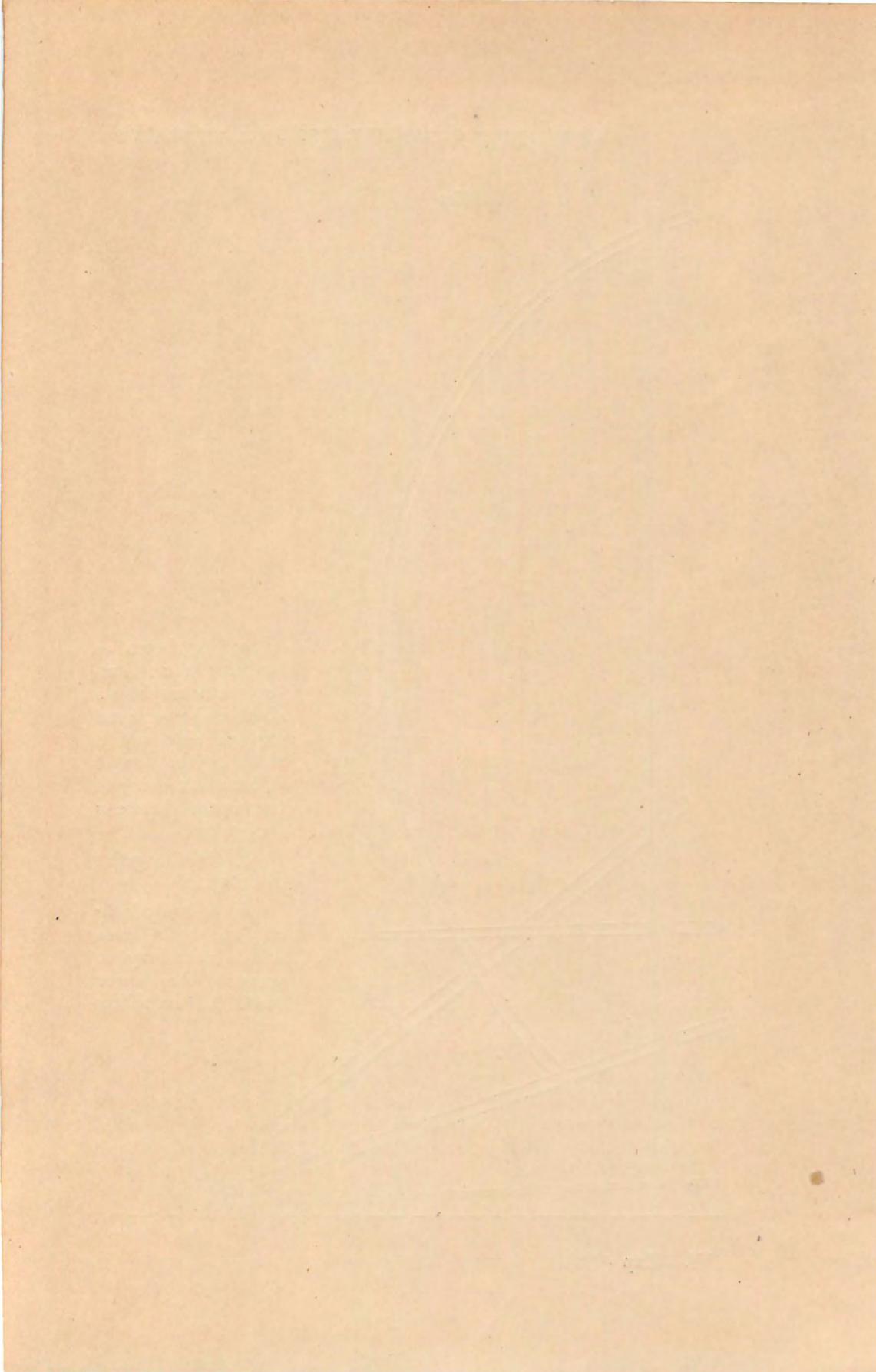
*Kap*



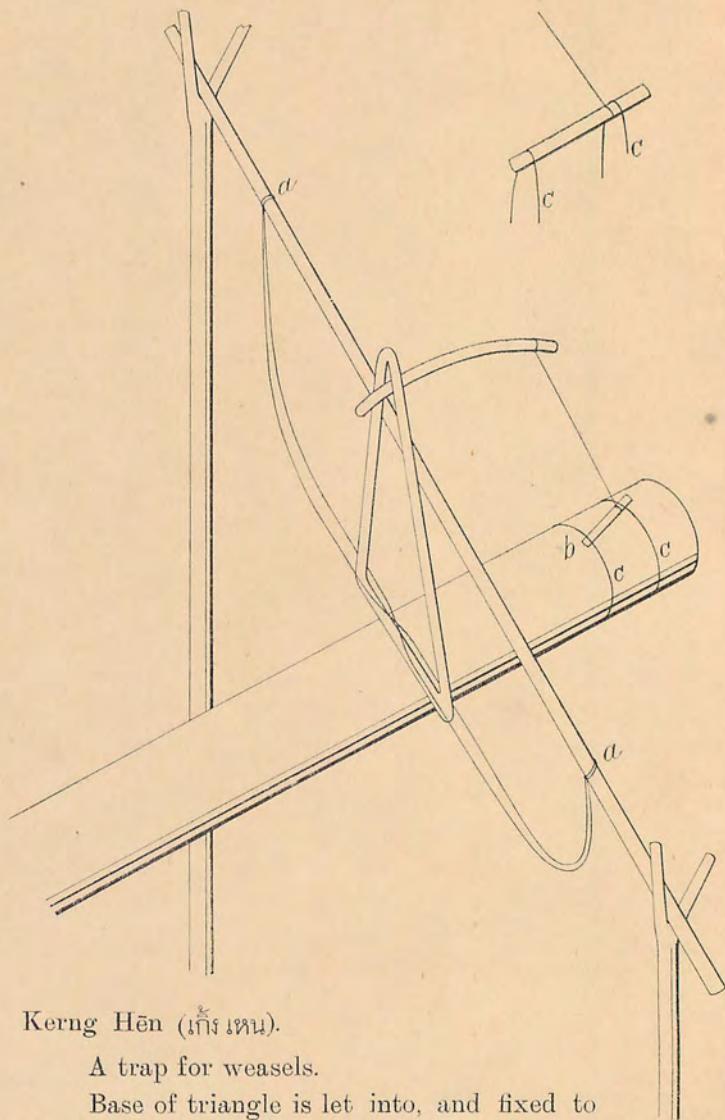
*a*, is shown as hinged in a bamboo, but sometimes a short stake is placed on one side and *a* rests on the top of it, *b* and *c* moving in the space between the stakes.

*c*, is the point of entry.

*d*, is firmly lashed at both ends and is necessary to prevent the lower end of *b* from riding up.



*Kerng Hēn*

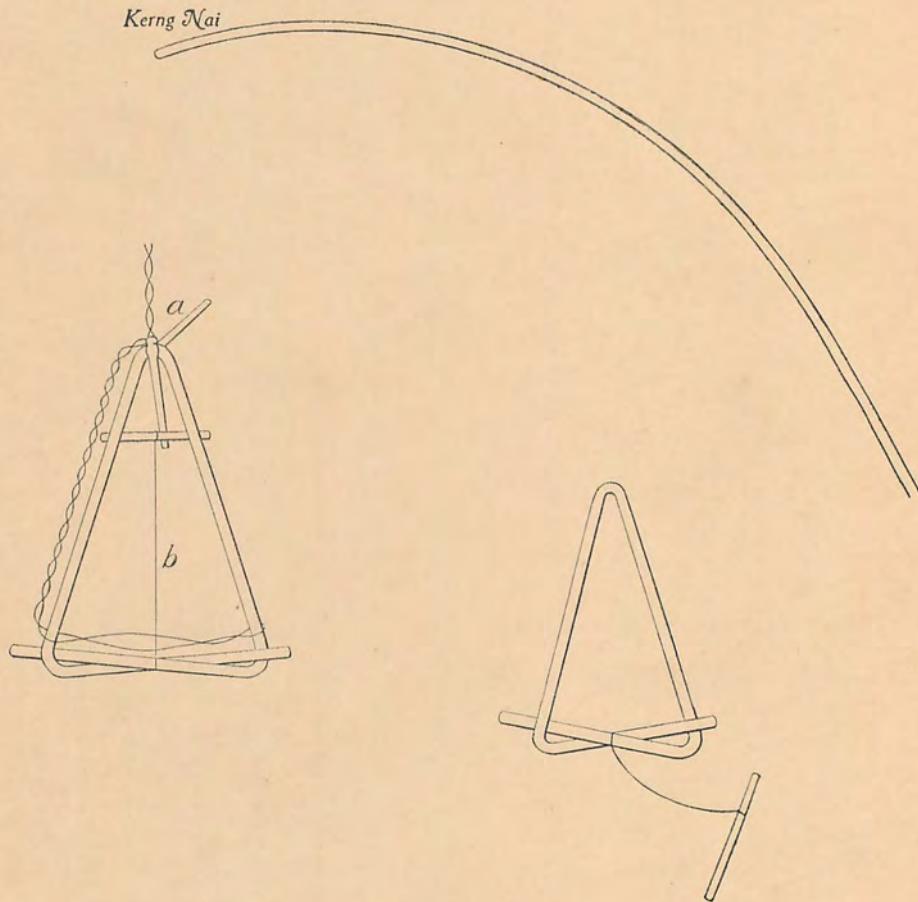


VII. Kerng Hēn (ကိုင် များ).

A trap for weasels.

Base of triangle is let into, and fixed to log. A double string fixed at *a*, *a*, only, is crossed closely over base of triangle. Bait is placed at *b*, the least disturbance of which causes triangle and attached log to fall, and game is constricted between apex of triangle and double string.





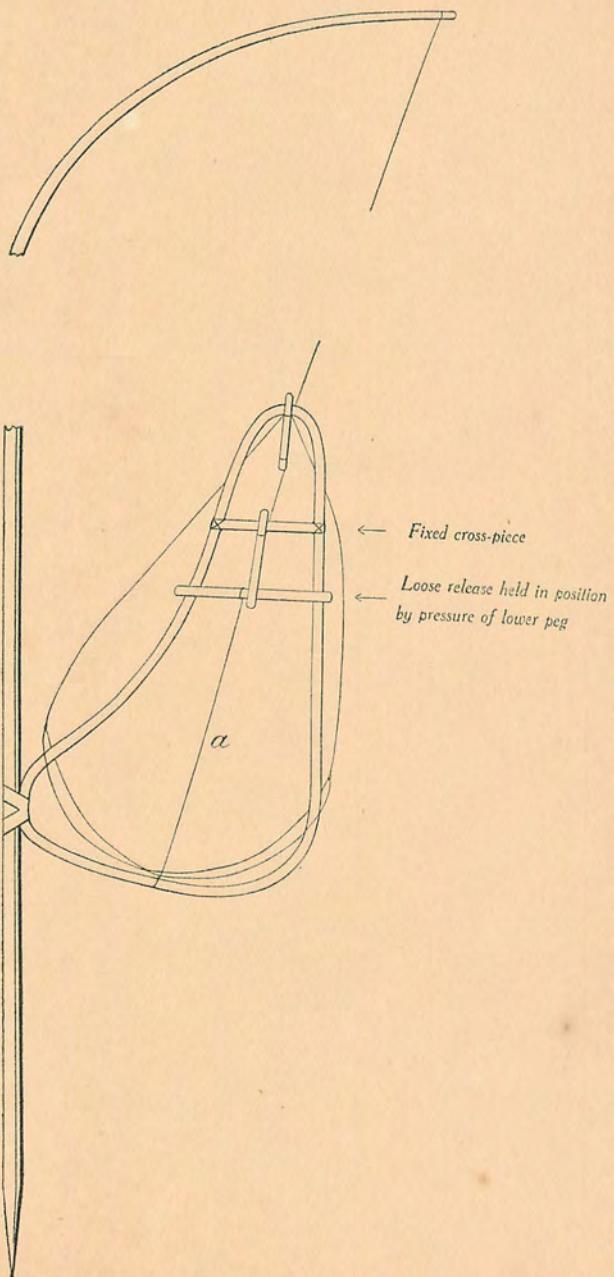
### III. Kerng Nai (ကြံလျှို့).

The noose is made of twisted 'tauks', semi-rigid; the ends being brought together at *a*, and wound round apex of triangle, one end serving by pressure to hold the release *b*. Base of triangle is tied to a branch and surrounded by foliage. Disturbance of *b* causes 'tauk' at *a* to unwind and function.

'Nai' is one of the squirrels. A 'tauk' is a thin slip of bamboo.



Mēn

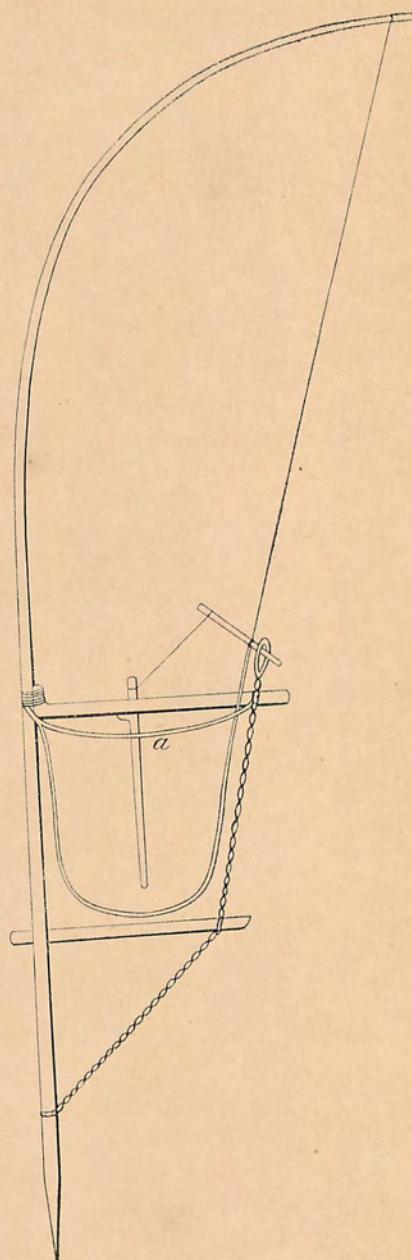


IX. Mēn (ມ່ານ).

The trap functions by game disturbing release string at  $\alpha$ .



Mēn

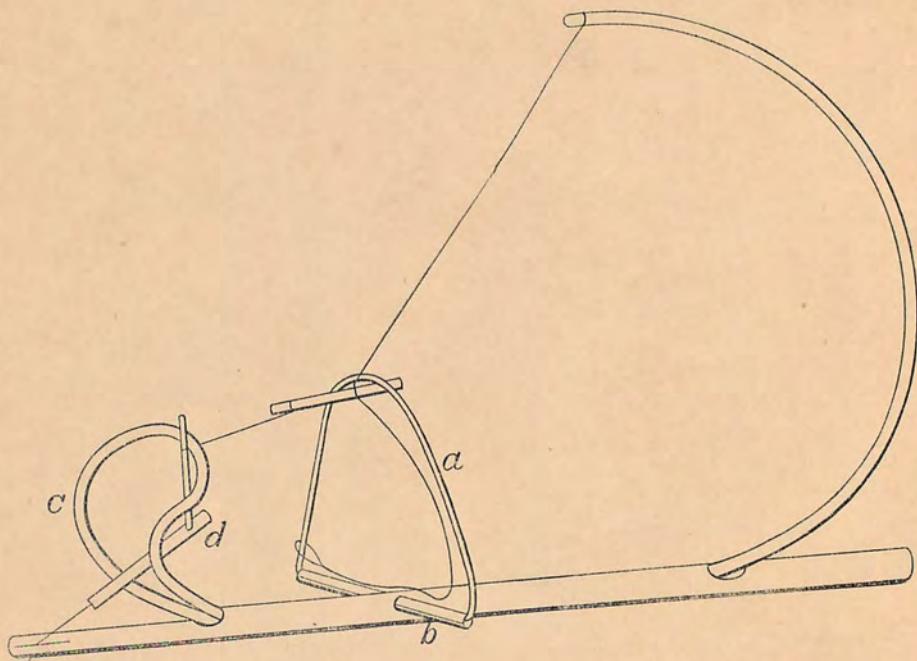


X. Mēn (ມ່ານ).

The 'tauk'  $\alpha$  is drawn too low, in order to show head of peg. It should be parallel with the horizontal bar,



*Lawng Nok*



XI. *Lawng Nok* (ລວງ ນົກ).

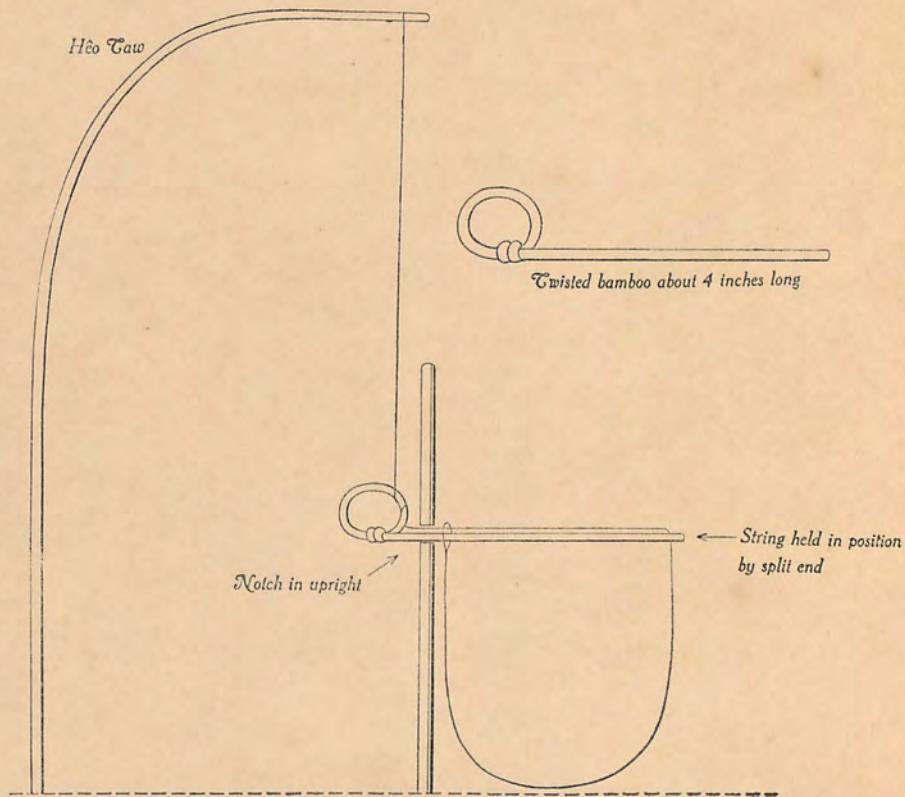
*a*, is movable, being hinged in the rigid cross-piece, *b*.

*c*, a bent bamboo inserted in main stem, it bends slightly when trap is set.

*d*, a little slip of hollow bamboo. It is movable, but held erect by 'tauks' inserted in lower end and in split in cut down end of main stem.

The approach is through *a*, the bait being placed on *d*, and the whole heavily screened by foliage. End of lower peg is held by pressure in hole in *d*.



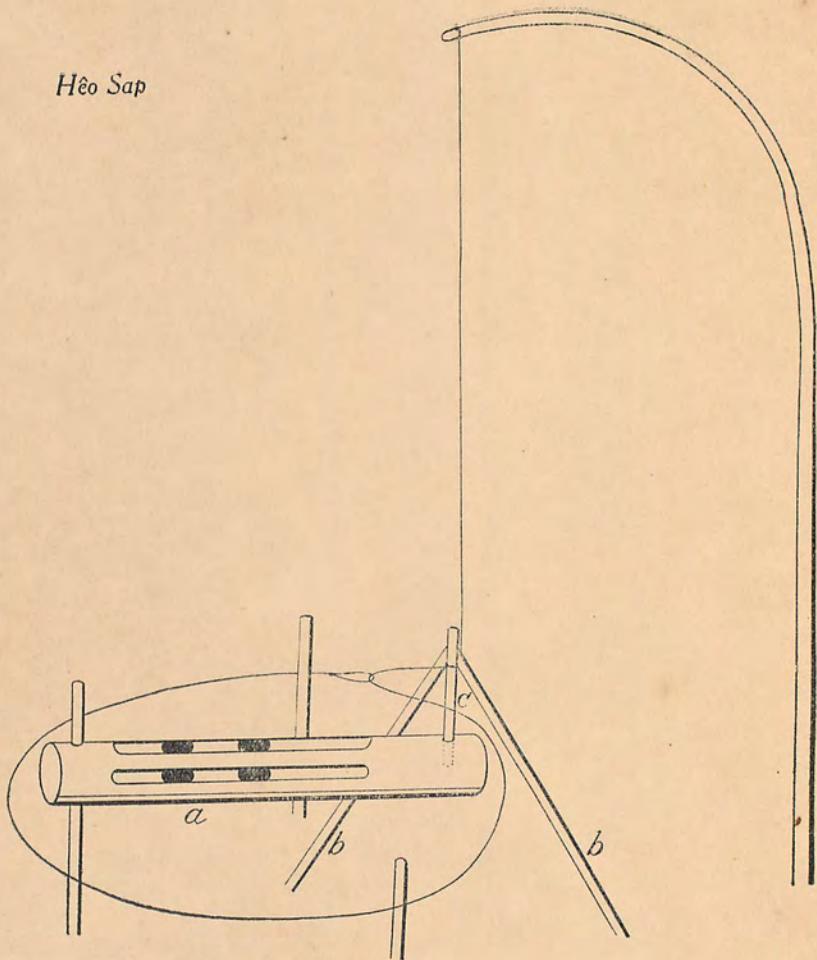


XII. Hêo Taw (ເມືອງ ຕາວ).

Several are often arranged in a low wall of vegetation, the loop space being left open for free passage. Whichever way a bird or small mammal passes, it is likely to push the sword-like peg out of the notch, become entangled and carried up with the loop.

anil de  
mida d'extensió  
100 mm.

*Hêo Sap*



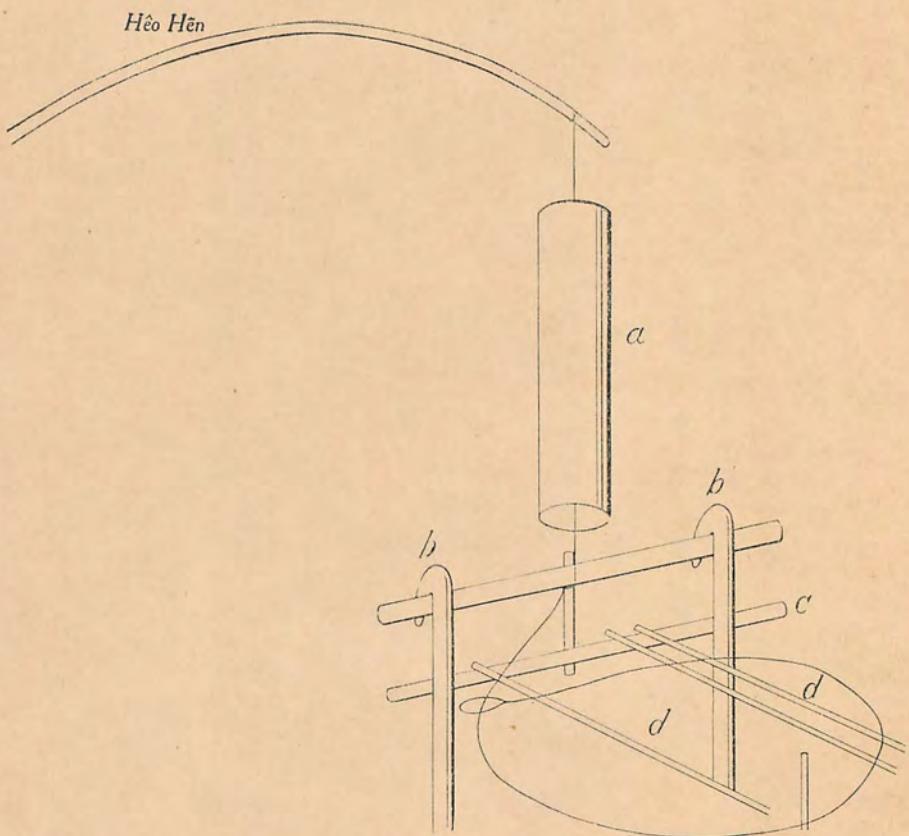
XIII. *Hêo Sap* (ຫົ່ວສັບ).

*a*, a piece of hollow bamboo about 4 inches long, with open slits exposing bait—chrysalis, tamarind fruit &c. It is pivoted on peg at one end and held up by pressure of catch-peg *c* in hole at the other.

*b b*, bent piece of bamboo with ends in ground, serves to hold down spring.

Other pegs spread the loop.





XIV. Hêo Hêñ (ແຫຼວ ແນ).

*a*, bamboo to prevent mammal gnawing string.

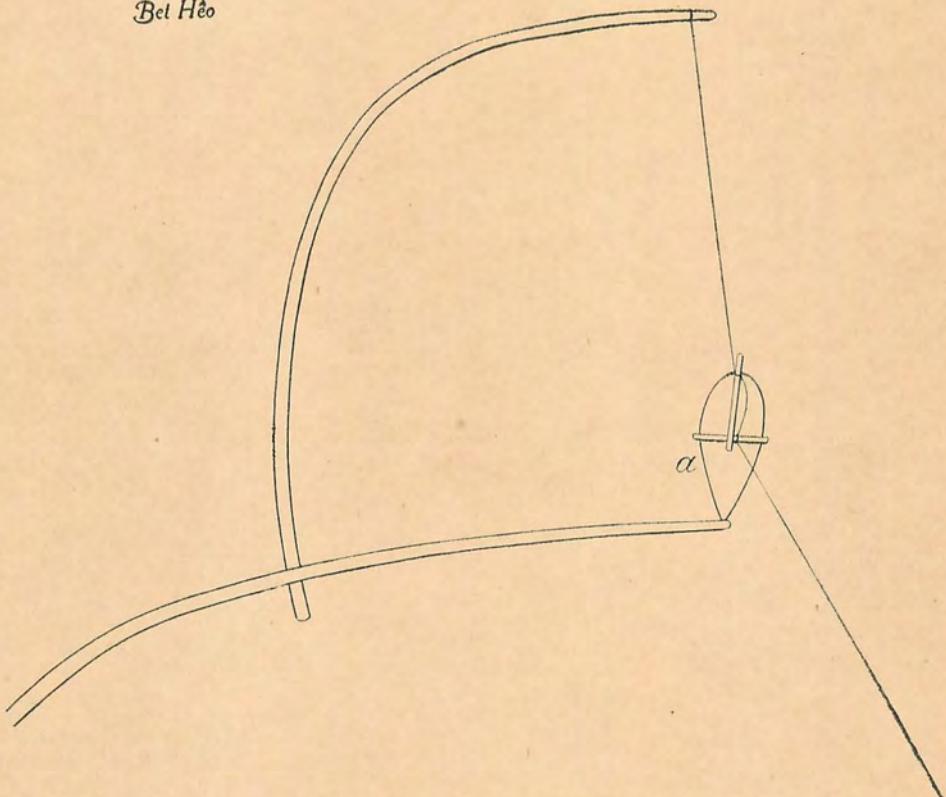
*b b*, pegs fixed in ground

*c*, release bar held by pressure of catch-peg against *b b*.

Game treads on sticks *d* (only a few are shown) and presses down release *c*. The whole is suitably camouflaged with grasses &c.



Bet H  o



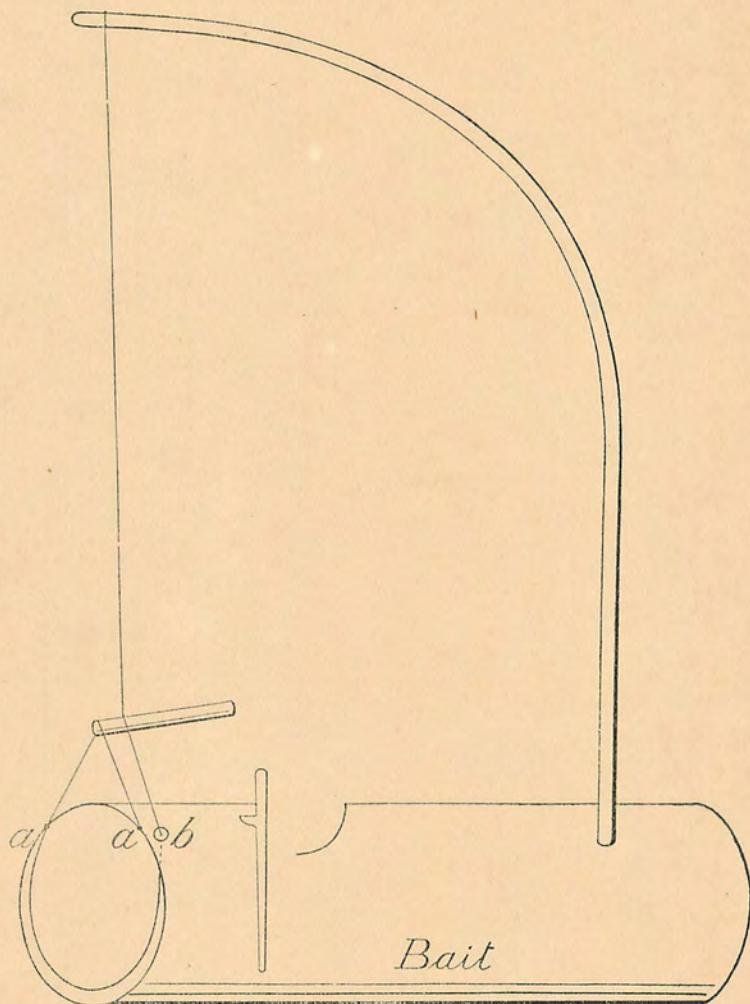
XV. Bet H  o (ເບື້ດ ແກ້ວ).

An automatic fishing-rod in common use on the banks of the Me Kok (ມໍາ ກົກ) at Chiengrai. It embodies the principle common to most of the traps.

a, is a loop of stiff wire.



Bawk Nū



XVI. Bawk Nū (ບອກ ນູ).

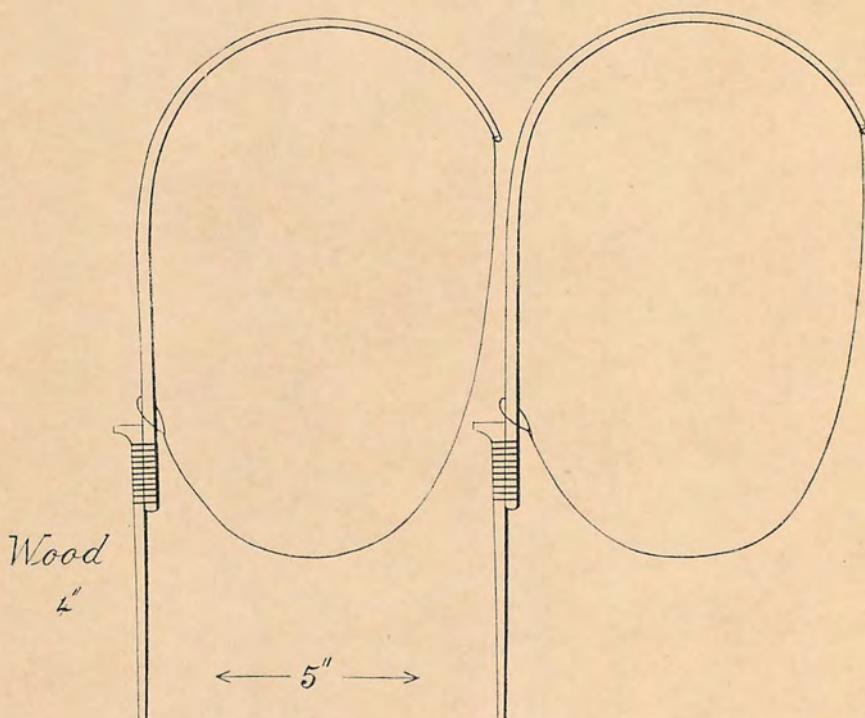
a a, string is attached at these points.

b, string passes through hole in bamboo.

Entrance of game disturbs the lower peg.



*Kûn or Krûn*



XVII. Kun or Krun (คุน or ครุน).

For wild-Fowl.

This common snare is noted here, although it scarcely deserves to be dignified by the name 'trap', being little removed from a form of 'wait-a-bit', like bird-lime.

The loops are arranged in any order, and with or without a decoy-bird.

They are tied up in bundles of about twenty.

