

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

## CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR OF THAMIN DEER.

While travelling towards the village of Nam-om (น้ำอ้อม), situated about 40 miles south-east of Sri-sa-kes (ศรีสะเกษ) on the Korat-Ubol railway line, at which place the Amphur Office of this district is situated, and when about 6 miles west of the village I was confronted by a fully grown deer known amongst the Siamese as the la-on (ละออง) (*Cervus eldi platyceros*). The animal blocked the way and showed signs of a desire to fight, it raised its forefeet and struck the ground with its hoofs several times. Two buddhist priests who were standing by the side of the road called to the animal and it moved way and went towards them. I enquired about the history of the deer and the priests told me that they had brought it up from the time it was born, that it was quite tame, lived in the Wat of Bang-ka-cheng (บางกะเจียง) and obeyed the calls of his masters. The animal was a stag, had shed its horns three times and when I saw it the horns were in velvet. The priests stated that in rutting season, which occurs in March, the animal would disappear and remain away for some time, returning somewhat scarred after its battles in the tournament of love. The fact that a stag of this species should live on terms of intimacy with man and disappear when the sex impulse moved it, returning to its home afterwards, seems worthy of being placed on record.

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## REVIEWS.

**Mutillidae from Siam.** By T. D. A. Cockerell. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Ser. 10, vol. ii, pp. 596-600

In this paper Professor Cockerell describes three new species of the family Mutillidae of the Hymenoptera. This family, in which the females are wingless, includes an enormous number of species, parasitic when young in the nests of other insects, mostly bees and wasps. Previous to the publication of this paper the author could only find the record of one species from Siam, *Mutilla oculata*, Fabricius.

The three new species described all come from the Nan region, they are: *Mutilla solmi*, from Mecatin; *Mutilla mackieae*, from Csjun, on the Nan River, and *Mutilla meeungensis*, from Pah Meung Mountain. The localities given are as spelt by the author.

The author appends a key for the separation of a number of similar females.