

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. Large Tusks in a Siamese Elephant.

The collection of elephant tusks in the Siamese National Museum includes a noteworthy pair which probably represent the maximum length known to be attained in Siamese elephants. Inasmuch as recorded information about this elephant and his tusks is very meager, it is thought that a note on the subject may be of interest, more especially as inquiry has recently come from India in regard thereto.

From information that has been graciously supplied by H. R. H. Prince Damrong Rajanubhap, President of the Royal Institute of Literature, Archeology, and Fine Arts, it appears that this elephant became a royal elephant in the third reign (1825-1851) of the present dynasty, was a familiar court figure in that and the two succeeding reigns, and died about 1899.

Through the courtesy of Prof. Georges Coedès, former General Secretary of the Royal Institute, I was able to obtain two photographs of the elephant taken at his usual station in the court yard of the Grand Palace; one of the photographs is a side view, the other is frontal and gives a good idea of the peculiar shape and extraordinary length of the tusks. The frontal view shows the tusks resting on the ground about one foot below the platform on which the elephant was standing, and the tusks overlapping, with the right tusk considerably the longer and both with the lower side of their tip worn from scraping against the ground. The tusks as exhibited in the museum show the same condition.

The right tusk is 9 feet 11 inches long and the left tusk is 8 feet 11 inches long, measured along the outer curvature from the ridge which marks the attachment of the gum.

It is reported that, owing to the cumbersome tusks, the elephant was unable to lie down during the last 30 years of his life, and must have passed a rather uncomfortable existence in spite of being attached to the royal household.

H. M. SMITH.

No. II. On a Whistling Thrush (*M. changensis*)
of Southeast Siam.

Mr. C. J. Aagaard's collector obtained in January an example of a *Myiophoneus* from Chantabun in Southeast Siam which is only a few miles distant from the island of Koh Chang whence came the single individual which Dr. J. H. Riley has named *Myiophoneus temmincki changensis* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XLI, 1928, p. 207). The specimen before me evidently represents Dr. Riley's bird, but I cannot separate it from a good series of *Myiophoneus crassirostris*