

types of mountain found there consist of several long ranges of granite hills, that contain the valuable tin ore, and, in the plains, isolated limestone peaks which characterize the landscape from Tung Song to Hād Yai. Tropical rain forest clothe the hills and (part of) the plains of the Siamese Malaya. The population is Thai and Malay, among which live strong communities of Chinese immigrants, finally there are a few scattered bands of the primitive Negritos.

On his fifth voyage Dr. Credner went to the north western parts of Siam (from where he crossed to the Shan States and Burma) and during his sixth and last trip North Eastern Siam was crossed from north to south. These two last voyages were made during the latter part of 1928 and the beginning of 1929. During the voyage in N. E. Siam Dr. Credner travelled no less than 700 kilometres on the Mekong river, besides making excursions into the hilly region to the east of Luang Phrabang.

Of special interest is the author's report on the existence of ancient plains which still to-day lie on a considerably higher level, up to 1,500 meters, than the younger, deeply eroded, river plains. Such ancient plains, which must represent remains of an early surface of our earth, are met with in the extreme north of Siam and in the Shan States. While the greater part of the area of Siam seems to have been subjected to a slow process of rising, the Korat plateau has only felt this process at its rims. The surface of this plateau may therefore (together with the above mentioned remains of ancient plains in North Siam) be considered to represent the oldest part of the country—geologically speaking.

We understand that the very abridged publications under review are but forerunners of a larger and more detailed work on the geomorphology and geology of Siam which is now being written by Dr. Credner and the publication of which will be looked forward to with a lively interest in view of the excellent work already done by this young and promising savant.

Bangkok, June 1930.

ERIK SEIDENFADEN.

The Hong Kong Naturalist. Volume I. 1930.

This is a quarterly magazine which should appeal to many of our members. It contains much of general interest to naturalists, and others; though it is primarily concerned with the natural history of Hong Kong.

An editorial in the first number outlines the aims and scope of the magazine. The editors tell us that "Some readers want predigested and yet popular facts, others a kind of scientific encyclopaedia of local knowledge. We have therefore to steer a middle course, by making part of the magazine purely popular and some a little more technical". So far, it must be said that the editors have succeeded very well in their aims, and they have our best wishes for a like success in the future.

The journal is now publishing a series of very beautiful coloured plates of local birds. In the first number there was only one of these plates, but now each number contains two or three. The birds represented are usually species which are also found in Bangkok, though perhaps of different subspecies. The Hong Kong Government has made a grant towards the cost of publishing these plates, and this has since been augmented by gifts from private individuals. Besides the plates, each number is well provided with line and half-tone illustrations.

The subscription to this journal, only \$5 per annum, is extraordinarily low for such a publication; thanks no doubt to the Government grant, and the generosity of private individuals.

A. K.

Exploring for plants. By David Fairchild. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1930. 21 shillings.

This is a delightful semi-popular book by the Special Agricultural Explorer in the Office of Foreign Plant Introduction of the United States, and is an account of travels extending for three years, searching for plants suitable for introduction into the author's country, for agricultural, economic, or horticultural purposes. Every page overflows with infectious enthusiasm, but it is a hectic, breathless story. We are hurried through Europe, Asia and Africa, and all are made to yield a rich haul. The general narrative is interesting and intimate, and we become acquainted with a number of the eminent personalities of the botanical and horticultural world. The book will make a general appeal, either as a story of travels with a motive, or as a description of a botanical tour.

The subject, of course, is of great importance from the economic standpoint, and it is apparent how much remains to be done even in countries with a known and described flora.

The portions of particular interest to us deal with Ceylon, Sumatra and Java, and perhaps from these chapters an enthusiasm may be acquired for unpopular fruits and odoriferous markets. A certain amount of travelling was done in tropical forests, generally under adverse circumstances due to lack of preparations, which must have militated against success.

Forest destruction and plant introduction will increase: in time indigenous floras will be destroyed, and it behoves everyone to see what they can of vegetation under natural conditions before it is too late.

A plea may be made against foreign plant introduction with regard to Bangkok gardens, where the custom has been followed of cultivating only foreign plants, to the exclusion of the many ornamental species which are indigenous. Perhaps the popularity of