

appearance.

It will be interesting to follow the history of this medicine. If it soon drops into oblivion, as most of them do, we may take it that the claims made for it are baseless. On the other hand, it may turn out a serious rival to monkey-glands.

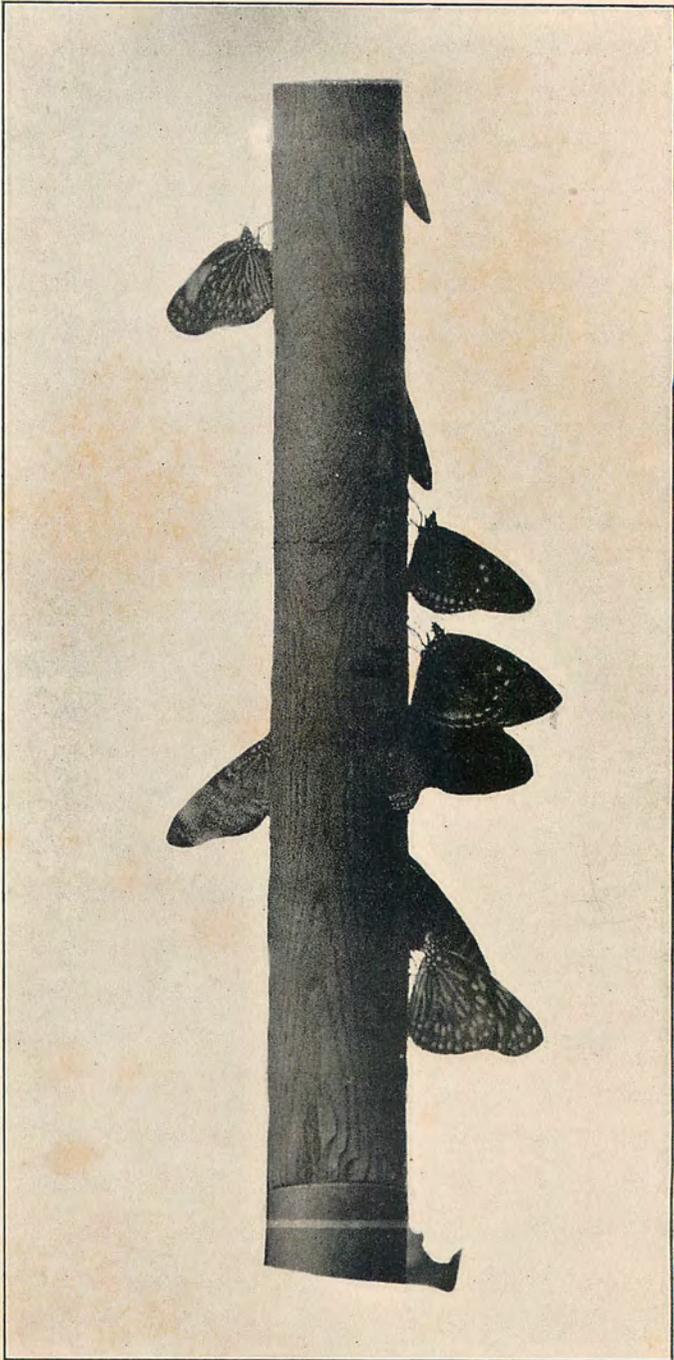
A. KERR.

Bangkok, August, 1931.

No. IX. Butterflies Visiting a Tent.

On July 28th, in the afternoon, Mr. A. Marcan and I camped at Pak Tawan, a village on the banks of the Pran River. We had two tents, both of which were pitched more or less in the shade of trees. That of Mr. Marcan was by a tamarind tree, while mine was partly under a jujube tree (*Zizyphus jujuba*). Both tents were facing southwards, towards the river. On the first afternoon butterflies round the tents were not particularly noticed. On returning to camp on the afternoon of the 29th, after a heavy shower, swarms of butterflies were flying round, and settling on my front tent-pole. There were probably as many as fifty settled on it at one time. The back pole was covered on the outside by the tent-flap, and there were no butterflies seen near it, then or later. At the same time there were only four or five butterflies round the front pole of my companion's tent. These butterflies belonged to two species, *Euploea modesta* Butl. and *Danaida melissa septentrionis* Butl. The *Euploeid* was present in somewhat greater numbers than the *Danaid*. It could be seen that these butterflies had their proboscides uncurled, and were feeling over the surface of the pole with them. It should be said that the pole was rather damp, as it had got wet with rain before being put up, and must have got wet again on the afternoon of the 29th. There was rain again early in the afternoon of the 30th, and on returning to camp some half an hour after the rain was over, at 2.40 p.m., there was again a large swarm of butterflies on and flitting round the pole. Towards dusk the number began to decrease, but the last did not disappear till 6.45 p.m. The jujube tree was examined later with an electric hand-torch, to see if any of the butterflies could be found settled on it, but none were seen. In the early morning it appeared as if they rose from some coarse herbage (*Sida acuta*, *Cardiospermum halicacabum* &c.) in front of the tent. I could not, however, be certain on the point.

On July 31st the first butterfly settled on the tent-pole at 6.10 a.m. On other mornings the first arrival was probably about the same time, but was not recorded. When I returned in the afternoon, about 4.40 p.m., there were only five or six on the pole. The day had been rather hot and windy. Plenty of both species were seen on damp patches of sand near the river. During August



BUTTERFLIES VISITING A TENT.

1st very few butterflies came near the pole; but among the visitors was another kind, a species of *Mycalesis*. There was heavy rain during the afternoon. The next day the tents were struck.

I am inclined to think that what attracted these butterflies was the remnants of human skin secretions clinging to the pole. My tent-poles had had much more frequent handling than those of Mr. Marcan, which may explain why mine were the more favoured. The diminution in the number of butterfly visitors towards the end of our visit may, perhaps, be accounted for by the gradual dissipation of the skin secretions on the pole.

It has been suggested that butterflies alighting on one's bare skin, as not infrequently happens, particularly in the case of blues and skippers, are seeking the salt contained in the sweat; but it may be some other constituent of the skin secretion which attracts them. That skin secretions have an attraction for some butterflies, there seems very little doubt. In Vol. II, p. 146, of the Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam, Mr. E. J. Godfrey records an interesting observation made by Mr. K. G. Gairdner on a skipper, *Bibasis sena* Moore. Mr. Gairdner observed this skipper exuding drops of fluid on the back of his hand. This fluid it then sucked up again. It was seen doing the same thing on camp furniture. By this means the butterfly probably dissolved some substance, or substances, of the skin secretion and made them more absorbable. I also have observed this species carrying out the same process. Indeed *Bibasis sena* is a familiar friend of mine, and I expect to see him in the early morning, darting about and occasionally settling on the pole, or camp furniture, whenever my tent is pitched anywhere near the jungle. He seems to prefer things that have been well handled, and is very partial to leather straps which have been over the bare human shoulder. Several other species of skipper visit one's tent thus in the early morning, but none is such a constant visitor as the *Bibasis*.

I have to thank Mr. E. J. Godfrey for kindly identifying these butterflies for me.

A. KERR.

Bangkok, August 3, 1931.

No. X. Note on a Flight of Butterflies (*Cirrochroa tyche mithila* M.).

In January, 1928, in Nakawn Sritamarat Province, I witnessed a flight of a tawny-coloured butterfly, specimens of which have been identified by Mr. E. J. Godfrey as *Cirrochroa tyche mithila* M. The following account is taken from notes made at the time.

About mid-day on January 27th, on arrival by train from the south at Ta Samet, a station on the Southern Line some 40 kilometres north of Patalung, I noticed a number of tawny-coloured butterflies crossing the line diagonally from north to south. All the butterflies