

absence of a dry season.

With the opinion of the author that little beyond systematic work has been attempted, agreement is offered, but this condition must apply to vast tracts, if not to the greater part of the world.

As a serious account of "biological opportunities" the article must be considered as being so incomplete as to be misleading; should it, however, inspire others to publish a guide to the work accomplished and in progress, it will have served a useful purpose.

A. M.

Bulletin of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, Straits Settlements. No. 5, August, 1931; No. 6, December, 1931.

While most of the numerous articles in these bulletins do not relate directly to Siam, all of them have an appeal to persons interested in the zoology of Siam. Among the more important papers in the August number is one by Dr. Malcolm A. Smith on "The Herpetology of Mt. Kinabalu, North Borneo, 13,445 ft.", with descriptions of four new frogs and two new snakes. C. Boden Kloss gives "Further Records of the One-horned Rhinoceros in the Malay States," and publishes a photograph of an excellently mounted head of a Perak example of this rare and vanishing animal. The principal article in the December issue is "On a Collection of Mammals from the Lowlands and Islands of North Borneo," by F. N. Chasen and C. Boden Kloss, in which nine forms of weasel, mouse deer, squirrels, rats, and tree shrews are described. The extraordinary richness of the cricket fauna of the Malay Peninsula is illustrated by a paper by Dr. L. Chopard in which 74 forms are noted, many from Peninsular Siam. These issues fully maintain the high scientific standard and typographic excellence of this noteworthy publication.

H. M. S.

EDITORIAL.

Since the publication of the last number of the Supplement, the Natural History Section has suffered great losses in the departure from Siam of three of its active members—Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, late director-general of the Agricultural Research Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Communications; Mr. A. Marcan, late director of the Government Laboratory in Bangkok; and Mr. C. J. Aagaard, late mechanical engineer to the water-works at Samsen, Bangkok.

Dr. A. F. G. KERR, B. A., M. B., F. L. S.

Dr. Kerr came to Siam in 1901, entered government service in 1903, and retired on pension in March, 1932. Nearly twenty years of his service were spent at Chiangmai where he held the post of medical officer of health and during those years he devoted the whole of his leisure to the study of the plants of Siam. In 1920 he

was appointed director of the Botanical Section of the then Ministry of Commerce and from then onwards until 1931 made inspection tours in all parts of Siam thereby gaining still further knowledge of its flora. His reports and records of those tours are to be found in the pages of *The Record*, Botanical Section, and afford most interesting reading. He was the organizer and ex-officio director of the Economic Museum in the Ministry of Commerce. In 1931 he was appointed director-general of Agricultural Research in the Ministry of Commerce and Communications and his activities in the field came to an end.

Dr. Kerr's name must always be associated with Professor Craib's "*Floræ Siamensis Enumeratio*," of which five parts have now been published. These five parts deal with some 2,670 species of plants and Dr. Kerr's name is quoted as sole collector of specimens of 467 of these and as conjoint collector of specimens of 1,150 others. His name is associated with one new genus, *Afgekia*, and 467 species new to science—30 of which are named *Kerrii* in his honour. Ten parts of the "*Enumeratio*" have yet to be published and one may safely assume that these are based for the most part on Dr. Kerr's large and representative collections.

Dr. Kerr is an authority on orchids. He has already described some twenty species new to science and with him rests the task of determining, from his own and other collections, the total number of species at present known to occur in Siam.

In the course of his extensive travels in all parts of Siam, Dr. Kerr became intimately acquainted with the physical features of the country and with the numerous wild tribes inhabiting the remoter districts; and he has made noteworthy contributions to the geology, geography and ethnology of Siam.

In addition to plants, Dr. Kerr, by request of his friends and in the interests of science, has also collected fishes, molluscs, butterflies, and dragonflies, and in all cases has met with marked success,—his collections of butterflies being of especial value.

Dr. Kerr has at various times been member of the Council of the Siam Society, leader of the Natural History Section, and editor of the Supplement. He has also been a frequent contributor of papers and notes to both the *Journal* and the Supplement.

Dr. Kerr will always be remembered by those who have had the pleasure of knowing him, not only for his achievements as a pioneer and a naturalist, but for his unassuming modesty, his unflinching regard for others and, above all, his charming courtesy—a courtesy which might almost be described as "old-world," and certainly one seldom met with in this matter-of-fact age.

MR. A. MARCAN, M. E. M. M., F. I. C.

Mr. Marcan was one of the small band of workers who, under Dr. Kerr's leadership, devoted themselves to the botany of Siam, and

made it possible for Professor Craib to compile his "Floræ Siamensis Enumeratio." The frequent reference to Mr. Marcan's specimens in this work indicates his great activity in collecting, chiefly in Bangkok and the south of Siam.

Mr. Marcan was a member of the former Natural History Society of Siam and was almost the last to serve as honorary secretary, as he held office from 1922 until 1924, the amalgamation with the Siam Society taking place at the beginning of 1925. For some years since he served on the Council of the Siam Society.

At meetings of the section, Mr. Marcan was a frequent contributor both of notes and papers, his most notable papers being on the subject of Siamese drugs, read in 1926, and on the flora of the mangrove swamps at the mouth of the Menam, presented in 1928. The former paper was published in the Supplement, Vol. VII, page 107.

MR. C. J. AAGAARD.

Mr. C. J. Aagaard joined the Natural History Society of Siam early in 1914. He was interested chiefly in birds and mammals and was a regular exhibitor of specimens of these at meetings of the Natural History Society and the Natural History Section. His skill as a collector and taxidermist was always much appreciated by those who saw his specimens.

Most of Mr. Aagaard's collections of birds and mammals have been worked out by Messrs. C. Boden Kloss and F. C. Chasen, and papers by these authorities have appeared in the Supplement. A collection of birds, of more than usual interest, made on Doi Angka, Chiangmai Province, in April, 1932, is now being studied by Mr. Chasen and it is hoped that a paper on this collection will be available for publication in the Supplement early in 1933. Mr. Aagaard contributed several notes to the Journal of the Natural History Society and a paper of his entitled "Wild life on the Nakorn River," was read at a meeting of the Siam Society in June, 1927. In 1930 Mr. Aagaard published a book entitled "The Common Birds of Bangkok."

In addition to mammals and birds, Mr. Aagaard also collected butterflies and moths, and on his departure from Siam he took back large collections of these to Denmark where, doubtless, they will meet with the appreciation they merit.

E. J. G.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECTION.

20TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting was convened on July 7, 1932, by Mr. E. J. Godfrey as the Section was without a Leader and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. R. S. Ladell) was on leave.

Mr. Godfrey opened the meeting and proceeded at once with