

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

No. I. An Edible Mountain-Stream Alga.

Under the names dok hin (rock flower) and kai hin (rock egg) the people of the Chiengmai region in North Siam designate small, dark green spheroidal plants which grow in abundance in clear, cool streams attached to the top, sides, and under surfaces of stones and boulders. The plants when apparently full-grown are 10 to 15 mm. in diameter, and have a bladder-like form, a gelatinous consistency, and rather thick walls that are complete except at the place of attachment to the stones.

These plants are rather extensively eaten by the local people. On the Mekhan, a mountain stream southwest of Chiengmai, on February 8, 1932, four men from the nearest village were observed scaping or pulling the plants from the rocks with their fingers and holding them in baskets and loose-mesh bags attached to their waists, their combined product at the time of observation being over two liters. The plants are prepared for use by boiling, and are eaten with sugar, salt, or dried prawns.

Specimens preserved in formalin were submitted to the Department of Botany of the British Museum, and the assistant keeper of that department, Mr. Geoffrey Tandy, reported thereon as follows under date of August 19, 1932:

The plant belongs to the Myxophyceae (Cyanophyceae, blue-green algae) and to the family Nostochopsidaceae. I have no hesitation in referring it to the genus *Nostochopsis* Wood, but I am not quite certain that it ought to be called *N. lobatus* Wood which came originally from North America. A plant has been reported by that name from Sumatra and I think you may use it in good company. By its hollow thallus it is distinguished from other species of the genus, and if it is not *N. lobatus* I think it will need a new name. It is a very interesting plant taxonomically and I am glad to have had the opportunity of seeing it.

HUGH M. SMITH.

Bangkok, October 5, 1932.

No. II. A Poisonous Horseshoe Crab.

Two species of horseshoe crabs or king crabs abound in the waters of Siam, namely, *Tachypleus gigas*, of which *Limulus moluccanus* is a synonym, and *Carcinosecorpius rotundicauda*. Both of these are called *mangda*. The former, however, which is essentially a marine species, is known as *mangda tale*, while the latter, which is a creature of the estuaries and can live in water that is practically fresh, is called *mangda fai*, *mangda tuey*, and *hera*. The *hera* is readily identified by the presence of conspicuous hairs on the