

truth, however, I do not think I felt appreciably younger then or at any time during the presence of the youthful symptom; but perhaps I ought to have continued taking the medicine longer to realize the full extent of its effect.

So far as the above-mentioned experience of mine goes, I shall only say that the drug has something extraordinarily potent in it; but with what I have heard or seen as to its marvellous effects on others I should feel inclined to believe that the drug is a possible rejuvenator. Of course it is well known that the *hwao kua* tubers contain a poisonous principle and several cases of poisoning have resulted from overdoses of the drug prepared from them. And this fact has led some to doubt the medicinal value of the drug so much as to believe that those symptoms now apparently of constructive character are nothing but morbid expressions of its poisoning effect which will sooner or later crystalise into a reaction directly harmful to the system, or something like that. This belief, though it may have some scientific ground to rest on and eventually prove correct, seems rather beyond the grasp of common sense—and I am afraid none of those who have long used the drug without any bad effect, or with only good results, will readily subscribe to it.

As the subject is of vital interest, it is to be hoped that some competent authorities will investigate it and see whether the drug given by the tubers of *Butea superba* is really worthy of its reputed value—at least as an ordinary efficacious tonic, if nothing more—or simply a delusive poison to be shunned at all times.

PHYA WINIT WANANDORN.

Bangkok, 26th December 1932.

No. V. Further Examples of the Schomburgk Deer.

Referring to the articles "A Search for Schomburgk's Deer" and "Notes on the Schomburgk Deer" which appeared in recent issues of the Natural History Supplement, I want to bring the following information to the notice of the Natural History Section of the Siam Society.

The nai amphur of Kanburi, Luang Visith, who was formerly the secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Rajburi, told me on November 14, 1932, that a police sergeant (Nai Sip Tamruat) shot a Schomburgk deer several months before. Although I expressed my doubts, having in mind the fruitless efforts of General Pigot and others, Luang Visith, who is himself a hunter, insisted on this deer being a genuine Schomburgk deer, which he called "Saman". He had seen the horns on the well preserved skull and he tried to buy the horns which were in possession of a Chinese in Kanburi, but the owner wanted 80 bahts for them, which price he declined to pay. Luang Visith stated that the police sergeant had fired at this deer

about a year ago when he met with it in a herd of samburs but he missed it.

Luang Visith knows very well the difference between the thamin (*lamang*) and the Schomburgk deer (*saman*), is acquainted with the police sergeant, and has seen the horns himself, so I thought it worth while to report the story, although I must, of course, leave the responsibility for the statements entirely to Luang Visith,



Head of deer killed on Kwe Noi of Meklong River, Western Siam, 1932.

On December 6, 1932, Luang Visith came to my office here and gave me further particulars about the deer, the head of which is shown in two enclosed photographs which he took a few days ago and which clearly indicate that the antlers are those of a Schomburgk deer. There is no doubt that the deer whose head is shown in the photographs is the very same one which was shot some months ago near Sayok on the Kwe Noi River. Luang Visith saw the head before it was prepared and when there was still flesh and skin on the skull. It now appears that it was shot out of a herd of Eld deer (*lamang*). Luang Visith stated that recently another Schomburgk deer was shot far up the Kwe Yai River.

This information should interest Mr. Arthur Vernay who, according to an October issue of the *London Illustrated News*, is going to make a hunting expedition to Siam in order to obtain a specimen of the Schomburgk deer for the British Museum.

ULRICH GUEHLER.

Bangkok, December, 1932.

No. VI. Reported Shooting of a Schomburgk Deer.

I have been most interested in the account of the presumed shooting of a Schomburgk deer in the Kanburi district in 1932. The photographs are undoubtedly by those of a Schomburgk deer head, but I am unable to accept the evidence as absolutely conclusive.

Such large sums have been offered of late years for a fresh specimen of this animal, and so many enquiries have been set on foot, that the temptation to "fake", from a desire for notoriety or pecuniary gain, must be taken into consideration. A head which has been hung on a wall will retain skin and dried flesh for many years, and it is easy to give these the appearance of freshness by soaking in a bucket of salt and water. There are several other ways of faking an old head which would pass muster, except to a man on the lookout for them. Until we get an absolutely fresh head, or a fresh skull with a complete skin, or the photograph (guaranteed untouched) of an entire Schomburgk deer, the record cannot be conclusive.

That the specimen in question is said to have been shot on the edge of an area which is practically our last hope of the continued existence of the Schomburgk deer, is, of course, very much in its favour and will, I hope, stimulate further enquiry in that direction.

C. H. STOCKLEY.

No. VII. Migration of Rats.

In Volume I of the *Journal of the Natural History Society of Siam*, T. S. Butler records a migration of rats which he observed while stationed at Koh Lak in September, 1913. For nearly a week his bungalow close to the beach was over-run with rats, and swarms of them passed through the building on their way to the beach and sea. "Their one idea appeared to be to leave the land. None turned back except when attacked by hawks or crows, of which they had attracted a good number. The following day, when going out to meet the steamer in Koh Lak bay, I noticed several rats well away from the shore, still swimming straight out to sea, and for days afterwards I found their dead bodies on the beach, washed up by the tides. This I observed throughout the whole length of my section, a distance of 30 kilometres."