

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."