appeared, but the plants, which are now about eight months old, continue to produce cleistogamous ones.

On looking up the literature, I found that this *Ruellia* was one of the earliest species in which cleistogamy was noted. Dillenius, first Sherardian Professor of Botany in Oxford, described and figured these cleistogamous flowers in his *Hortus Elthamensis* (ii. p. 328), published in 1732. His plants were grown from seeds received from Barbadoes. It is, however, not only in cultivated plants that these cleistogamous flowers appear. They have been noted in the plant's natural habitat, the West Indies. It would be interesting to know the proportion of cleistogamous to normal flowers where the plant is growing under more or less natural conditions as in Bangkok, and also the relative efficaciousness of the two forms of flowers in producing healthy seeds.

Hayes, Kent, October 1935. A. KERR.

24TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting of the Natural History Section was held at the Society's building on July 23rd, 1935, at 6.30 p.m.

Dr. A. G. Ellis, who fortunately returned from furlough in time for the meeting, was able to assume his office as Leader of the Section for the first time and about 40 members and guests were present, including officials of the Department of Public Health who were specially invited.

The meeting opened with an exhibition of specimens and Nai Ariant Manjikul showed living species of Hymenoptera which are parasitic upon the eggs of a bug which damages orange plantations.

He also showed a peculiar stick insect, a number of moths and a live specimen of bamboo rat in its nest of earth. This rat which was from Kanburi was identified by Mr. K. G. Gairdner as *Rhizomys sumatrensis*, so named because it eats the rhizomes of the bamboo underground. Nai Ariant said that the local people called it ตุ่น (Tun) but really this is the Siamese name for the mole which is quite a different creature.

Mr. C. J. House showed a preserved specimen of the Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imprecata*, from Southern Siam; he stated that this was the commercial source of the so-called tortoise-shell.

Phya Srishtikarn Banchong brought a pair of deer horns but no-one was able to identify them. A portion of the late Mr. E. J. Godfrey's collection of Siamese butterflies was also shown by courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, who now own the collection.

The Leader then called upon Dr. O. R. Causey to read his paper entitled, "Some notes on Siamese mosquitoes with suggestions for their control". It is hoped to publish this interesting paper with the discussion that followed in the Natural History Supplement

in due course. It was illustrated by lantern slides showing typical breeding places and Mr. House also showed some of his slides again which has illustrated his paper at the 22nd Ordinary Meeting in 1933. The last of these, depicting Dr. Causey mounted upon a pony with full collecting equipment, evoked applause.

The meeting concluded with the passing of a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Causey for his valuable paper.

C. J. HOUSE,
Honorary Secretary.

REVIEWS.

A DICTIONARY OF THE ECONOMIC PRODUCTS OF THE MALAY PENINSULA. By I. H. Burkill. In two volumes: London, 1935.

This important work has occupied the author for several years. It was begun while he still held the post of Director of Gardens in the Straits Settlements. Since his retirement in 1925, Mr. Burkill has been able to devote his whole time to the work, in which officials in the Departments of Fisheries, Geology and Forestry have also given their aid.

The products are arranged in alphabetical order, as a rule under their scientific names. When the scientific name is not known, there is a very full index to fall back on. This index contains popular and indigenous in addition to the scientific names. Here it may be mentioned that Siamese names, transliterated into Roman characters, are frequently mentioned. Cross references in the body of the work also facilitate consultation.

The work is a mine of reliable information, brought up to date. It is mainly concerned with the products of the southern part of the Malay Peninsula; but a very large proportion of these products are common to Siam and neighbouring countries. The uses of, and literature concerning these products in such countries is also quoted.

Where so much is good it is difficult to pick and choose; but the articles under the headings *Dioscorea* (Yams), *Hevea* (Rubber), *Oryza* (Rice) and *Rattans* may be mentioned as good summaries of our knowledge on these products, and as of special interest to residents in Siam. Those who are historically minded will here find much of interest concerning the history of cultivated plants.

We can strongly recommend this work to the notice of all whose work or interest lies in the economic products of South-eastern Asia.

The two volumes, which comprise between them about 2400 pages, are well got up, and are sold at the very reasonable price of thirty shillings.

October, 1935. A. K.