

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
DARJEELING NATURAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



VOL. XI - - - - No. 4.

*Issued April 1937.*

Edited by C. M. INGLIS, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., B.E.M.B.O.U.

## DARJEELING NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

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The Society was started about the end of 1923, the objects being to maintain the Museum in a proper condition; to promote the study of Natural History and to get together, as complete as possible, collections of Natural History specimens from a limited area, including "the civil districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and the State of Sikkim", as well as what could be procured from the neighbouring countries of Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal.

The Government and Municipal grants not being sufficient for our purpose, it was proposed to enrol members so as to increase our funds, and a Quarterly Journal has been started. It is hoped that everybody will join the Society and co-operate to make the Museum and Journal a success.

The annual subscription is only Rs. 10.

Application for membership should be made to :—

THE CURATOR,  
*Natural History Museum*  
*Darjeeling.*

## Coloured Plates and Back Numbers of the Journal.

*At the suggestion of one of our Members we append a list  
of published coloured plates.*

The Leaf Insect	...	...	Vol. V.	No. 2	October 1930
The Atlas Moth	...	...	Vol. V.	No. 4	April 1931
The Golden-throated Barbet	...	...	Vol. VI.	No. 1	June 1931
The Indian Emerald Dove	...	...	Vol. VI.	No. 2	October 1931
The Himalayan Tree Pie	...	...	Vol. VI.	No. 3	January 1932
The Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	...	...	Vol. VII.	No. 1	June 1932
The Bora Cheng	...	...	Vol. VII.	No. 2	October 1932
The Red-headed Tit	...	...	} Vol. VII.	No. 3	January 1933
The Grey Tit	...	...			
The Green-backed Tit	...	...			
Gould's Parrot-Bill	...	...	Vol. VII.	No. 4	April 1933
The Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	...	...	} Vol. VIII.	No. 1	June 1933
The Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch	...	...			
The White-tailed Nuthatch	...	...			
The Assam Black Partridge	...	...	Vol. VIII.	No. 2	October 1933
and republished in	...	...	Vol. IX.	No. 3	January 1935
The Rufous-necked Laughing Thrush	...	...	Vol. VIII.	No. 3	January 1934
The Purple Thrush	...	...	Vol. VIII.	No. 4	April 1934
The Eastern Palm Swift	...	...	Vol. IX.	No. 1	June 1934
The Burmese Black naped Oriole	...	...	Vol. IX.	No. 2	October 1934
The Indian Grackle	...	...	Vol. IX.	No. 4	April 1935
The Indian Green Magpie	...	...	Vol. X.	No. 1	June 1935
The Indian Purple Sunbird	...	...	} Vol. X.	No. 2	October 1935
The Indian Yellow-backed Sunbird...	...	...			
The Fire-tailed Yellow-backed Sunbird	...	...			
The Nepal Yellow-backed Sunbird	...	...			
The Black-breasted Sunbird	...	...			
Mrs. Gould's Sunbird	...	...	Vol. X.	No. 4	April 1936
The Bengal Jungle Babbler	...	...	Vol. X.	No. 4	April 1936
The Common Indian Kingfisher	...	...	} Vol. XI.	No. 1	June 1936
The Assam Blue-eared Kingfisher	...	...			
The Great Blue-eared Kingfisher	...	...	Vol. XI.	No. 2	October 1936
The Indian Three-toed Kingfisher	...	...	Vol. XI.	No. 3	January 1937

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Coloured Plates and Back Numbers of the Journal—(contd.)

All except the Leaf Insect and Bora Cheng are available at the following prices by V. P. P. :—

*To Members.*

*To Non-Members.*

Single copies at 0-8-0 each      Single copies at 0-12-0 each  
Sets of 4 plates at 1-12-0 per set.      Sets of 4 plates at 2-8-0 per set

Back numbers of the Journal may be had at the following rates by V. P. P. :—

*Those with coloured plates.*

*Those without coloured plates.*

To Members	1-8-0 each	1-0-0 each
To Non-Members	3-8-0 ,,	2-8-0 ,,

The following back numbers are out of print :—

Vol. I. No. 3; Vol. II. Nos. 1 and 4; Vol. III; Vol. IV. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and Vol. V. No. 4.

Application for the above should be made to :—

THE CURATOR,  
Natural History Museum,  
Darjeeling.

### Corrections in Vol. XI. No. 3.

—:0:—

- On page 98 line 22 read "savoury" for "soury".  
" " 98 " 24 read "Porcupine" for "Procupine"  
" " 100 " 12 delete "as"  
" " 100 " 13 delete "along".  
" " 104 " 37 delete "," after "Chick".  
" " 107 " 17 insert "," after "travelling".  
" " 107 " 17 delete "," after "areas".  
" " 107 second last line read "pieces" for "prices".  
" " 108 line 28 read "competition" for "competetion".  
" " 109 line 26 read "unattractiveness" for  
"unattractiveness".  
" " 110 line 3 read "diligently" for "deligently".  
" " 112 " 8 read "lightest" for "highest".  
" " 113 third last line read "twig" for "twigs".  
" " 116 line 11 delete "," after "us".  
" " 118 " 3 read "confined" for "confirmed."  
" " 118 " 15 read "*naja*" for "*Naja*".  
" " 118 second last line read "monocellate" for  
"monocellete".  
" " 119 line 12 read "Mackinnon" for "Mackihnon".  
" " 119 " 16 read "Khandalla" for "Khandella".
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### An Apology.

This number of our Journal contains an account of our Museum since its inception in 1903 up to the present time.

It is, of course, quite wrong for an Editor to devote even a large portion of a Journal to his own contributions but, unfortunately, this has often been the case with us. It is worse still to wholly crowd out other more important and interesting papers and for this the Editor asks to be forgiven. We thought it time that the Members of our Society should know something about the Museum towards which they contribute so generously and see illustrations of the new cases which form the main attraction and thought it would be best to dedicate a whole Journal to this purpose. This is your Editor's sole excuse.

Ours is the only Museum of its kind in any Hill station. We believe a Natural History Society was once started in Simla but lasted no length of time.

*Editor.*

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DARJEELING NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

*Photo* I. SLATTER.

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
DARJEELING NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

— 105 —  
Vol. XI.—No. 4.  
— — —

The History and Constitution and Collections of the  
Darjeeling Natural History Museum.

BY

C. M. INGLIS, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S., B.E.M.B.O.U.

*(With 13 half tone plates.)*

In 1902 Major Alcock, of the Indian Museum, was asked to select a temporary taxidermist to collect specimens of local bird life of the Darjeeling District which were to be set up in Calcutta and placed in the Indian Museum. This taxidermist was duly appointed and worked under the supervision of Mr. B. B. Osmaston then Deputy Conservator of Forests at Darjeeling.

In 1903 the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal informed the Government of India of the idea of starting a small Museum at Darjeeling, in order that visitors to that place might have the opportunity of obtaining information about the bird and butterfly life of the District. It was, then, not the intention that the collections should be such as to enable a student to study the Fauna of the Hills but just sufficient for the purpose already alluded to.

A suitable site was chosen in the Botanical Gardens and sanction accorded to the construction of a building at a cost of Rs. 14,000.

It was first suggested that the Museum should be placed under the charge of the Curator of the Lloyd Botanic Garden but this idea was abandoned. It was then suggested

that a Committee Meeting, with the Deputy Commissioner as President, should be appointed with the following members.

Mr. Lister of Pashok T. E.

„ Möller of Tukvar T. E.

„ B. B. Osmaston, I.F.S., the then Divisional Forest Officer

and that they should manage the Institution.  
Mr. Lister was unable to serve on the Committee.

The final Constitution of the Museum, after suggestions by the above Committee, was considered by the Government of Bengal, and was accorded as follows :—

- (1) That the Committee should consist of the following members with the Deputy Commissioner as President.

Mr. G. Millar, Tea Planter.

„ F. A. Möller, Vice-Chairman of the Darjeeling Municipality.

„ B. B. Osmaston, Deputy Conservator of Forests.

„ G. M. Searight, Executive Engineer and Dr. Baldwin Seal.

- (2) That there should be a paid Establishment as given on an attached note.
- (3) That the charges should be borne by the Darjeeling Improvement Fund.

The sanctioned expenditure was only Rs. 1964/- per annum.

In 1914-15 the condition of the Museum was such that it was no longer serving any useful purpose and the funds were not sufficient for its upkeep.

Then His Excellency Lord Carmichael took an interest in it and it was decided to construct a larger building in a

more central situation. A site in the Victoria Park was selected and the present building was completed in 1915 at a cost of Rs 55,000.

It was suggested that this new Museum should become a branch of the Indian Museum at Calcutta. The Trustees of that Institution were agreeable so long as sufficient funds were available but, this not being so, this idea was set aside. It was further proposed that the Museum should be taken over by the new Zoological Survey of India which Government was then considering. This proposal was put before the Governor, by the late Dr. Annandale, and His Excellency was in favour of making the Museum an Imperial affair but the Government of India refused to undertake the responsibility and then the Government of Bengal also decided that they couldn't shoulder the burden. It was finally arranged that the P. W. D. should be responsible for the building and the Committee for the collections and the upkeep to be met by the Darjeeling Improvement Fund.

In 1922 Mr. J. T. Donovan, then Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, made the following note.

“Since 1916 the Committee, whose Constitution and Rules seem never to have been defined, have been nominally managing the Museum, the D. I. F. providing the slender funds. The Committee held sporadic meetings, not more than one or two in a year, if indeed as many, and the collection was left practically in the hands of a, so-called, Curator, who has absolutely no qualifications for the work. The result of the shortage of funds and the inexperience of the “Curator” was the degeneration of the Museum, into details of which it is unnecessary to enter here.

“After receiving the Budget of the Museum, as Administrator of the D. I. F., last March, I, as President of the Museum Committee, called a meeting of the Committee. This could not be held before May. I then proposed to the Committee, who agreed with me, that it was necessary either to close the Museum or to overhaul it thoroughly and reconstitute it. It was agreed that a qualified Curator was

essential to reconstitution and it was decided to ask for increased funds and to try to raise funds locally with a view to employ a qualified Curator. Meanwhile the search for a Curator, so far a vain search, began. It was also decided to hold quarterly meetings, to co-opt some new members on the Committee, although it was doubtful whether the Committee had power to do so, to appoint monthly visitors, as a result of which visits the Museum has, at least, been cleaned up, and to reduce the superfluous subordinate staff and the contingent expenditure.

"The Committee hoped that the economies they suggested would provide funds for some necessities for the Museum but they were disappointed for the economies were, instead, absorbed in the D. I. F. balances. At the next meeting on August 26th the Committee put forward their proposals for the management and financing of the Museum. These are dealt with in a separate note."

In this note it was stated that—

"It is clear that Government assistance for Museums was contemplated when finances would permit and such assistance is nothing unusual in a civilized country. The Committee of the Museum have now decided that they cannot take the responsibility for the proper maintenance and increase of the collection without further financial assistance. They propose the establishment of a Natural History Society to take over the collection and be responsible for its maintenance and increase and have contemplated the publication of a small periodical, say a quarterly, in connection with the Society. They also propose to raise some funds by subscriptions from the members of the Society and they have addressed some local bodies and private individuals asking for assistance. The Darjeeling Municipality has voted a contribution of Rs. 1,000 annually to the Museum provided a qualified Curator is appointed.

"It is now proposed that Government should hand over the Museum to the Darjeeling Natural History Society, if this is formed, the building, however, remaining the property and the responsibility of the P. W. D. It is further proposed

that the money contributed for the Museum should become the property of the Society and be administrated by it, through its Committee, the present system by which every single requirement of the Museum has to be passed by the D. I. F. is largely responsible for the deterioration of the specimens in the Museum. Besides, it provides no incentive to economy for all savings went to the D. I. F.

“The Committee desire to raise an income of at least 10,000 or 12,000 a year and hope this will enable them to employ a Curator, to preserve, maintain and increase the collection and to publish a periodical. They understand that Government have made grants to the Dacca and Rajshahi Museums and they ask Government to make a grant of Rs. 5,000 annually. They ask the D. I. F. to make a grant of Rs. 3,000 annually. They have been promised Rs. 1,000 by the Municipality and it is hoped that the District Board will make some grant next year. From other local sources and the members of the proposed Society they hope to raise the balance.

“It is scarcely necessary to demonstrate the propriety of a Government grant to an Institution of this kind. The grant by the D. I. F. is justified by the facts that this is a fund raised solely in Darjeeling and the Museum is a collection of Darjeeling specimens. The Museum should be an attraction and an asset to the Municipality and hence the Municipality Commissioners have voted a grant.

“The funds should become the property of the Natural History Society. If they tend to accumulate Government, and the local bodies, may reduce their contributions but they should not have to pass, in detail, through the accounts of any local body and the balance at the end of the year should not lapse.

“If these proposals are accepted and carried out, and if a qualified Curator is obtained, the Museum can be re-organized and properly maintained. Otherwise it must be closed. There is some hope of obtaining a qualified Curator. All these financial proposals and suggestions for re-organiza-tion depend on the employment of a Curator. If it is finally

decided that no suitable Curator can be obtained all the proposals must be dropped and in the interests of decency and economy the Museum must be closed, the collection sold for what it will fetch and the building put to a better purpose”.

At this period the whole income of the Museum was 3,000/- per annum contributed by the D. I. F. and there was a promise of 4,000/- by His Excellency Lord Lytton, besides the 1000/- from the Darjeeling Municipality.

In June 1922 Mr. Donovan interviewed Lord Lytton and a condition of obtaining his help was the foundation of a local Natural History Society. In December, of the same year, Mr. B. C. Ellison, Curator of the Bombay Natural History Society, visited the Museum, by invitation, and made many suggestions and recommendations one of which was to appoint the present Curator.

At a meeting of the Committee held on the 27th January 1923, presided over by the President, Mr. Strong, the then Deputy Commissioner, it was resolved that as the pay which they could offer a Curator was so small he should be given free quarters on the top story of the building and that the President should inform Mr. Inglis that he was unanimously appointed by the Committee.

The present Darjeeling Natural History was started in that year.

*Curators.*—It is difficult to trace the appointment of the previous Curators but so far as we have been able to do so they were as follows :—

1916 & 1917—Mr. L. J. Mackintosh. Author of “Birds of Darjeeling and India”.

1918—Mr. W. P. Masson, who had a wonderful knowledge of the Fauna of the Hills.

1919 to February 1923—Mr. H. P. P. Barrett.

July 1923 onwards—Mr. C. M. Inglis, the present Curator.

*Finance.*—With regard to the financial position of the Museum we find that up to 1922-23 it consisted solely of a grant from the D. I. F. varying from Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 3,000 per annum.

In 1923-24, on the appointment of the present Curator, the following was our Budgeted income.

Government grant ...	...	Rs. 4,000
D. I. F....	...	„ 3,000
Municipality	...	„ 1,000
Subscriptions etc. ...	...	„ 400
		<hr/>
TOTAL	...	Rs. 8,400

and it remained approximately at this figure until, in 1927-28, an increase in pay to the Curator necessitated an increase in funds and the Municipality increased their contribution by Rs. 500 and Government increased their grant by the same amount.

From 1927-28 to 1930-31 our budgeted receipts were—

Government grant ...	...	Rs. 4,500
D. I. F.	...	„ 3,000
Municipality	...	„ 1,500
Subscriptions, etc. ...	...	„ 1,000
		<hr/>
TOTAL	...	Rs. 10,000

In 1932-33 Government reduced its grant, by 20%, to Rs. 3,600. This was said to be on account of financial stringency. Our income for the year was—

Government grant ...	...	Rs. 3,600
D. I. F.	...	„ 3,000
Municipality	...	„ 1,650
Subscriptions, etc. ...	...	„ 1,400
		<hr/>
TOTAL	...	Rs. 9,650

During 1933-34, in accordance with the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee which, apparently, did not go into the necessities of this Institution, Government further reduced their grant by  $13\frac{1}{8}\%$ , making it Rs. 3,000. This was

a greater cut than any other Scientific Institution had sustained and it crippled our, already reduced, finances.

During 1934-35 our income remained the same but in June 1934 we put in a very strong appeal to Government and asked them to reconsider the matter and restore our original grant of Rs. 4,500. Through the kind services of a most sympathetic Minister the Hon. Sir. B. C. Mitter and in Mr. O. M. Martin, I.C.S. Revenue Secretary who has always been a keen supporter of the Museum, Government were pleased to restore the second cut so our budgeted income for 1935-36 was—

Government grant ...	...	Rs. 3,600
D. I. F. ...	...	„ 3,000
Municipality ...	...	„ 1,565
Subscriptions etc. ...	...	„ 1,200
		<hr/>
TOTAL ...	...	Rs. 9,365

In 1936-37 our budgeted income stands at—

Government grant ...	...	Rs. 3,600
D. I. F. ...	...	„ 3,000
Municipality ...	...	„ 1,250
Subscriptions etc. ...	...	„ 1,200
		<hr/>
TOTAL ...	...	Rs. 9,050

Our expenditure, although reduced by over Rs. 700, is still considerably higher than our income and unless Government can be persuaded to restore the Rs. 1,000 cut we shall find serious difficulty in meeting our expenses.

*Natural History Society.*—This was started at the end of 1923 and the following is its position. Members were enrolled and the annual subscription fixed at Rs. 10 with no entrance fee.

In 1924 we had 39 members, 14 of these are still so. Since then the number has been a very fluctuating quantity, showing a decrease in recent years owing to the slump in tea. Numerically the planting community is our chief support, many of whom have been our staunch supporters

even through the very lean years of their industry, but, unfortunately, our tea planter supporters only number 59, including some from far away Assam, Cachar and Sylhet, in such a huge tea area the percentage is very small. With regards to percentage the members of the Imperial Forest Service are our staunchest supporters, being, almost to a man, members of our Society. Our present membership is 131.

*Publications.*—In 1924 and 1925 this was confined to a Report by the Curator, giving additions to the Museum and a list of members and covered about 10 pages.

*Journal.*—In June 1926 the first number of our modest Journal saw the light of day. It was bound in an orange cover. The first page pointed out the objects of the Society, as it still does, and this was followed by the following "Foreword" by H. E. Sir Hugh Stephenson, then Acting Governor of Bengal.

"A visit to the Darjeeling Natural History Museum must impress on even the most casual observer the great variety & wealth of Fauna to be found in the neighbourhood of Darjeeling. Specimens are regularly collected from Sikkim and from the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Districts, while others have been received from Nepal and Tibet, and with the wonderful diversity of natural conditions obtaining in so varied an area it is not surprising that the range of the collections should be wide and interesting. There is therefore, ample scope for the activities of a Natural History Society.

We owe it to the initiative and influence of Lord Carmichael, himself an enthusiastic naturalist, that the Museum, which had previously been housed in the Lloyd Botanic Garden, now possesses its own home so admirably adapted for the exhibition of specimens and so easily accessible to the public. The Museum has been fortunate in securing the active sympathy and support of His Excellency the Earl of Lytton, whose interest in Natural History is well known, even since his arrival in Darjeeling in 1922.

"Since the appointment of Mr. Inglis, as Curator, and the formation of the Darjeeling Natural History Society three years ago great progress has been made in developing the collection and noteworthy improvements have been effected in the general arrangements for the exhibition and preservation of the specimens. The fullest use has been made of the exceptional opportunities offered by the nature of the collecting area. It is now proposed to publish a quarterly Journal in which the additions to the Museum will be recorded and original notes and papers, from the Society's members, will be published. Mr. Inglis's own contributions to the literature of Natural History in this country are already well known and I am confident that the new Journal will prove an interesting and valuable addition to scientific knowledge. With the vast possibilities of such an area as this, the observations of the Members of the Society should prove of interest and value to naturalists, not only in Bengal but throughout India and beyond.

"Mr. Inglis's enthusiasm for a study, in which he has such intimate knowledge, should be a guarantee of the Journal's success and I trust that it will serve to direct attention to the work of the Museum and to stimulate interest in the wonderful gifts of nature amongst which we live.

H. L. STEPHENSON,  
*Governor of Bengal."*

Our first member consisted of 15 pages the only contributors, besides the Editor, being Mr. and Mrs. Shaw of Mangpu. No. 2 saw our first illustration, a very small half-tone plate of nest and young of the Verditer Flycatcher, kindly supplied by Dr. Satya Churn Law. We were also fortunate in getting some other members to send in articles.

In Vol. II, No. 4, began, what has been the most interesting and popular series of articles which have been published up to date. "The Snakes of Northern Bengal and Sikkim" by Messrs. G. E. Shaw and E. O. Shebbeare. This contained most useful keys and a wealth of information. We hope to

re-publish it and bring it up to date as Mr. P. E. Barker has accumulated much additional information from the Duars.

Up to the end of Vol. III our Journal had orange covers but with Vol. IV No. I our present one began. The design, which is most effective, being drawn by Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, who wrote the following note about it.

“Our new Cover Design”

“One member being shown the design asked our artist whether it was not unusual for a pelican to perch. To avoid the humiliation of similar questions we hasten to explain.

“The scene is supposed to be one of those side streams running into a sandy river, the junction of the Indong jhora with the Murti below Gorumara if you like. The species represented (with scientific names, in brackets, according to the latest Government circulars) are as follows :—

“The bird is not a pelican but meant for the Gurial Kingfisher (*Ramphalcyon capensis gurial*) and the object just below intended to be an elephant in the distance, we admit that this requires some imagination. The tree on the left is Laha siris (*Dalbergia assamica*) and on the right the local horse-chestnut (*Æsculus punduana*). The tracks on the sand are, of course, meant to be tiger and rhino and the fish “reading from the left to right” Katli and Mahseer (*Barbus hexastichus* and *B. tor*). The dragonfly was put in, afterwards, at the request of the Curator who felt that, otherwise, entomologists might feel slighted. The identification of the species, in this case, was left to him and he has, so far, not succeeded.”

We do not know who the member was who questioned the bird in the design. Even had it been a pelican the humiliation would have been *his*, and *not* the artist's, for being unaware that pelicans *do*, commonly, perch on trees !

*Coloured plates.*—With Vol. V. No. 2, we issued our first coloured illustration, a very great innovation, in a beautiful coloured photograph of the Leaf Insect, (*Phyllium scythe*)

kindly given to us by Mr. T. A. Baldry. This was accompanied by some notes on the insect by the Editor. In our next issue we sent out an appeal for each member to rope in a new member so that we could have sufficient funds to pay for, at least, one coloured plate in each number, illustrations, in colour, being an adjunct so necessary for Journals devoted to Natural History. This appeal, unfortunately, was not very successful. However, with Vol. V. No. 4, we, seriously, began providing a coloured plate with most of the Journals. Our first one of these was the Atlas Moth (*Attacus atlas*) painted from a living specimen by the Editor. All the coloured plates, so far issued, with the exception of a very good representation of the Bora Cheng (*Ophiocephalus amphibius*) by Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, rather poorly reproduced in India, have been the work of the Editor. They have all been reproduced in England with, generally, great fidelity of colour and detail. We wish we could get artist members to contribute coloured illustrations and so avoid the monotony of the Editor's plates. We are happy, however, that our attempts have met with favour and appreciation. We have now received a beautifully executed coloured drawing by Col. Scott of the larva of one of the Saturnid moths (*Brahmœa wallichii*) which, along with one of the moth itself, by the Editor, we are having reproduced. These plates are, however, a very great expense four of them approximately costing Rs. 585 for 500 copies of each, this being the smallest number worth printing. We sell a certain number of spare copies to both Members and outsiders, single copies at 8 annas and 12 annas and sets of 4 at Rs. 1-12 and Rs. 2-8 respectively, but not as many as we should like to do. One of our Members has the happy idea of using them to further illustrate a popular work on Indian birds. We have up to date reproduced 24 though only 22 of these have so far been issued.

Our Journal costs us about Rs. 1,200 per annum which is rather a big drain on our slender finances but we are very averse to reduce this, by cutting out the coloured plates, as it is all many of our supporters get for their subscriptions. We wish we had the articles and funds to increase its size.

*Papers* :—With regards to subscribers to the letter press of our Journal Col. H. S. Wood, I.M.S., has always been a pillar of strength and our constant and strongest supporter. We also owe much to the fluent pens of Messrs. Shaw and Shebbeare and, of late years, Mr. C. Primrose has been one of our staunchest supporters. We have also been fortunate in getting some articles from naturalists of world-wide reputation such as Professors Poulton and Percy Moore of Oxford and Philadelphia; Lt. Col. F. C. Fraser, I.M.S. and Major R. W. G. Hingston of the same service and Messrs. Hugh Whistler and F. W. Champion and others. Unfortunately support in the form of articles and illustrations is very meagre and it is a continued effort, to the Editor, to keep the covers even as slightly apart as they are now. If only our Members would realize the amount of anxiety the Editor goes through in bringing out each number we feel sure that more support would be given to him. It lies with the Members themselves to make the Journal what it could be. Our present issues, usually run to about 35 to 40 pages, a far too large proportion of which is, generally, from the Editor's pen.

The following serial articles have appeared—

“Notes on Natural History and Shikar of Deer.”

“Bears and their Shikar.”

“Fishing in India and Europe.”

“A Description of the Tsine; its Habitat and Shikar.”

“Observations on the Gaur and its Shikar.”

“Observations on Centipedes, Hairy Caterpillars,  
Monitors and Geckos”

By Col. H. S. Wood, I.M.S.

“The Snakes of Northern Bengal and Sikkim”

By G. E. Shaw and E. O. Shebbeare, I.F.S.

“Nepalese Plant names” By J. M. Cowan.

“The Dragonfly Fauna of the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri  
Districts and Sikkim” By Lt. Col. F. C. Fraser, I.M.S.

“A Himalayan Hillside” By Ida Colthurst.

“An Attempt at Angling” By C. Primrose.

“Bird nesting in Darjeeling” By Dr. Satya Churn Law,

and the following articles by the Editor, mostly illustrated with coloured plates.

“Game Birds of Darjeeling and Sikkim and of the Jalpaiguri District”.

“List of the Fauna found within our area—Butterflies.”

“The Crow family of our area.”

“The Tits of our area.”

“Our Parrot-Bills or Crow-Tits.”

“The Nuthatches of our area.”

“Our Langling—Thrushes of the genus *Dryonastes*.”

“The Orioles of our area”

“The Indian Grackle”

“The Sunbirds and Spider hunters of our area” and

“The Kingfishers of our area.”

Articles on the Collecting and Trapping and Preparation of Small Mammals by Mr. C. Primrose, who has already given us an illustrated article on the preparation of Bats, are now being issued. The author is an expert collector and trapper having experience in the field in such little known spots as the Mishmi Hills and Mergui Archipelago.

Mr. Hugh Whistler, the well known authority on Indian birds, has also given us an article on general advice about bird collecting, labelling etc. These articles on collecting should prove a help to those of our members who wish to collect but do not know how to do so.

Other interesting articles by Col. Wood, Mrs. Colthurst, Mr. P. E. Barker, a snake enthusiast, and Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, on Rhododendrons, have been lately received and will be duly published.

We again appeal to our members to give us help and encouragement by means of articles etc. for the Journal.

*Collections.—Mounted Specimens in Groups or Single.*—Up to 1923 the collection of Mammals principally consisted of a few flat skins, there were no mounted specimens at all and, having no trained taxidermist on our staff, the present

Curator, while on leave in 1929, visited many Museums at Home and on the Continent and hunted for a suitable firm who could mount our Mammals and Birds in a life-like manner and not too expensively. Ultimately we arranged with Messrs. Williams and Son of Dublin, who executed the fine cases in the Irish National Museum in that city and Mr. Bristow of St. Leonards. Laterally all our work has been done by the former except for four cases of Birds prepared by the Bombay Natural History Society.

We are attempting to show groups or pairs or single specimens of Mammals and Birds in their natural surroundings and have attained much success as will be seen by the following appreciation from Mr. S. F. Markham, Empire Secretary of the Museums Association after a visit to our Museum. This is what he says "I wish to congratulate the Society on the habitat cases, which are as near perfection as I have seen, for their cost. Other cases too are good, and the small mammals, generally, are presented in lively life-like attitudes."

With regard to small Mammals the following have already been mounted in cases by Williams and Son.

A Bengal Fox with vixen and three cubs. (*Plate II*).

A pair of Red Cat-Bears. (*Plate III*).

A group of three Flying-Foxes.

A pair of Yellow-bellied Weasels.

A Crab-eating Mongoose with Crab

and a Tibetan Lynx stalking a Tibetan Partridge. (*Plate IV*).

Besides these we have the following mounted on branches or stands with ground work by the same firm and Mr. Bristow.

Four species of Civets and Palm Civets.

Four of the smaller Cats, one of which, a Leopard Cat, mounted by Williams is shown on *Plate V*.

Eight species of Squirrels.

Two species of Hares.

One Eastern Pangolin.

One common Indian Mongoose.

A short-tailed Mole and poorly mounted specimens of a melanistic Bengal Barking Deer and Sikkim Mouse-Hare, caricatured in Calcutta.

We have some fine habitat cases of Birds. The following were ably mounted by the Bombay Natural History Society :—

A pair of those fine Pheasants the Crimson Horned Pheasant or Satyr Tragopan. The background has been beautifully executed by Mr. Sain, of the Sain Studios Darjeeling, and represents the Snows as seen between Sandakphu and Phalut with Rhododendrons and Primulas. This is a real work of art. In the photograph, unfortunately, the Snows have not come out and, due to the shape of the case, some of the back-ground looks distorted. (*Plate VI*).

A pair of Verditer Flycatchers with nest and eggs in a crevice of a rock.

A pair of Nepal Beautiful Niltavas with nest and eggs at foot of a tree.

A pair of Eastern Palm Swifts with nest and eggs in the thatch of a coolie hut.

The following were mounted by Messrs. Williams & Son of Dublin :—

A group of 6 birds representing "Birds of Reeds in a Swamp" shown amongst reeds.

A group of 6 birds, representing 5 species, of "Birds of a Hill stream" shown on the rocks of a stream.

Two cases of Kingfishers of 4 species each, one represents those of the Hills and Foot hills and the other of the Plains.

A pair of Barn Owls with a dead Rat.

A pair of Himalayan Whistling Thrushes with young one on nest, amongst rocks.

A pair of Himalayan Red-legged Falconets with a Tibetan Ruby Throat.

A pair of Woodcock with 2 chicks and 2 eggs. (*Plate VII*).

Two cases of Snipe, one showing Pintail, Jack and Painted Snipe amongst reeds and the other a pair of Fantail or common Snipe, amongst reeds and water. This case was presented by Mr. J. T. Donovan I.C.S. (*Plate VIII*).

The following cases were mounted by Mr. Bristow of St. Leonards.

A group of 9 "Birds of Grass Jungle" represented amongst tall grass.

A pair of Northern Rufous Woodpeckers, the hen looking out of an Ants' nest in which they lay their eggs.

A group of 8 Orioles (*Plate IX*) and

A group of 8 Mynas, the latter including Grackle and Stare, of the Darjeeling District and Duars.

There are also three Mimicry and Protective Colouration cases set up by Messrs. Williams & Son, as follows:—

A Hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel and Sikkim Tree-Shrew. (*Plate X*).

A case containing a Himalayan Black Drongo and Indian Drongo-Cuckoo; Common Hawk Cuckoo or Brain-fever Bird and Indian Shikra. (*Plate XI*).

A case containing a Nepal Long-tailed Nightjar and Franklins' Nightjar to show Protective colouration.

*Mammals.* Besides the mounted specimens, already alluded to, we have 98 species of unmounted small Mammals in our Research collection, for many of these our thanks are due to the Bombay Natural History Society for presenting to us specimens collected during the Mammal Survey of our area. We have also some mounted heads and horns on the walls. The best of these are a Hog Deer

head presented by Mr. V. Pullan; a Sambhur head by Mr. J. J. Macpherson; a fine Buffalo skull, with horns, from Mr. E. A. C. Modder and another one from Mr. McKean. Many horns were also presented by the late Mr. A. Wright.

There are also, on deposit, a pair of Elephant's feet and a pair of tusks the property of Mr. F. J. A. Hart I.F.S. and a number of mounted heads and horns belonging to the Curator.

In a glass case in the vestibule are a pair of Rhino feet and a China model of a Rhinoceros, the latter on deposit by Mr. E. O. Shebbeare, I.F.S. (*Plate XII*).

*Birds.* Up to 1923 there was already a fairly representative collection of Birds of the Hills mounted on the usual "pegs." (*Plate XI*). These were got together by the energy of Mr. B. B. Osmaston, I.F.S., a very keen ornithologist; a few of these old specimens are, still, the only ones we have got of their species. We have added many to these, both from the Hills and the Plains.

A portion of the centre case in the Hall is shown in (*Plate XIII*).

Besides these we have a very fine collection of Research specimens, many in series, kept in cabinets. These have been mostly collected by the Curator and his Staff. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Shaw, who presented the whole of his Bird skin collection to us, on retirement, we were able to add some rarities. We have also to thank Messrs. Matthews, E. G. L. Webb, Smyth Osbourne, the late Mr. O'Donel, Lt.-Col. G. A. Webb and some others for their kind help in this section.

Our collection now consists of 621 species out of a listed 713, most of the 92 not represented are exceedingly rare or local. We are poorest in the Ducks.

There is also a very fine collection of Birds' skins, especially of Game Birds, the property of the Curator, which is on deposit. The Game Birds comprise specimens from the whole of India, Burma and Ceylon besides a few other

countries such as Great Britain, Japan etc. Of species found in India, Burma and Ceylon it has

Pheasants, Partridges etc. ...	74 species out of 97
Sandgrouse ...	9 ,, ,, 9
Pigeons and Doves ...	49 ,, ,, 62
Bustard Quail ...	6 ,, ,, 10
Cranes ...	4 ,, ,, 7
Bustards and Floricans ...	4 ,, ,, 6
Woodcock and Snipe ...	8 ,, ,, 9
Flamingos, Geese and Ducks...	37 ,, ,, 46
Total ...	191 ,, ,, 246

It is very poor in the Geese.

Besides these there are from other parts of the world.

Pheasants and Partridges ...	28 species.
Grouse, Capercaillies ...	5 ,,
Pigeons and Doves ...	2 ,,
Bustard Quail ...	1 ,,
Ducks ...	1 ,,

The Museum collection of Birds' Eggs is not good yet; We have to thank Mr. Matthews for help in these. In most cases the nests are represented as well as the eggs.

The Curator has, however, a good representative private collection, on deposit, in the Birds' Egg Cabinet.

*Reptiles etc.* Our collection of Snakes is fairly complete. There have been many willing helpers in this branch but special mention must be made of Messrs. Shaw, Shebbeare Barker and Atkins.

This collection consists of 61 species out of a possible 78; those not represented are very rare.

We also have Plaster of Paris and wax reproductions of 26 species, the casting mostly executed by Mr. Shaw and then coloured by the Curator. The two fine wax models of a Cobra and Russell's Viper were modelled by the Bombay Natural History Society.

There is a specimen of an Estuarine Crocodile which really should not be in our Museum as it is not found in our

area but it was generously presented to us by Mr. Y. S. Ahmed of the Imperial Forest Service and is a great attraction to visitors, especially children. It measures 17 feet 2 inches. This Crocodile has been recorded up to 33 feet but specimens much over 20 feet are very rare now.

*Lizards, Frogs, Toads, Tortoises, Salamanders and Cæcilians* were totally unrepresented before 1923 but thanks to the kindness of Mr. Shaw our collection is pretty well represented. It is as follows : —

Lizards	14	out of a probable	21
Frogs and Soads	12	do.	19
Tortoises	2	do.	10
Salamanders	1	do.	1
Cæcilians	1	do.	2

Tortoises are very poorly represented.

*Fish.*—These, also, were quite unrepresented, but thanks to the energy of Messrs. Shaw and Shebbeare we have now quite a representative collection, We must also thank Dr. Hora, of the Zoological Survey of India, for verifying identifications and identifying many others.

Our collection consists of 110 species out of a listed 127 but, of the latter, several are doubtfully found within our area.

*Leeches.*—We owe to the generosity of Professor Percy Moore, the leading authority on Leeches, 5 out of the 6 Leeches occurring in our area and also a Planarian.

*Insects.*—With the exception of Butterflies and Dragonflies our Insect collections are not very representative. The preservation of insects, in this climate, is most disheartening and it is practically impossible, even with the use of heaters, to keep the cabinets dry and even though cressote is liberally used mould is very difficult to keep out. Under such circumstances, one is apt to lose heart in attempting to fight against this great prevalence of dampness.

Up to 1923 there was already quite a good collection of Butterflies, except in some families, due to the activity of

Mr. F. A. Möller who was a keen Entomologist of world-wide reputation. This collection has been greatly added to through the kind help of Mr. Shaw and Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, both of whom are enthusiasts. It now comprises some 484 species out of a known 535 in our area, our deficiencies mostly being in the Skippers which were quite unrepresented in the old collection.

The Dragonfly collection, which was totally unrepresented before 1923, is now a good one. Lt. Col. F. C. Fraser, I.M.S., the leading authority on this branch of Entomology, gave us invaluable help in identifications.

Our collection now consists of 149 species, not very many species being unrepresented.

Additions have been made to other branches of Entomology but none of these are, as yet, representative collections. We must acknowledge the kind help received from Lt. Col. G. A. Webb in the matter of Beetles and Mr. D. G. Sevastopulo for many identifications of Moths.

*Library* :—There is little to say about our Library. Scientific books are too expensive, as a rule, and our funds do not allow for much in the way of these.

We have, however, most of the volumes of the Fauna of British India series, supplied by Government. We also get, by exchange, publications of the American Museum of Natural History, New York ; United States National Museum, Washington ; the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia ; the Natural History Museum, Vienna and some of the British Museum (Natural History) London. We also get the Journals of the Bombay Natural History Society and those of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire.

The Curator has, however, a very valuable library of his own, especially of works dealing with Ormithology, consisting of over 450 volumes. This is on deposit and available, on application, to any one who wishes to look up anything. Besides works on India, Ceylon and some other countries it contains a complete set of the Journals of the Bombay

Natural History Society, besides many volumes of the "Ibis," "Proceedings" and "Transactions" of the Zoological Society of London, "Transactions" of the Royal Entomological Society etc., etc. This is continually being augmented either by gifts from authors or by purchase. It fills more than the whole of one book case, in the office, from floor to ceiling.

*Survey of Indian Museums* :—We published recently (*Vol. XI. No 1 pp. 31 to 34.*) "A Note on our Museum" but, so as to bring this record of our Museum up to date, we do so again, with many apologies. This is what we wrote.

"In a letter, dated 10th of February 1934, the Museum Association of Great Britain addressed the High Commissioner for India with regard to a Survey of Indian Museums. This Association had, already, completed "Surveys of the Museums in Great Britain, Canada, British Africa, Australia, New Zealand and in the various Colonies and Protectorates and, therefore, were anxious to complete their survey by including India and Burma.

"In their communication they stated "As with our previous Surveys of Museums, our desire to interest one of the larger charitable trusts to undertake a policy of assisting the various museums, whether national, municipal or university, to develop still further on lines that will produce the greatest service to scientists and other research workers and to the general public. The preliminary in this is a survey of the existing museums situation which involves.

1. A personal visit by a small team of Museum experts to each of the Museums open to the public in India and Burma.
2. The preparation of a general Directory on these Museums on the lines of the Australian and New Zealand Directory enclosed.
3. The preparation of a general qualitative Report on the Museums of India and Burma, on the lines of the Australian and New Zealand Report here enclosed."

The cost of this survey was calculated to be about £2,200. The Museum Association were willing to cover a

portion of this but would require the expenses involved in travelling and publication which was estimated to be slightly less than £2,000 or about Rs. 25,000.

"The Government of India was communicated with by the High Commissioner and, through it, all local Governments were asked whether the proposal of the Museums Association would be welcomed by the various authorities of the Museums concerned. The reply being in the affirmative the Museums Association applied to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for financial assistance for this purpose and through its generosity the work was undertaken.

"The experts selected to visit India were Mr. H. Hargreaves, former Director of Archaeology in India and Mr. S. F. Markham, M. P. the Empire Secretary of the Association. They visited India this last winter of (1935 36) leaving, we believe, in February.

"Last January (1936) the "Statesman" published an interview given by Mr. Markham and a list of certain museums was given for which he had little but praise, but the rest, visited up to then, were very disappointing indeed especially when judged by European and North American standards". He found that many "irreplaceable specimens are disappearing before our very eyes and this was largely due to the lack of proper Curators and sometimes the care of some of these museums was only a part time job. Manuscripts and tapestries came in for the greater part of his strictures but the Natural History Sections were not left scathless and came in for some straight and strong words too on account of the age and poor mounting of the specimens, or inadequate representation of the fauna displayed and the unsuitable cases in which the specimens are exhibited.

"Mr. Markham visited our Museum on the 9th January of this year (1936), unfortunately notice was received a day too late to enable us to show him round. We hurried up on the 10th but only to find that he had left on the previous day. However we had the pleasure, and privilege,

of two interviews with him in Calcutta on the eve of his departure for Madras. We had most interesting and profitable talks and he was sufficiently impressed with our large instructive labels and the coloured illustrations in our Journal to ask if he might have copies of the former, and one of the originals of the latter, to exhibit at one of the meetings of the Association. We have complied with his request. He also took a copy of our Journal with him.

"We told him that we were sure our members would be most grateful if he would write a short critical note on our Museum for publication; a wish which he was kind enough to grant us.

We understand that copies on the Report on Indian Museums will be sent to the Government of India. Below is Mr. Markham's "Critical Assessment".

"A Critical Assessment of the Museum."

"This Museum has seen many vicissitudes but its Golden Era began when the then Deputy Commissioner, Mr. J. T. Donovan outlined, in a statesmanlike memorandum, the requirements of the Museum. Since then the three essential factors he indicated, a good Curator, an energetic Society and adequate Government and local support have combined to make this one of the best of small Museums I have seen. Unfortunately Government reduced their original grants during the depression and the grants have not been fully restored. It is hoped that this will be done as soon as possible as otherwise the Museum must inevitably suffer.

"I was particularly impressed by the general brightness of the Museum, its cleanliness, good labelling and well made cases, being a material factor in this. But I was even more impressed by the fact that the collections here really do represent the natural history of the Darjeeling area, excepting, of course, the larger mammals. The bird collection is particularly fine and I wish to congratulate the Society on the habitat cases which are as near perfection as I have seen for their cost. Other cases too are good and the small mammals, generally, are presented in lively lifelike attitudes.

"The only weak spot in the Museum is the exhibited insect collection. This requires replacement of many of the specimens and on indication of the habits etc., of the commoner species. A small leaflet for visitors would be appreciated.

"During the past eight years I have seen over 2000 Museums in all parts of the British Empire, but rarely have I seen a small Museum that gave one an impression of so much keenness.

Sd/ S. F. MARKHAM  
*Empire Secretary*  
The Museum Association."

Before concluding I wish to state my gratitude for the kind interest and help received from the Governors of Bengal, since the time of H. E. Lord Lytton who took a very keen interest in all our doings.

I also wish to thank all the members of our Society for their generous support as well as those Fishing and Shooting Associations which have continually given us substantial donations, especially the Toorsa and Sankos Shooting and Fishing Association who have never reduced their substantial donation of Rs. 100/- per annum. To mention names of private individuals would be invidious where so many have been willing and generous helpers but there is one who stands out foremost and whose generosity I wish to place on record. He is Col. H. S. Wood. I. M. S. Not only has he given us constant help with articles for the Journal; from the beginning of Vol IV, published in June 1929, up to now, there are only two numbers in which there is no paper by this keen naturalist and that probably due to the Editor keeping back some articles. That alone would be worthy of mention but he has also, besides paying two annual subscriptions, given us for years an annual donation of Rs. 100/-, this year, unfortunately, through adverse circumstances, he was not in a position to do so in full but we have every hope that he will be able to do so in the future. I cannot impress too strongly the great debt of gratitude we all owe him for all he has done and is still doing for us.

I must also thank Mrs. Colthurst, Mr. P. V. Osborne and Mr. M. Sain for all the trouble they took over the taking of the excellent photographs to illustrate this resumé and so give our members an idea of some of our cases.

We will now conclude with sincerest thanks to our Committee who have been, at all times, a pillar of strength to us and to whose kind support and valuable advice is due any success the Museum has attained. Special thanks are due to Mr. F. J. A. Hart for all the time he has so willingly devoted to helping us in more ways than it is possible to mention.

Since going to press we have had the pleasure of receiving, through the kindness of Mr. Markham, a copy of "The Museums of India" which embodies the Survey of Indian Museums made by Messrs. Markham and Hargreaves and this volume, of 229 pages, (General Survey 98 and Directory and Index 131 pages) is published by "The Museums Association", London. We think our members will be pleased to read extracts from it which concern our own Museum and we quote the context so that the remarks may be intelligible. It is most gratifying that a small Museum like ours, out of 105 Museums in India, should receive so much attention and appreciation from experts on all Museum aspects.

Under "Administration" "the authors write "A further word must be said about the governing bodies. In a few cases they are really active, as at Bombay, Darjeeling and Patna."

Under "Personnel", "About thirty of the smaller Museums have a curator who would appear, on paper at any rate, to have many of the qualifications necessary for his post, but several of these lack the saving grace of energy to make their museums echo their ideals. Brilliant exceptions to this generalization are the museums at Darjeeling, Muttra, Peshwar and Taxila, the Lord Reay museum at Poena and the Archaeological Museum of Gwalior, while one or two of the college museums are most praiseworthy. The bulk of the smaller museums are in the hands of untrained

or ineffective curators whose incompetence is only matched by their laziness and indifference.”

Under “Taxidermy” appears the following :—Possibly no museum subject in India shows such a lack of competence as that of taxidermy. In the majority of museums, the methods and skill shown in the mounting of animals and birds are crude in the extreme, particularly so at Fyzabad and at the Victoria and Albert Museum at Bombay. The two brilliant exceptions to this generalization are the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay, and the much smaller museum of the Darjeeling Natural History Society. In both of these the taxidermic work is of a high standard. At the Indian Museum and at the Madras Museum the standard varies from case to case, and while some of these, such as the new bird case in the Indian Museum, are of great merit, the older exhibits leave much to be desired.”

Further on the authors state : “In almost every department of life in India there has developed a system of division of labour and where the curator in Europe or America would, if occasion requires, do any work from labelling to sweeping up, in India these specific duties tend to become more and more special appointments, and in some museums the incredible position is reached in which a marksman or labeller refuses to make labels for exhibits on the verandah, on the grounds that it is not within the terms of his appointment which was that of marksman in the Museum.

“There are, of course, admirable exceptions to this generalization and in several museums we have noticed that the curator has taken a personal pride in every aspect of museum work. Where this has happened, as in the Natural History Section of the Prince of Wales Museum at Bombay or at smaller Museums such as Darjeeling and the Lord Reay Museum at Poona, the result is excellent.”

With regard to labelling the authors write :—“Very few museums, however, are labelled with any degree of thoroughness. At Madras, Dehra Dun, the Central Asian Museum of Antiquities, Delhi, the Natural History Museum

at Darjeeling and a few others, the labelling is exceptionally good and includes excellent introductory and key labels in many cases."

Further on they state "In only a few museums are there relief models for either historical or geographical purposes but those at the Bangalore, Darjeeling and Lucknow Residency Museums are very good."

Under "Research Publications" the authors, after mentioning the various activities of the Bombay Natural History Society, write:—"In a much smaller way the Darjeeling Natural History Society is doing excellent work, and publishes quite an interesting Quarterly Journal with an illustration in colour. For many years there has been the closest collaboration between these two Societies, with great benefit to both and it is hoped this scientific collaboration will extend among other institutions."

Further on they say:—"Thus, only about twenty of the one hundred and five museums contribute anything towards an elucidation of their collections in terms of research publications and only archæology receives anything like a fair share of attention. Thanks to the Presidency Museums and those at Darjeeling and Nagpur, zoology is not entirely overlooked, but art, geology, ethnology and particularly the arts and crafts of India are very much neglected."

Under the head "Conclusions and Suggestions" the information regarding the expenditure on museums in India as compared with some others in the East is so interesting that we quote almost in *totum*. The authors write:—"Throughout this Survey of the museum movement in India we have had before us as the standard of comparison the museum services of North-West Europe and Northern America. It may be urged that this is too high a standard to apply to a tropical or semi-tropical country which has so recently set itself to acquire the best of Western learning. Let us, therefore, compare the services of India with adjacent areas such as Ceylon, British Malaya and Java.

“ In Ceylon, the total population of which is 5,000,000, just under 100,000 (£7,000) is spent annually on museums or about one-third of a penny per head. In British Malaya about £ 9,000 is spent annually on museums, or about  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per head.

“ In Java, which has a population of 42,000,000 (with Madura) about £ 25,000 is spent annually on museums or one-seventh of a penny per head. In other words, each of these territories spend at least four times as much per head on its museums as does India, since India's financial support to museums of all kinds amounts to one-thirtieth of a penny per head. Great Indian cities such as Ahmedabad (314,000), Amritsar (265,310), Cawnpore (244,000) and a dozen other cities of over 100,000 population have no public museum of any kind and even those cities which have museums compare poorly with those of other areas. Delhi for instance, which has a population within a few thousands of that of Singapore, has less than £ 1,500 allocated to its various museums, while £ 5,000 is provided for the Raffles Museum, and Delhi is the capital city of the most populous country in the world.

“ Colombo, with its population of 287,729 has Rs. 70,000 allotted annually to its main museum, while the Lucknow (274,659) Provincial Museum has an average annual expenditure of less than a quarter of that sum.

“ In other directions too, the comparison is not too favourable to India. The curatorship at Colombo, Singapore and Bataria is of a much higher level than that of the average Indian Provincial Museum ; pests are kept down with a firm hand ; labelling and arrangement will compare with the best European models, and research work is of a high order.

“ And yet India can do well, for some of the sections in the museums at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are of very high efficiency and the museums at Dehra Dun, Darjeeling, the Archæological Museum at Gwalior and the Sri Chitralayam at Trivandrum, show what can be done by keen, well trained curators whose heart is in their work

and who are not afraid to use their bands. This last phrase is fully meant for one of the weaknesses of the Indian museum movement is the habit that has grown up of some officials passing on their duties to their subordinates."

The authors then mention the necessity of reorganising many of the museums in India and, with regard to what can be done, in that light, write:—"Two of these museums have far-reaching reforms under consideration, and we can but hope the projected schemes will go through to a successful conclusion. The others require to be either drastically reorganised, or closed, and we cannot offer better examples of root and branch reorganisation than that which took place at Darjeeling in 1922, or is taking place in Gauhati."

Before closing I wish to make a very special appeal to our members and hope it will be responded to.

A lack of funds is the greatest obstacle we have to contend with. We are still suffering heavily from a 20% cut of our original Government grant, which is a very severe loss to us. If the standard of the Museum is to be kept up, and increased, we must have more money.

We now appeal, in all earnestness, to our members to help us in our need. If each member would rope in two new ones our funds would be increased sufficiently for our present needs and enable us to improve our Museum in several ways. If our appeal fails we shall have to discontinue the coloured plates in our Journal as a start, and our collections will certainly deteriorate. We do hope that all will realize the urgency of this appeal.

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GROUP OF THE INDIAN FOX  
(*Vulpes bengalensis*)

Photo I. SLATTER.



PAIR OF RED CAT-BEARS  
(*Ailuurus fulgens*)

Photo P. V. OSBORNE.



TIBETAN PARTRIDGE,  
(*Pevdia h. hodgsoniae*)

Specimen presented by Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, C.I.E.  
Photo P. V. OSBORNE.

AND

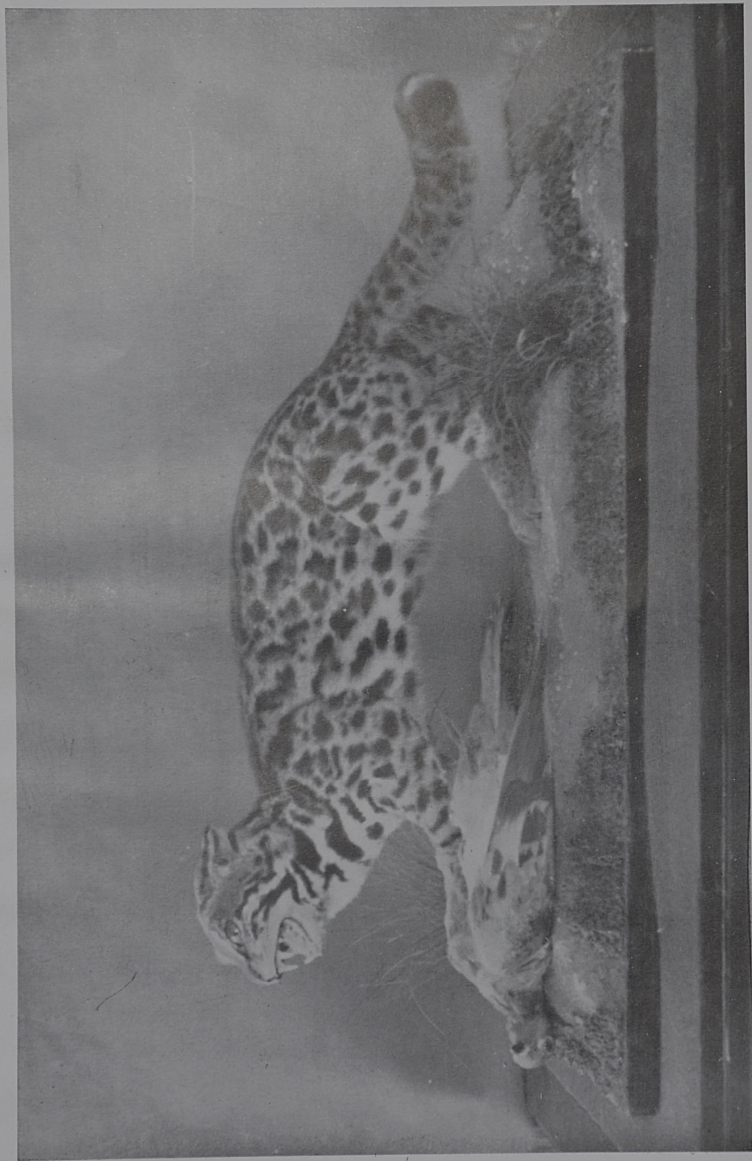
TIBETAN LYNX  
(*Felis isabellina*)

Specimen presented by H. Hyam, Esq.



PAIR OF CRIMSON HORNED PHEASANTS  
*Tragopan satyra*

Photo I. SLATTER.



LEOPARD CAT  
(*Prionailurus bengalensis*)  
Specimen presented by E. G. L. Webb, Esq.

Photo M. SAIN.



A PAIR OF FANTAIL SNIPE  
(*Capella g. gallinago*)  
Presented by J. T. Donovan, Esq.

Photo M. SAIN.



A GROUP OF ORIOLES

*Photo* I. SLATTER.



PROTECTIVE MIMICRY  
THE HOARY-BELLIED HIMALAYAN SQUIRREL  
(*Tomeutes l. lokroides*)  
and  
THE SIKKIM TREE-SHREW  
(*Tupaia belangeri lepcha*)

Photo P. V. OSBORNE.



OLD METHOD OF MOUNTING PEGS

Photo I. SLATTER.



PROTECTIVE MIMICRY HIMALAYAN BLACK DRONGO (*top*)  
 and  
 INDIAN DRONGO CUCKOO (*right*)  
 INDIAN SHIKRA (*bottom*)  
 and  
 BRAIN FEVER BIRD (*left*)

Photo I. SLATTER.



HEADS ON WALL AND CASE OF PAIR OF RHINO FEET AND CHINA MODEL.  
(vestibule)

Photo P. V. OSBORNE.



PORTION OF LARGE CENTRE CASE IN HALL

*Photo* M. SAIN.

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