



PEEPS AT MANY LANDS

THE
MALAY STATES

BY

PHILIP C. COOTE

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DOROTHEA A. H. ALDWORTH

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another in one dazzling array. Every shade of colour is there, and every language can be picked out from the babel of tongues.

Europeans, Malays, Chinese, and Indians own the race-ponies. The high-class Malays are very keen, and the Sultans of Perak and Johore are prominent and successful owners. Excellent sport is witnessed, and the race weeks are devoted to a round of social functions, which make them all the more enjoyable.

Little polo is played in Malaya, probably on account of the fact that, apart from half a battalion of Burma Rifles at Taiping, the only military in the peninsula is a single infantry battalion at Singapore. The Sultan of Perak has a polo team in which he himself plays, but the game is not so popular as it is in India.

Needless to say, there is plenty of big game in Malaya, but various licences must be obtained before the hunter can indulge in sport. There are also various penalties with which it is well to be *au fait* before commencing operations. Elephants, tigers, leopards, rhinoceros, seladang and wild pig provide excellent sport, while among the birds which provide for the sportsman are pigeon and snipe. There is plenty of good sport to be had in Malaya, since it is not so generally known as a field for the big-game hunter as Africa and India are, and it is more off the beaten track.

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remote parts are often broken down by elephants, which have also been known to hold up trains. The story is told of an elephant suddenly appearing one night on a road and causing the occupants of a Ford car to beat a hasty retreat. The motorists having abandoned their car, the elephant showed its contempt by picking up the Ford with its trunk, depositing it at the side of the road and then proceeding on its way. I am not prepared to guarantee the truth of this story.

The rhinoceros (*badak*) is found in the peninsula, the two-horned variety being more common than the one-horned species, which is almost extinct. The Malays have an interesting labour-saving method of trapping the *badak* which does damage to their crops. First they dig a pit large enough to hold their victim and bait it. A trap consisting of bamboos and other jungle wood is then constructed, but it is not taken to the pit until the victim is safely caught in the hole; then it is placed over the *badak*. The problem now is to remove the rhinoceros from the pit and keep it inside the cage. The Malay, being opposed on principle to doing any unnecessary work, lets the *badak* solve the problem. Anger at being caught enrages the victim, who tramples away at the sides of the pit and before long he has trodden away sufficient earth to walk over and out of the pit. A strong pole is placed between the animal's legs and

Fauna and Flora

thus, inside the cage, the rhinoceros is triumphantly led away.

Malaya and South America are the only two parts of the world in which that curious relic of prehistoric ages, the tapir, lives. Fossilised specimens of the tapir have been found in other places, but it survives only in Malaya and South America. It is a curious-looking yet harmless animal and is easily tamed, being found useful on estates.

The *sëladang*, a species of bison, is fairly common in some parts of the peninsula and is hunted, while the *kambing grun*, a mixture of goat and antelope, is found in rocky, mountainous districts, but is seldom shot on account of its shyness.

Tigers abound in Malaya and are frequently seen near the big towns as well as in the more remote up-country districts. The *harimau* of the Straits, though large, does not equal the tiger of India in size, nor are its propensities for man-eating so great. Black panthers are numerous but the spotted species is comparatively rare. Leopards frequent some parts of the peninsula, and a small though savage bear is another inhabitant of Malaya.

A large anthropoid ape, which makes a companionable pet for those who live a lonely life, inhabits the mountainous regions of the north, and there are gibbons which are also easily domesticated and are found throughout the country. A number of species of