

BURMA GAZETTEER

AMHERST DISTRICT

VOLUME A

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The report as to the springs medicinal value is of interest as contrasting with the report of Dr. Heifer quoted in the British Burma Gazetteer. He says:- "Their medical properties would render them excellent remedies in a number of diseases," and the local inhabitants do make use of them as medicinal baths, regarding them as giving good results in cases of gout and rheumatism.

An account of the minerals occurring in the district will be found under the heading 'Minerals' in Chapter V.

Botany.

The Botany of the district has been but little studied. It is of the usual sub-tropical type met with in the wet areas of Lower Burma, and ranges from the swamp variety near the sea to the evergreen forest type in the mountainous area on the east. There is abundant timber, particulars of which are given in Chapter V. The dhani, toddy and cocoanut palms abound, as well as a great variety of fruit trees, which include the doorian and the mangosteen. Orchids are common both in the plains and in the hills. Notable peculiarities in the district flora are the flowering tree *Amherstia*, which is said to be peculiar to this district and is of considerable beauty, and what is possibly a previously unknown variety of wild durian tree found on the Dawnas.

Fauna.

The principal members of the cat tribe found in the district are the tiger and the leopard, the former being very numerous in some parts. Elephant, bison, and saing (*bos son-daicus*) are to be found in the more hilly tracts. Wild pig are very numerous, and cause great damage to crops. The rhinoceros is to be found in some parts, but is not common. Of the deer tribe, the gyi, or barking deer and sambhur, are very common.

Monkeys and gibbons are numerous in the hills, and the former are very common on the limestone out-crops. Both the Malayan bear and the Himalayan black bear are found. A sort of wild goat is said to be found on the limestone out-crops but whether this is a true wild goat or an escape from domestication seems uncertain,

In the Ye Township alligators are to be seen in the numerous creeks, and the Malayan tapir is also said to have been found. Of game birds snipe, duck, quail and jungle fowl are the most common. Pigeons, doves and birds of the crane variety are very numerous. Snakes are not exceptionally plentiful, possibly owing to the annual submergence of so much of the plains of the district. They are, however, by no means absent, and include deadly varieties, such as the cobra and Russell's viper, the latter in particular being a bane to rice cultivators; especially in