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Indian Museum



1910/11

II.—Report of the Officer in charge of the Zoological and Anthropological Section.

I have the honour to submit to the Trustees my Annual Report on the work of the Zoological and Anthropological Section of the Indian Museum for the year 1910-1911. The report is divided into eight main sections dealing (1) with the general progress of the section; (2) with the staff of the section; (3) with the collections; (4) with the public galleries; (5) with the library; (6) with field work; (7) with research and publications; and (8) with the finances of the section.

I.—GENERAL.

The year, on the whole, has been one of prosperity, and it has been the first in which it has been possible to gauge the importance of the increase in the zoological staff effected at the end of the year 1909-1910. The archæological collections have been removed from their anomalous position in the "Natural History Section" to the care of the Director General of the Archæological Survey, while arrangements have been made to assume charge, at the beginning of the year 1911-1912, of the ethnological collections in their stead. The section will henceforward be known as the Zoological and Anthropological Section.

Towards the end of last year, however, the financial difficulties foretold in former reports began to make themselves seriously felt. Temporary relief has been gained by a generous gift of Rs. 18,475 from the new Education Department of the Government of India, under which the Museum has recently been placed, and the exercise of rigid economy

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AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION FOR 1910-1911.

- (3) A collection of Crustacea, including several types, presented by Dr. J. R. Henderson and Mr. G. Matthai.
- (4) A large collection of Crustacea presented by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland through Mr. S. W. Kemp.
- (5) A collection of fish from Burma presented by the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Maxwell.
- (6) A large and representative collection of insects and other animals from Ceylon partly presented by Mr. E. E. Green of Peradeniya and partly collected by Mr. F. H. Gravely.
- (7) A large collection of the fauna of Yunnan was made by Mr. J. Coggin Brown of the Geological Survey of India in the year 1909-1910 and recently added to the Museum, a small grant having been given to Mr. Brown, with the consent of the Director of the Geological Survey of India, to defray actual expenses. The Museum already possessed the greater part of the specimens collected in Yunnan by the late Dr. J. Anderson, F.R.S. in 1867-1868 and 1875, and Mr. Brown's collection, which is particularly rich in aquatic forms, will be most acceptable as increasing the representative nature of the Indian Museum so far as countries abutting on the frontiers of the Empire are concerned.

Messrs. M. Mackenzie and H. E. Walker have continued to send us collections chiefly composed of fish, but also including a few snakes, lizards, shells, etc.

By permission of His Highness the Maharaja Sir Chandra Shumsher Jung Bahadur of Nepal a fine Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was shot by the British Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Manners Smith, V.C., C.I.E., in the

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Nepal Terai, and the skin and bones were presented to the Museum.

The collection of Decapod Crustacea has been greatly increased during the year by exchanges with the British and Berlin Museums and with the New South Wales Department of Fisheries. Lists of the duplicates that we can spare in this group have been drawn up and circulated to several museums in Europe and America so that the collection is likely to be increased still further in this manner.

The following specimens have been sent out to specialists for identification or for study during the year :—

- (1) Several collections of leeches and ticks to Mr. A. E. Shipley, F.R.S., Editor of the " Fauna of India " (one lot of ticks returned named).
- (2) Two lots of Entomostraca to Prof. E. von Daday.
- (3) Two small collections of shells to Colonel H. H. Godwin Austen, F.R.S. (returned named with the exception of a few specimens).
- (4) A collection of shells (including two types of *Unio*) to Mr. A. E. Smith of the British Museum.
- (5) A collection of named rats examined and returned by Captain R. E. Lloyd, I.M.S.
- (6) A parasitic Copepod to Mr. Andrew Scott.
- (7) Three collections of Cicindelidæ to Dr. W. Horn (all returned named with the exception of one specimen).
- (8) Three lots of Coccidæ to Mr. E. E. Green (all returned named with the exception of one species).
- (9) A small collection of Actinians to Dr. F. Pax.
- (10) Recent additions to the collection of Crinoids to Mr. A. H. Clark.