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Man-eaters.

Straits Echo, 2 August 1905, Page 4

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Man-eaters.

With reference to the remarks upon man-eating tigers published in another

column it may be of interest to note that naturalists have come to the conclusion that the larger carnivora as a rule seldom take to preying upon man until they are growing old and decrepit or have been lamed by accident and so have not the necessary quickness and alacrity to prey upon the other denizens of the jungle. It is almost invariably the case that a man-eating tiger when shot will be found either to be lame or old, their teeth are generally decayed or broken and their skins mangy. This, of course, bears out the theory of the naturalists who have put two and two together and argued out cause and effect. The Malays, on the other hand, and the natives of India also, seem to have mistaken cause for effect and say that a man-eater can always be distinguished by his decayed or broken teeth and mangy skin. This also applies to man-eating crocodiles, and chatting with Malays we have often been told that the man-eating crocodile always has bad teeth. As a matter of fact we think that all evidence turns to the theory of the naturalists. It is a well-known fact that but few animals will attack man, and it is also equally patent that man is the least protected animal upon which a decrepit tiger could prey. The deer,

ant-lopes, cattle and other wild animals upon which the big carnivora prey have all more acutely developed senses than man; their hearing, eyesight and sense of smell are more fully developed and

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The Straits Echo.

The Straits Echo. J u"tic" -jrtiady, mid justice alone. —Kinrr"on Established June 1st, 1903. Published daily

Development in Malaya.





Development in Malaya. It affords us gr⁢"at pleasure to announce that the openings for investment of

Antarctic Exploration.

Antarctic Exploration. Dr. Jean Charcot yave an address at the meeting of the Royal Geographical

Man-eaters.

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they generally possess an added protection in their fleetness of foot. Man, on the other hand, from looking upon himself as the lord of creation, has grown to disregard the attacks of the beasts, he has manufactured weapons with which to slay them or drive them off, and the added security thus gained has resulted in his disregarding danger and the dulling of his three protective senses of sight, smell and hearing. But man unarmed is a very puny individual and hence it happens that when from old age, accident, or disease a tiger finds himself unable to obtain food he turns to man as being the most easily accessible prey, though, probably, he has to overcome a certain repugnance first. As for the distances travelled by tigers between kills, they are great. We have known of instances of kills being made by the same tiger as many as thirty-five miles apart. Master Stripes apparently knows that the hand of every man is against him, and unless he is confined to a small district by disease, lameness or natural causes, such as drought, or scarcity of game, he extends his depredation over many miles of country. It would be interesting if some of our Malayan sportsmen would record their experience of tigers and we shall always be pleased to publish any communications on the subject.

Mr. R. P. Nelson, only son of the late Mr. P. J. Nelson, Perak, has passed out of the Redruth School of Mines.

His Honour Mr. Justice Hyndman-Jones has proceeded to Pahang to hold the periodical assizes there.

THE Agricultural Department of the F.M.S. will be represented at the Agricultural Show by Messrs. Arden & Brown—they both come here as judges for certain classes of exhibits.

Mr. Murphy, of the Marine Department, Singapore, having declined the post of Harbour Master, Port Swettenham, it is rumoured in Kuala Lumpur that Mr. Hickey from Port Dickson will be appointed to the vacant post.

THE Federated Engineering Co., Ltd. appears to have had a very profitable half year's working, having already paid an interim dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ % for the half year. We congratulate the Manager of the firm on this good result.

THE Malay Mail bears that a Syndicate composed of Chinese Towkays is being formed in Kuala Lumpur to work the mining lands of H. H. the Yam Tuan of Negri Sembilan, the area of land to be pros-

pected and worked being over a thousand acres.

A SIMPLE method of preventing ankylostomal infection by way of the soil is described by Sir Patrick Manson. A West Indian sugar planter encouraged his coolies to dip their feet and legs in green Barbadoes tar and then tread on fine sand. An impervious covering to the skin of the lower extremities was thus obtained. We believe that if the coolie is entirely dipped in tar and then rolled in feathers he will be rendered less liable to tuberculosis.

EIGHTEEN tanks and twenty-five wells are being dug for the supply of water to the Army which assembles at Delhi on the occasion of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has for the present been allotted by the Commander-in-Chief for the work, which is being done under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner of Delhi, about 4,000 coolies being employed on it.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at Tokio at 1.20 a.m. on July 4 and was succeeded almost immediately by a rather severer shock, which lasted for a minute and fifty seconds, and was followed by some slight tremors. Altogether, the disturbance lasted for five minutes. There were further but very slight shocks at 7.19 on the same morning. It is reported from Yamagata that there was a severe earthquake there.

At the July Criminal Sessions at Hong-kong the Attorney-General rose and said it gave him pleasure to announce to His Lordship that there were no cases set down for trial at these sessions. He offered his congratulations to the Chief Justice and the community at large. Mr A. Seth (Registrar) then addressed His Lordship. It was a usual and ancient custom on occasions of this sort, he said, to present the presiding judge with a pair of white gloves enclosed in a neat casket, and it was his pleasant duty to ask His Lordship's acceptance of the present on this occasion. When, we wonder, will Penang boast a maiden assize?

THE clearance sale now in full swing at Whiteaway's in Beach Street, must have come as a perfect revelation to the scores of people who crowd this enterprising firm's well-stocked store from early morn till dewy eve. True to their public announcements, the goods which are going off like hot cakes are being disposed of at such low prices that the novice may be pardoned for thinking that many of the lots are below 'Home figures.' That they are not above them no one can doubt and that such a sale meets a long-felt want is made clear from the fact that such a big hole has already been made in the goods on show on Monday. The energetic manager is, we hear, now opening several

more cases with a view to clearing off the stock, nothing being held back. The time was when such a sale would have been quite impossible here, but the word Penang is now, happily, synonymous with prosperity and progress.

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