

obtained, some larvæ from fresh water and placed them in water from the Port Canning pools: they died within a few hours.

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MOSQUITOES FROM KUMAON.—Mosquitoes are very abundant in the lower parts of Kumaon at the end of September; during a visit to Bhim Tal (4,500 ft.) at that time of year the following species were collected: *Anopheles lindesayi* (Giles), *Toxorhynchites immisericors* (Walker), and *Stegomyia scutellaris* (Walker). (The last = *Culex albopictus*, Skuse.) All these were abundant, especially the first and the last. The *Anopheles* and the *Stegomyia* were breeding in water-butts by the side of European houses, and the latter also in cavities in jungle trees which had become full of rain-water.

N. ANNANDALE.

OLIGOCHÆTE WORMS.

PECULIAR HABIT OF AN EARTHWORM.—In the jungle at Bhim Tal I was surprised to find that hollows in trees which had become filled with dead leaves and rain-water, contained enormous numbers of small earthworms, all belonging to the same species. Dr. W. Michælsen, of Hamburg, has kindly examined specimens and says that they belong to the genus *Perionyx* and probably to the widely distributed species *P. excavatus*. All the specimens sent him proved to be immature, and although I made a careful search for individuals with the clitellum developed, I could not find any. The specific identification, therefore, is a little uncertain. The worms lay at the edge of the cavities, with the posterior half of the body sunk in the water and the anterior half closely applied to the wood; when touched they retreated among the dead leaves below the water. They occurred in large masses, which, owing to their bright coral-red colour and apparently filamentous structure, I mistook at first sight for fungi. I noticed that on a wet day the worms left the cavities and crawled about on the tree-trunks. Apparently they did so also at night, for I found many of them on the trunks early in the morning, while others were observed at this time of day crawling across paths and even roads. Those which were caught by the sun in such positions were killed, and almost every morning dead individuals, which apparently had perished because they had not reached a damp situation early enough, could be found on the exposed road surrounding the lake. I have noticed in the Malay Peninsula that certain species of Scorpion are subject to the same danger.

Together with the worm, I took in the tree-hollows numerous larvæ of the Mosquito *Stegomyia scutellaris* and of a beetle (probably an Elaterid), while I observed a handsome Tipulid, which Mr. E. Brunetti has identified as *Pseliophora chrysophila* (Walker), laying its eggs on the wood at the edge.

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