

MISCELLANEA.

REPTILES.

NOTES ON THE DARJILING SKINK (*Lygosoma sikkimense*).—On several occasions during the "rains" I have found small lizard's eggs hidden in little pockets in the damp moss on tree-trunks near Kurseong, without being able to assign them to any species. There can now be no doubt that their parent is *Lygosoma sikkimense*. As most skinks are ovoviviparous, the fact is interesting. Two clutches of four eggs each were found at an altitude of 4,700 feet in the last week of June. Those of one were allowed to become dry, and shrivelled up. The embryos in them were in an early stage of development. The other clutch was brought alive to Calcutta and apparently lived for about a fortnight, without hatching. The eggs were dissected on July 12th and found to contain perfectly formed little lizards, dead but not decomposed. They had a stiff but not calcareous white shell and measured 10 mm. \times 6 mm., the ends being equally rounded. The young lizards had bright red tails and measured about 37 mm. when stretched out.

I may here state that I obtained last year a specimen of Stoliczka's "*Mocoo sacra*," the type of which is in the collection of the Indian Museum, from the top of Paresnath Hill in Chota Nagpur. An examination of the two specimens, which must have been found in closely adjacent spots, shows beyond a doubt that the species they represent is identical with *Lygosoma sikkimense*, as Boulenger stated it to be. But I have been able to obtain no evidence of the occurrence of this lizard in any locality intermediate between the Himalayas and Paresnath, which is separated from them by the whole breadth of the Ganges valley but is the only mountain in Bengal proper that reaches an altitude of over 4,000 feet.

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INSECTS.

COCKROACHES AS PREDATORY INSECTS.—As actual records of cockroaches acting as predatory insects appear to be rare, the following note has some biological interest. On the evening of June 9th, during a heavy downpour of rain, numerous termites flew into my dining room in Calcutta and were borne to the floor by the currents of air set up by the electric fan. As they lay struggling many of them fell a prey to a lizard (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*), while others were devoured by cockroaches (*Periplaneta*