

XXXII.—NOTE ON THE ASHOKA TREE.

The article in the April number of the *Journal* describing the Ashoka Tree has encouraged me to write a note on uses for the fruit and flowers of a variety of this tree which have not, so far as I know, been recorded.

In Malaya there is a tree called in the vernacular *Tenglan* or *Tenglan*, which is classed by the Forest Department as a *Saraca* of an unidentified species. The illustrations on plates 19 and 20 of the flowers and fruit of *Saraca indica* (the Asoka tree) might easily pass as illustrations of those of the *Tenglan*.

The seeds of the *Tenglan* are eaten by Malays, who either place the pod in the fire and eat the cooked or half-cooked bean or take the beans out of the pod and boil them. Sometimes they eat the beans raw. Malay medicine-men utilize the sap from the bark of the tree as an astringent for the dressing of superficial wounds or ulcers. I do not think any use is made of the juices as an internal medicine.

The flowers of the *Tenglan*, which often grow on the hole of the tree, are eaten by the Two-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*), which seem to appreciate them whenever they come across a tree in flower and the flowers are within their reach. I have never seen where the pods or seeds have been eaten by them, although the *Rhinoceros sumatrensis* is very fond of many jungle fruits and seeds.

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June 24, 1933.

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