resast vinous buff-brown, with small semilunar spots scattered down he sides; bill fleshy horn; nape and occiput overed with buff down. It ran minbly, and rested generally on its knees (or heels: the rested persons of the state of the stat

ORNITHOGN

A VISIT TO THE COLLECTION OF BRITISH BIRDS MADE BY THE LATE J. D. HOY, ESQ., OF STOKE-BY-NAYLAND.

By C. B. BIER, M.D.

(continued from page 250.)

A MONG THE NOTICES of raptorial birds contributed by the care one or two which deserve notice before I proceed.

A MONG THE NOTICES of raptorial birds contributed by the care one or two which deserve notice before I proceed.

A money of the contributed of the care of the care

ones, canornogo, and Herts, in which counties also the specimens are killed."
In the volume for 1832 is a most interesting account of one of his hito-tailed engles laying eggs in confinement. This was done by a lay who escaped from her 20 yards of strap and cord, and in one days was a remarkable event. It occurs now, I believe, every are in the Zoological Gardens.

In the same paper as the above Mr Hoy records the capture of a lae honey buzzard at Tendring Hall, which he had an opportunity dissecting, and of which the craw and stomach were filled with sps and rynphe from the comb; also a few small beetles. The same claws of the bird were very dirty, which was due, Mr Hoy suggests, to the duty having been imposed upon them of enlarging who to get the wasps.

dissecting, and of which the craw and stomach were filled with an and nymphs from the comb; also a few small beetles. The sea and claws of the bird were very dirty, which was due, Mr. Hoy suggests, to the darly having been imposed upon them of calarging he hole to get the wasps.

Mr. Hoy suggested that this bird was only a numner victant, as twodd find it difficult to get food thring winter. A female of this pecies was sufu in the combination of the combination of the process of the combination of the combination of the process of the combination of the comb

the birds alluced to in two pages.

the birds alluced to in two pages in of Natural History, we presently.

by "grow shrike," usually called the great grey or great out of his proposented in case 123. There are three apparent of the pages of the page 12 to the

tinged with a vinous colour. It is probable that the been frequently mistaken for each other. It been frequently mistaken for each other. It mands a think bird are very interesting, as his knows derived from personal observation on the Contif Pamed a "butcher bird," for it hovers like a kestred, gilt its mouse or young bird, impales it on a thorn or food when wanted. It builds most frequently and wooded districts, often building its nest on firt in the fork of an oak or other tree at a consider a be ground. It never builds in low bushes or her

ool, fine grass, and feathers."

Mr Hoy goes on to give a mo
high this bird is used by fale

sol, fine grass, many war.

Mr Hoy goes on to give a most atmospheric this bird is used by falconers to assist them may be a successful the first bird is used by falconers to assist them may be a successful the first bird is used by falconers to assist them may be a successful the falconer constructs a low turf hat in an open part of the murry, with a string attached to 100 yards istance from the hat a light-coloured pigeon is placed in a hole in a ground overed with turf, with a string attached to it which agree a successful the first property of the string to the first property of the

(Lamiss excursor) is assessed as yard in height, and a few yards distant from the hut; a small assess a yard in height, and a few yards distant from the hut; a small assessed and a piece of turf laid over, for a place of retreat in case is made, and a piece of turf laid over, for a place of retreat in case is "The fallooner, employing himself in some sedentary occupation, observes overly motion of his little watch, and it is almost incredible at how great a distance he will point a falcon in the air. If it agroeaches he shows symptoms of alarm, drawing in his feathers, and fixing his yeas in the same direction. On a nearcr amproach he screams aloud, the falcon being them perhaps not less than threat the same of the content of the conceals himself. It is then the falconer draws out the pigcons where the nets are fixed, which, fluttering round, generally tempt the hawk to make a stoop at one of them, which, if he takes, he is inoritably ensuared. While the falcon is near the shrike continues in his hiding place, hardly daring to show the same of the content of the content

those who take an interest in that portion of contithology which the present pages are intended to illustrate, have lost a most arclent and secossful companion in the death of Mr Hoy. I have greatly to regret his loss, for had he been iting is should have been canabled, as will be seen from the frequent quotations from his information in my former work, to have given most of the present.

Of the red-backed shrike Mr Hoy gives the following account of the singular abnormity in plumage of the female in case 114: "I have a female bird of the red-backed sherike following account of the singular abnormity in plumage of the female in case 114: "I have a female bird of the red-backed sherike (Lanius collurio) in the fall garb of the adult male. I had found the nest, and observed the female, I was indued to shoot both, and on dissection one proved the female, I was indued to shoot both, and on dissection one proved the female, I was indued to shoot both, and on dissection one proved the female, I may be a female of the red to the shoot of the shoot o

he communicated a paper on its habits to the Magazine of Natural History.

A word or two about the red-breasted flycatcher, Muscicapa parva, as a new British bird, will not, I think, be out of place here.

This bird is figured and described in my "Birds of Europe," vol. i, p. 172, It is an inhabitant of Hangary, Austria, and Rassin, being found accidentally only in France, Switzerland, and Raly. Its range extends to India.

In habit this interesting little flycatcher is said by Temminok to be very similar to our robin but Nordmann, who is well acquainted within its outer both of the state of the stoneshat; and this confirmed by Mr. Edward Heale Rodd, to whom we are indebted for its introduction to our British fauna. Three specimens altogether have been obtained by that gentleman from the Soilly Isles. Two of them are recorded in the Zoologist for 1863, pp. 8448 and S811, and the third in the same publication for 1863, p. 1848.

The egg of M. parva, of which I have authentic specimens, is not like that of either of our other dynacthers. It resembles the egg of the robin, but is much smaller. The Tardicke in Mr Hoy's collection are represented by missel threads (69); ring ousla, next and organized and egge and represented by missel threads (69); ring ousla, next and egge and cage are represented by missel threads (69); ring ousla, next and egge and egge and cage of the robin, but is much smaller. The Tardicke in Mr Hoy's collection

ame publication for 1896, p. 31. which I have authentic specimens, is not her flycatchers. It resembles the egg of ller. The Turdide in Mr Hoy's collection thrushes (68); ring onsels, nest and eggs [55]); fieldfares with ring onsels (225); frigden orioles, male and female, and pied variety (247); fieldfares pers (118).

(To be continued.)

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

ter ouzels dive and walk under the water, but I never saw one "c" like my friend of this morning. - F. BUCHANAN WHITE,

THE MUNGOOSE AND COBRA POISON .- With refe

FOREIGN FIELD

THE BENGAL SOONDERBUNS.

BY THE ABOVE TITLE is known the vast expanse of forest and morass which extends from the mouth of the Hooghly, on the west, to about the Megran, or large river formed by the junction of the main stream of the Ganges with the Bramabpootrah, on the

of the main stream of the Ganges with the Braumbpoortal, on the cast.

The dolta lying between these rivers is intersected by several other channels—some of which, such as the Hooringotta, Bulephur, Mutlah, &c., are much larger than the Hooghly—and by immunerable small streams, forming a perfect labyrinth, and dividing the delta into a great number of islands, some large, some small, and which are for the most part covered with a dense and almost it has a superfect labyrinth, and dividing the delta into a great number of islands and should be a superfect labyrinth, and dividing the water of the most part covered with a dense and almost it has islands of the Dacademic that the superfect labyrinth and the sea, from which These islands, formed of the alluvial deposit brought down by the Ganges from the plains of Bongal, are but little elevated above the sea flower of the sea from the sea from

pitable shore.

The jungle which covers the greater portion of the twenty-pergunals is, contrary to the general but erronous belief a program of the program

a country far more interesting, whether to the minimises we postsman.
ontering the archipelago which forms the eastern portion of re, the traveller finds himself for the first time in the "forest yad," and marvellously romantic and striking is the scenery di him. The banks are for the most part covered with dense ats of the sconder tree, which has a fall, thin stem and dark e, and which, growing as it does in compact masses, would prevarber sombro aspect were they not relieved by the see accountries is a strange broad-leafed plant, which, to the best of my ledge, is only found on the banks of these tidal rivers and croeks, which is quite different from the ecocannt tree. The fruit of water. The well-known bany Ficus tribe, common on me distribe trees reartheir major vegetation. Of grasses, the m it of about fifteen feet, is it shes; the bamboo is also,

is heightened by the profound silence, only broke the eddying current, the long sonorous roar of the heavy splash with which some large align much behan where he has been in silence expe-the miswling of tiger eats. The singularly scheen these solitudes is much increased by the number of which hang in festoons from tree to tree, or ong the ground. There are several flowers with w

mames I am not acquainted; but, on the whole, the flora of these regions does not appear to be very extensive.

The fauna of the Sonderbuns is exceedingly interceting. Of the larger animals are found the ribnorderous buffale, and tiger; there are larger animals are found the ribnoreces, buffale, and tiger; there are found in great numbers. That singular lizard the goun, or ignams, is very common, but does not seem to be ever used as an article of food, as is the case in South America and some of the West India islands. The jackal, so common in most parts of India, is, like the wolf, seldom or never met with in the Soonderbuns, and the author has no recollection of ever either seeing or hearing of a leopard. Alligators of great size and feroutly swarm in every creek: they and many are the stories told by the natives of their attacking the tigers; for these latter animals, though eats, have no objection to enter the water, and have often been seen swimming across the rivers in pursuit of deer. The aligator is said by the natives occasionally to attack the smaller dinghies or canoes, but the writer does not vouch for the truth of this story. The tiger, however, has often bearded boats, and I know of an instance in which one often bearded boats, and I know of an instance in which one found sleeping on deck. The large python (misnamed by Europeans" boas") abounds everywhere, and attains a length of some fifteen feet, though here, as in other parts of India, it is seldom seen. It is, however, much dreaded by the wood test, who demand the locality showers, much dreaded by the wood test, who demand the healthy season are employed in outling wood for the Calcutt it is seldom seen. It is, however, much dreaded by the wood test, who demand the locality skin, the markings on the dorsal scales of which resemble what are called in heraldry chevrons, and are of the riches at an most varied colours.

and covered with numerous small round white spots, is called by the natives of Ondh cheef; another species has a most beautiful skin, the markings on the dorsal scales of which resemble what are called in heraldry chevrons, and are of the richest and most varied colours.

I remember being present at the capture of one of these serpents, which no being opened was found to contain an entire doe serpents, which no being opened was found to contain an entire doe serpents, which no being opened was found to contain an entire doe serpents, which no being opened was found to contain an entire doe and the body well abricated with the skin had been removed, and the body well abricated with the head of the skin had been removed, doubtless for this very purpose, has plentifully supplied the reptile. The legs had been broken and most scientifically tucked under the body of the animal, so as to interfere as little as possible with its passage through the gullet. This python was about fifteen feet long, and the diameter of the body where thickest was not greater than the diameter of the body where thickest was not greater than the diameter of the body where thickest was not remark body of the sands had returned to its natural size, with the exception of the paument, which was predigionally distended. This monstrous reptile actually writhed for some minutes after we had removed its intestines. Of smaller snakes and other reptiles there are a great number, and in all the districts adjoining the Soonderbuns death from snake-blue appears to be of common occurrence.

I have a subject of the zoology of the somethrous, I then all mention the to be of common occurrence.

I have a subject of the zoology of the somethrous the sound of the so

Ans will cause the tiger to look up, when his eyes will present the appearance of two spots of green fire; the sights of the rife or gun, which should be covered with white cotion or lime, can then be easily which should be covered with white cotion or lime, can then be easily the rest.

The tigers of the Soonderbuns are heavy, powerful animals, but shorter both in the body and limes than those found in other parts of India. A large number of them are, owing to their being frequently brought in contact with the woodcutters, who traverse these islands in gangs, "man-eaters," and, like all man-eating tigers, very is called "walking up," and, should stable so get at them by whate is still engaged in the case, he may find to his chagrin that it is the tiger who is "walking up," and, should stable so get at them by whate is still engaged in the case, he may find to his chagrin that it is the tiger who is "walking up," and, should still free the case, he may find to his chagrin that it is the tiger who is "walking up," him up.

The woodcutters who carn on those desolate shores a precerious livelihood are a singular race, quite different from the ordinary Bengaless, whom, apparently, they resemble in being, like all namals invaluable, and include the stronger of th

It is far from being uncommon, but is so cautious, and inhabits such impassable swamps, that one is rarely seen, and till more rarely killed. The rhinoceas appears to subsist upon such food as can carry off almost any amount of lead, if not struck in the heart or neck; and large riffes, carrying heavy clarges of powder, are therefore required to pursues him with success. State of the skin, Barrels for shooting in such heavy corer should of course be an experiment of the skin. Barrels for shooting in such heavy corer should of course be a constructed of the skin. Barrels for shooting in such heavy corer should of course be a constructed of the skin. Barrels for shooting in such heavy corer should of course to construct a sile of falling interesting the state of the skin. Barrels for shooting in most others—see discovered the same of falling in the same of the skin in the characteristic of sports—as it is indeed, in most others—for the main in form roots of the sounder trees. These grow out of the main in formation of the same part of the same in the same indeed in the same indeed

the dear jungle. So the broken-down soldier thinks not of
the long marches, the long wet night around the bivone,
the occasional insolence of superiors, or the roll-call the moraing after the battle, but of the glorious moment when he
was one of the brave men composing the column marching
to the fight, and she heart best high at the sound of the trumpet or
even in lost enjoyments!

The origin of this word "Soonderbun" has been alrays a
subject of controversy, some believing it to be composed of
the Hindee words soonder (beautiful), and bun (a bath); others
thinking it to mean simply the bank on which the
tree grows. On this subject I dare not venture an opinion,
but the tree would seem to be called soonder or soonder on account
of its graceful beauty. There appear to be two species of this tree,
one having the light feathery leaves of a dark colour, while the
one having the light feathery leaves of a dark colour, while the
one having the light feathery leaves of a dark colour, while the
of Eastern Bengal that shooting in these,
if that is his object, no tvery large, while, when padings
the streams, he is exposed to the piercing rays of a tropical smog
the streams, he is exposed to the piercing rays of a tropical smog
the streams, he is exposed to the piercing rays of a tropical smog
the streams, he is exposed to the piercing rays of a tropical sand
which no European experience can give him the faintest idea. A
thick helmet of solah, a kind of pith, is indispensable, and it is well
to provide a large white umbrella to be held over him by a servant
while he is seated in his cance, for the glare and heat on the water
are often terrifice, adoppira to dolore.

But such trifles nover discourage the true naturalist or sportsman,

Sotto focile, a doppiar lo dolore.

But such trifles never discourage the true naturalist or sportsman.

R. H. D., Lieut. Bengal Army.

A WINTER'S RUN IN TEXAS

R. H. D., Lient. Bengal Army.

A WINTER'S RUN IN TEXAS.

BY "THE RANGER."

It is VERY DIFFICULT for a man who has led a wild, free life in a foreign wilderness to enddenly settle down and do the respectable in the artificial conventionalities of London act down and the respectable in the artificial conventionalities of London and the number of the conventionalities of London and the number's thirst of sport outweigh the civilised attractions; and they are again relinquished, as of no worth, for the camp. free, the mustang, and the rife option the set of sport outweigh the civilised attractions; and they are again relinquished, as of no worth, for the camp. free, the mustang, and the rife, and the lights his pipe, rolls himself ap succept the keep, him warm, and be lights his pipe, rolls himself ap succept in the wood and keep the Br. are relinquished. For the belows has exhausted his powers, and soon the red-birds and wrons twittering in the bushes announce that the hitherto invisible sun is about to shine out warmly, and that it will shortly be warm enough to hunt. It may be that, instead of the weather being too cold, it is too to to hunt; and the cool morning and the cool evening, when the larling weather, the cool morning and the cool evening, when the larling weather, the cool morning and the cool evening, when the larling eventual to shall be a sught in the stream which supplies the camp with water. As the sailty day closes, the mosquitos may sound their bloodthirsty warny and under the shade of some great live-oak, plenty of sha are to be caught in the stream which supplies the camp with water. As the sailty day closes, the mosquitos may sound their bloodthirsty warny and under the shade of some great live-oak, plenty of sha are to be caught in the stream which supplies the camp with water. As the sailty day closes, the mosquitos may sound their bloodthirsty warny and under the shade of some great live-oak, plenty of sha are to be caught in the stream which supplies the camp with water. As the sailty day

long been accustomed to do. That wish has been grained, and, retube benefit of those who may desire to go and dol'tewise, I will try to show them how to get to Texas, and where to go when they arrive there.

The shortest possible route by which to reach Texas is by a steamer from Liverpool to New York, which will occupy about Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from New York to Galveston Texas, which is made in nine ore from the latter by steamford down the Mississippi; but that proved to be much longer and more expensive that the other.

By the Canadian route you do well enough so long as you are in Canada. Mr Rassal, at the St. Louis, and from the latter and the Hogan, at the standard that the provided of the standard that any sevence Hotel, Montreal, spare no pains or trouble to assist in any sevence Hotel, Montreal, spare no pains or trouble to assist in any sevence Hotel, Montreal, spare no pains or trouble to assist in any sevence Hotel, Montreal, spare no pains or trouble to assist in any sevence Hotel, Montreal, spare no pains or trouble to assist in the pain of the Montreal not the sevence of Canadian salmon and trout. But when once out of Canadia the Englishman's troubles and annoyances begin, for the railway officials, every one of them, do their best to break and injure your luggage, pitching trunks and generates so not the platform with all the violence in their power, and the keepers of the American hotels the province of the Montreal and the Steamen House of Canadian school and the Steamen House of Canadian school and the Steamen House of Canadian school and the Steamen House of the Montreal and the Steamen House of Canadian school and the Steamen House of Canadian school and the Steamen House of Canadian

to as much acuse and annoyance as the captain, officers, stewards, etc., can comfortably crowd in upon him in the space of about fifty here. It is a considered to the contract of the contrac

out knowing it, and aware irreasant our water are
you.

Houston, on a very small scale, is a sort of Clapkam Junction,
as four or five railroads leave it in different directions, and I am told
that in a short time another line or two will be finished; one of them
a very dismible one in my opinion, as it will knock the monopoly of
the detestable "Morgan Line" on the head—will connect it with
Naw Orlanas.

the defeatable "Morgan Line" on the head—will connect a bow Orleans.

I took the rail to Columbia on the Brasos river, which is about fifty miles from Honston, but cannot any much in its favors. All the American roads, at least such as I travelled, are awful compared with ours, and the pace upon them is nothing to brag about; but the Houston and Columbia was the very slowest of all I ever saw, and it took us ten hours to do the fifty miles. If a man's is the blows off, he can easily recover: it and eatch up with the train. In the old kines no one was ever, in a hurry, unless a deer was crippled, and the Texans used to believe with the Arabs, Agilet lik Shatlan, "hurry is