

August 26, 1834.

William Yarrell, Esq., in the Chair.

An extensive series was exhibited of skins of *Mammalia*, collected in Nepâl by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., Corr. Memb. Z. S., and presented by that gentleman to the Society. It included twenty-two species, several of which were first made known to science by the exertions of Mr. Hodgson, while others still remain to be described by him.

A paper "On the *Mammalia* of Nepâl," written by Mr. Hodgson, has been read before the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and has been published in the 'Journal' of that Society: but Mr. Hodgson has availed himself of the opportunities which have occurred to him since it was written, to make various additions and corrections in the copy transmitted by him to the Society, portions of which have been read at several previous meetings.

Mr. Hodgson's paper commences by an account of the physical characters of Nepâl, which are so varied, according to the elevation of the several districts, as to render it necessary, when treating on its natural productions, to divide it into three regions. The lower region consists of the Tarâi or marshes, the Bhawar or forest, and the lower hills, and has the climate of the plains of Hindoostan, with some increase of heat and great excess of moisture. The central region includes a clusterous succession of mountains, varying in elevation from 3000 to 10,000 feet, and having a temperature of from  $10^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$  lower than that of the plains. The juxta-Himalayan region, or Kachâr, consists of high mountains, the summits of which are buried for half the year in snow: the climate has nothing tropical about it, except the succession of the seasons.

Mr. Hodgson then enumerates the *Mammalia* which have been observed in Nepâl, adopting in their arrangement the system of Cuvier, and noticing as regards each the region in which it occurs. He adds occasional remarks as to their habits; and notices many which appear to him to be undescribed.

The following is an abstract of this portion of his communication:

#### QUADRUMANA

are limited to the southern region, where Mr. Hodgson is aware of the existence of

*Semnopithecus Entellus*, F. Cuv., which has been introduced by religion into the central region, where it flourishes, half domesticated, in the neighbourhood of temples.

*Sciurus Palmarum*, Linn. Abundant in the southern region.

*Sciurus* n. s.?, of an earthy brown colour tipped with golden yellow, occurs in the central region.

*Sciuropterus nitidus*, F. Cuv. In the lower and central regions, but rarely in the latter.

*Mus decumanus*, Linn.,

*Mus Rattus*, Linn. Both very numerous and troublesome.

*Mus Musculus*, Linn. Very uncommon.

Field Mice are frequently met with.

#### EDENTATA.

*Manis* n. s., allied to *Man. Javanica*, Desm. Of frequent occurrence in the hills of the lower region and in the mountains of the central tract.

#### PACHYDERMATA.

*Elephas Indicus*, Cuv.,

*Rhinoceros unicornis*, Cuv., are both abundant in the forest and hills of the lower region, whence in the rainy season they issue into the cultivated parts of the Tarâi to feed upon the rice crops.

Mr. Hodgson suggests that there are two varieties, or perhaps rather species, of the *Indian Elephant*, the Ceylonese and that of the Saul forest. The Ceylonese has a smaller lighter head, which is carried more elevated; it has also higher fore-quarters. The *Elephant* of the Saul forest has sometimes five nails on its hinder feet.

The *Rhinoceros* goes with young from seventeen to eighteen months and produces one at a birth. At birth it measures 3 feet 4 inches in length, and 2 feet in height. An individual born at Katmandoo eight years since measures now 9 feet 3 inches in length; 4 feet 10 inches in height at the shoulders; the utmost girth of his body is 10 feet 5 inches; the length of the head, 2 feet 4 inches; of the horn, 5 inches: he is evidently far from being adult. It is believed that the animal lives for one hundred years; one, taken mature, was kept at Katmandoo for thirty-five years without exhibiting any symptoms of approaching decline. The young continues to suck for nearly two years. It has when born and for a month afterwards a pink suffusion over the dark colour proper to the mature hide.

*Sus. scrofa*, Linn., var.

#### RUMINANTIA.

*Cervus Axis*, Erxl.

*Cervus porcinus*, Zimm.

*Cervus* n. s.?, a brown porcine *Axis*.

*Cervus Elaphus*, Linn.,?

*Cervus Aristotelis*, Cuv.

*Cervus equinus*, Cuv.