

separated by ridges and projections of stalactite-like substance, which lines also the pools themselves. Similar deposits in tropical streams have been observed elsewhere, as in Roaring River, Jamaica.*

It was elicited by Captain Tizard, from the Malays at Dobbo, that a deer abounds in the northernmost of the Aru Islands; no doubt it is of the same species as the deer of Amboina (*Rusa moluccensis*): I was shown the horns. It must have been introduced either by the Malays or Dutch.

The Chinese dealers in Manchester and Birmingham goods and arrack at Dobbo, used cajuput oil as a preservative for their Birds of Paradise skins, to keep off ants and other insects.

Books referring to the Aru Islands. "Discoveries in Australia," also "An Account of Capt. Owen Stanley's Visit to the Islands of the Arafura Sea," by J. Lort. Stokes, Commander, R.N., Vol. II., p. 333. London, Boone, 1846.

"Voyage of the Dutch Brig 'Dourga.'" Trans. by W. Earle. Madden & Co., London, 1840.

A. R. Wallace, F.R.S., etc., "The Malay Archipelago."

The Ke Islands, September 24th and 25th, 1874.—We crossed over from the Aru Islands to the Ke Islands, taking a day on the passage, and dredging and sounding between the two groups, finding a depth of 300 fathoms. Whilst we were off the coast of Great Ke Island several boats full of natives put off to the ship. The boats were described by Wallace. They are shaped like whale boats, and are fastened together with rattans.

The crews used paddles with long blades pointed at the ends and cross handles. They paddled in time with a chanted cadence identical with one used by the Fijians in their dances, "ē ai ō tum tum." At intervals the sound rose loud from the approaching boats as it was taken up in chorus.

The chant was accompanied by a drum with a tense membrane, on which two sounds were made by striking it slightly with the tips of the fingers or more violently with the palm of the hand, the sound reminding one that one was getting, in one's travels, nearer towards India.

The men, a boat-load of whom came on board, were like the Aru Islanders, but mostly, I thought, stronger built. They wore their hair long and loose, and had no ornaments. Most of them wore only an apron of cloth. All of them were in the most horrible state of skin disease, their skins being in a rough scurfy condition in many cases all over the body. I have not seen elsewhere such bad cases of vegetable itch. The disease

* Sir H. T. de la Beche, F.R.S. "The Geological Observer," p. 13, 2nd Ed. London, Longman, 1853.