

COFFEE IN JAMAICA.

A Novel Auction.—Among the properties brought to the hammer at Tokenhouse-yard yesterday, was a freehold estate in the parish of Manchester, Jamaica, consisting in all of about 3481 acres of coffee growing, pasture and orange growing lands. Bidding was exceptionally keen, with the result that a sale was effected at £4,330.—*Daily Chronicle*, May 10.

TEA IN THE WYNAAD.

COLOMBO TEA MARKET AS THE MINING LANE OF THE EAST.

Now that the Wynaad Tea Company has commenced operations, it may be said that the cultivation of this product has been firmly established in this district, which, it has been proved, is so well suited for it. It is a matter for regret that it was not taken up sooner and when coffee Arabica showed unmistakable signs of dying back in certain localities that its place was not at once occupied by the Indica. However better late than never. This new departure has caused a good deal of attention to be attracted in one way and another to Wynaad, which is all the better if only it is followed by capital. Ceylon stands forth as a great tea-producing country, and so it is not surprising that comparisons have been made with that Island. Comparisons, said Mrs. Malaprop, are odorous; and we may add they are quite as often ridiculous. Nevertheless people will make them. It was only the other day that we published a letter from "Old Wynaadian," a gentleman who took a jaundiced view of Ceylon generally, while boasting in an unnecessarily extravagant tone, so it is emed to us, of his own district; and now we see that a correspondent has written to a contemporary stating that Wynaad can easily oust Ceylon from the tea-market. It is perhaps hardly necessary to remark that there is about as much sense in this observation as if he had said Mysore can easily oust Brazil from the coffee market. Not only will Wynaad not oust Ceylon from the tea markets of the world, but neither will Southern India. It would need a bold prophet to prophesy today that ten years hence the total exports of tea from Southern India amounted to ten million lbs. Ceylon, it seems to us, is creating a necessary bugbear out of Southern India; its own extensions are likely to do it far more harm than ever the latter will. So far as Wynaad is concerned, it is to the advantage of Ceylon that tea should be cultivated there, for it has been shown that this Indian District produces a leaf drawing strong full-bodied liquor, which mixes well with Ceylon leaf of inferior quality and therefore creates an increased demand for the latter. We should like to see the import duty on Indian teas withdrawn by the Ceylon Government, as there is no doubt that Travancore also grows a tea that mixes well with much of Ceylon, and when the young fields of Wynaad come into bearing, as they will shortly, there will be still greater supply of this quality. It is always an advantage to an agricultural enterprise to have a good market close to its doors, and, so far as we are aware, it is not to the disadvantages of the market-town to have fresh fields to draw its supplies from. There is no reason why Colombo should not become the Mining Lane of the East. The tea industries of Ceylon and Southern India ought to work more in harmony with one another than they do at present for we feel certain that it would be greatly to their mutual advantage.—*M. Mail*.

A NEW COCCID FROM CEYLON.

The latest number of "Indian Museum Notes" is distinctly above the average and the notes gain much by being neatly illustrated. Mr. G. B. Buckton, F.R.S., contributes a paper on a new Coccid from Ceylon, which occupies first place. The insect which he had seen and describes he believes to be a distinct variety and since they only live a few days the opportunities for observing them must naturally be rare. Attention and address are therefore required in

securing them, and it is desirable that this should be done without delay. seeing that the insect has proved very troublesome in the Botanical Garden at Peradeniya where it multiplies with great rapidity and attacks the most showy plants in the Garden. A new species of Fulgoridæ is next described by M. Lethierry. The specimen reported upon was taken from Ceylon, and is, it seems, to be found, in its various stages of growth, swarming within the clasping sheaths of the leaves of the Indian corn plant. In wet weather it is covered by a sooty fungus, which has not been noticed at other times. It is also attended by ants. The eggs are buried in the tissues of the plant on the inside of the sheathing leaves, the orifice being concealed by a deposit of white woolly secretion. Their effect on the plants depended much upon the period at which they were attacked, the younger ones becoming stunted and weakened, the older ones suffering in a slight degree. A new enemy of the custard-apple is next dealt with. The specimen upon which the genus and species are founded was reared in the Museum from caterpillars found tunnelling into the fruit of the custard-apple in Calcutta. The insect proved to be new to the Indian Museum collection, so it was forwarded to Lord Walsingham, who submitted it to Mr. F. Moore. Mr. Moore writes:—"The moth from the custard-apple is also a phycid, the specimen sent home being that of a female. This has been kindly examined and described for me by my friend Mons. Ragonot, who has characterised it as belonging to a new genus and species of Phycitidæ, to which he has given the name of *Anonapestis bengalella*." As the female only has yet been described, it would be desirable to procure the male. Mr. G. B. Buckton then contributes some notes on Indian Aphidæ describing particularly and an aphid which infests the bamboo throughout British India. The winged female, which is now described by Mr. Buckton, and for the first time was taken by Mr. E. E. Green, upon the cultivated yellow-tanned bamboo in Ceylon. Mr. Green notices that although the apterous form is sometimes so abundant as to completely cover the surface of the bamboo shoots, the plant does not appear to be injured to any very great extent. He adds that in life the wingless form is of a dull slate grey colour slightly obscured by a whitish bloom, the gravid females having a cushion of white meal upon the extremity of the abdomen. The winged form, on the other hand, is so dark in colour as to be almost black, and is without any whitish bloom. Finally, Mr. E. C. Cotes, Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum, contributes a series of miscellaneous notes for the Entomological Section of the Museum, which would alone render the number readable.—*Times of India*.

MIXED FORESTS.—We have before us a pamphlet "on Mixed Forests and their Advantages over Pure Forests by John Nisbet of the Indian Forest Service. The argument seems to be that "mixed forests have the great advantages of denser growth, larger and finer production of timber both as regards quantity and quality, and lessened danger from storms, insects and fungoid diseases." We are told that, "in France where forestry is well understood and practised, although not quite so scientifically as in Germany, mixed forests form the bulk of the woodlands." There would appear, therefore, to be nothing novel in the question, but that it is not so well understood in Britain. Natural forests are of mixed growths, but in the struggle for existence shade-bearing species succeed in ousting trees that make greater demands on light. A condition of things however which can be controlled by the forester in cultivated areas. The principle would seem to have only a limited value for application in Ceylon, yet its guiding principles already named might well be borne in mind where extensive areas are set apart for the growth of timber trees.