

December 13th.

Dr. Gray, V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SQUIRREL (*SCIURUS SIAMENSIS*) FROM SIAM, IN THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

Among the animals lately sent by M. Mouhot from Siam are two small Squirrels, which differ from any that we have hitherto received from India or the neighbouring countries.

I am aware that the Indian Squirrels, and indeed Squirrels generally, are very apt to vary; and probably many more species are described than exist in nature; but I do not know any species of which the one now described can with reason be considered as a variety; the two specimens in the Museum are very uniform in their general appearance.

It may be observed that some species, both of Mammalia and Birds, are so much alike in external appearance, that, judging from their skins alone, we might be inclined to doubt whether they were more than slight varieties; yet when their habits, modes of life, food, and manners are known, they are far more distinct, as species, than animals which are very different in their external appearance, and marked with what might *a priori* be considered very striking characters.

*SCIURUS SIAMENSIS*, sp. nov.

Bright red-brown, grizzled with elongate black tips to the longer hairs, each of which is marked with a broad subterminal yellow band. These black hairs are more abundant, and have broad pale rings on the rump outside of the thighs, and especially on the lower part of the tail, where they nearly hide the general red colour. The terminal half of the tail bright chestnut-brown, without any black hairs or pale rings. The throat, breast, belly, lower part of sides, inner side and edge of the legs, uniform bright red-brown. Ears rounded. Whiskers black. Feet covered with short close-pressed hairs.

*Hab.* Siam (*M. Mouhot*).

2. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FRESHWATER TORTOISE FROM SIAM. BY DR. J. EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRES. ENT. SOC., ETC.

(Reptilia, Pl. XXI.)

The British Museum has received from M. Mouhot, with some other Reptiles, two specimens of a Freshwater Tortoise, which are