

they rose in flight. I shot one, it dropped into the stream, and commenced to float away, and, as the river was very low, I waded in to recover it, and was within about twenty feet of it, when a crocodile's head came up and absorbed the bird. I then hastily retreated to the bank. Now, why did not the crocodile attack the ducks when they were unconcernedly swimming about, a few yards away? In some parts of India, natives catch duck by floating down stream to where they are swimming, and pull them under water by the legs; the fowler has his head above water, but under a calabash, perforated with holes, through which he can see and breathe. If a human being can snipe duck in this way a crocodile certainly could.

EBURRU STEAM-JETS

BY J. H. HERVEY PIRIE, M.D.

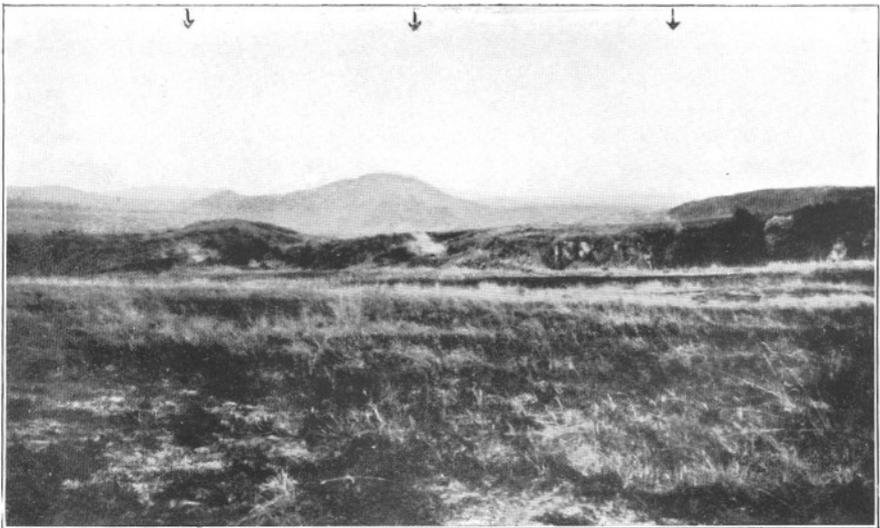
Recently, in company with Dr. Thomson, I had an opportunity of visiting Eburru, to see the steam-jets of this region. Many are visible from the train on the hillside south of the station, especially in the early morning, when the steam condenses freely in the cool air, and in the railway cutting a few hundred yards east of the station, you may even get a puff of steam in the carriage window as you pass by.

A plan of the district made by the Survey Department in 1915 shows some 60 jets within the area round the station reserved as a township site; 107 in the 1500 acres lying south and east of this; and 116 in the smaller area lying to the south and west. All these are within the area lying between the railway and the crest of the ridge of hill to the south. On the far side of this ridge, I understand, the jets are even more numerous, and some of larger size. A settler there has harnessed some of them, condensing the steam by allowing it to impinge on metal sheets, thus obtaining a constant supply of water for stock and household uses. Unfortunately we had not time to visit the far side of the range.

Of the jets near the station, many are quite tiny, issuing



No. 1.



No. 2.

STEAM-JETS, EBURRU, B.E.A.
By Dr. J. H. Hervey Pirie.

from mere cracks in the ground. The larger come from definite pipes up to two or even three feet in diameter. From these the steam issues in a steady stream, too hot to hold one's hand in, and with a slight blowing sound. There is no definite deposition of sulphur, silica, or any other mineral matter around the jets.

Some of the jets are single, but most are in groups, lying along fault-lines running north and south, i.e. lines parallel to the main direction of the Rift Valley.

In the accompanying photographs, No. 1 shows one of these fault lines, marked by a definite small escarpment, along which was a whole series of steam jets, three being visible in the picture. No. 2 is a nearer view of the centre jet of No. 1; on close inspection it was found that the steam was coming from several vents within a few yards of each other.

The volcanic features of the district are highly interesting and would repay further study. There is a well-preserved cinder zone, some two or three hundred feet high, a few hundred yards north of the station, while the lava sheet covered by dense bush lying between it and Lake Elmenteita—'The Lava Forest'—provides a stretch of country some ten miles across, with worse walking and more difficulties of penetration than any of like size that I have ever been unfortunate enough to come across.

Loose boulders and flakes of obsidian seem to carpet most of the Eburru district, and their effect on one's boots is very destructive.

ZIZYPHUS JUJUBE

BY C. W. HOBLEY

All along the coast of British East Africa, particularly in the vicinity of settlements, there is commonly found a tree of irregular growth and usually having several stems. There appear to be two varieties, one with and the other without thorn; the latter bears the bitter fruit. It has oval leaves, rough on the underside; and the flowers, which are insignificant,