

The persistence of ridge characteristics is continually being proved in our work here where natives are frequently found with very badly scarred or injured finger tips. It would seem impossible in many cases for a pattern to repeat itself, yet when the injury has healed (provided the sweat glands are not destroyed) the exact repetition of the original pattern reappears.

The finger print bureau is frequently called upon to identify a deceased person; sometimes when the body is mutilated, or in an advanced state of decomposition, or both. These conditions do not however, prevent a positive identification being made so long as it is possible to take reasonably clear impressions. The Central Finger Print Bureau at Nairobi has been established 4½ years, and in that time over 107,000 persons have been identified by the finger print system, 800 of whom were identified after death.

A FEW NOTES ON BEES IN LUMBWA DISTRICT.

By C. M. DOBBS.

Various kinds of bees are recognised by the Lumbwa, who have different names for the different species. The following is a list of the names with a short account of the peculiar features of each. In each case the name is given in the plural:

(1) SEGEMIK.

This is the name applied to bees in general and in particular, signifies the ordinary bee which produces the honey of commerce. They are larger than the others and are provided with stings. Their natural nests are holes in trees but they go of their own accord into the native's honey barrels. These barrels (Moingonik) are made from the trunks of trees split in two and hollowed out. A honey barrel is filled in about a year. When full, the bees are driven to one side by smoke, and the honey is extracted. The principal month for swarming is January (Mulkul). These bees will, as a rule, go into any box that is placed in a suitable position and take quite well to an English bee-hive.

(2) KOSOMEK.

These bees are very small and rather like flies. They live in holes in the ground. These holes are very small and extremely hard to find. Only one bee can get in and out at a time. They are found in the bush country after the jungle has been burnt. They do not sting. The actual nest is not more than eighteen inches below the surface. The honey is no use commercially.

(3) **LOLOSİK OR KULUMBENİK.**

These bees also live in the ground, in very deep holes sometimes as deep as five feet. They are smaller than the Kosomek and like the Kosomek do not sting. They produce very little honey. I ate some of the honey once. It had a sort of scented flavour and I felt very unwell after it.

(4) **IMEİK.**

These bees live in trees, and do not sting. They are a little bigger than the Kosomek. They will not go into honey barrels.

The following are the Lumbwa names of the principal flowers and flowering trees and shrubs which are most sought after by the bees. I regret that I do not know the botanical names: *Lelwat*, *Cheptuyet*, *Chesimbolyet*.—These flower in the months of Iwatkut (April) and Mamut (May), and the honey is taken in Bake (June). *Kipkoskosit*, *Uswet*, *Tarotwet*, *Ungulinyet*.—These all flower in the months of Ngeyet (July) and Robtoi (August), and the honey is taken in Puret (September).

EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.

The hopes of the Committee, as expressed in the Annual Report for 1921 and at the formal opening of the New Museum, that, as a result of the establishing of a permanent Museum, the progress of the Society would be more rapid than hitherto, have unfortunately not materialised.

The heavy drain on the Society's revenue, in connection with the repayment of the debt on the new building, has precluded the purchasing of urgently required fittings, and altogether put out of court the possibility of employing a paid Curator.

At the opening of the Museum, above alluded to, Sir Edward Northey (the then Governor) referred to the Society as one worthy of both Government and Municipal support. Unfortunately up to the present the Society is without recognition from either body.

During the year under review, the Society may be said to have existed but not progressed. The Committee has been powerless to carry out the many improvements urgently required and was compelled to adopt a policy of forced inactivity.

Through the generous help of a member one new show-case was purchased and installed, to accommodate the collection of Migratory Duck.