

## NOTES.

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SESBANIA—A NATIVE FIBRE-PRODUCER.—There are thousands of acres of this plant in Queensland; and its fibre might be obtained of any length up to ten feet. By immersion in water for a few days the stems are readily peeled; by rubbing the fibre, as in washing, the cuticle becomes detached, and the result the specimen \* now forwarded. It is remarkably strong, and I think, will in that respect, compare favourably with either Manilla or New Zealand fibre. The fruit when green is edible, and the seeds when dried might be used for many purposes. In insulating the fibre the only implements necessary would be a tomahawk, and a wooden mallet to bruise the stems either before or after their being placed in the water—but before would be better, as the water would more readily penetrate between the skin and the wood. Here is an industry to be developed, no cultivation required, no expensive machinery, merely labor of the lightest kind to render the fibre marketable. I believe the collection of this fibre would be highly remunerative to those engaged in collecting it.—C. W. DE BURGH BIRCH.

[\* The specimen of fibre alluded to was pronounced to be of good quality and, on the evidence of flower and foliage accompanying it, to be derived from one of the varieties of *S. aculeata*, Pers., a common plant in the Brisbane and other districts. It was elicited, in discussion, that this *Sesbania* had long been recognised as a source for marketable fibre, on which account it had been rather extensively cultivated in India. On Dr. W. Roxburgh's authority (cf. Royle's "Fibrous Plants of India") it was stated that, in the market where it commanded a price of £40 per ton, this fibre bore a good character, on account of its durability when exposed to the action of water. Baron Mueller ("Select Plants," s. v. *Sesbania*) was also quoted in corroboration of the views of these and other previous writers on the subject.—H. T.]

—PERAMELES BOUGAINVILLII, Q. & G. — A small bandicoot closely allied to if not identical with that described by Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard under this title has been received from Cape York. So far as can be concluded from the very brief description given by Mr. Waterhouse, the Cape York animal agrees in every essential point with those received by the French naturalists from Shark's Bay, West Australia, and if the two be really the same, the species has a pretty wide range. The noteworthy point is that one of the specimens is an adult female 6.8 inches in length, with two



young ones in the pouch, whence it appears that Quoy and Gaimard's suspicions, that their specimens were the young of a species, were as Mr. Waterhouse opined incorrect.—C. W. DE VIS.

"FASCIATION" IN *SICYOS ANGULATA*, LINN. — The present example of this species of Vegetable Teratology, for which I am indebted to Mr. T. Steel, of Condong Mill, Tweed River, belongs to a Cucurbitaceous plant, *Sicyos angulata*, Linn., so far as can be determined in the absence of flower or fruit. The specimen is about two feet in length, with a breadth of from three to over four inches, and leafy throughout, but without flowers. Fasciated stems similar to the one shown are by no means uncommon occurrences in Australian vegetation, but one seldom meets with so broad a growth on so slender a plant as the present, in which, though often climbing over trees on the borders of our scrubs to the height of 30 or more feet, the normal size of stem seldom exceeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter. The plant to which this monstrosity is supposed to belong has a wide range in Australia, Tropical, and North America, and is also met with in New Zealand, and the Islands of the Pacific. It may be here observed that while in the present instance, the beauty of the plant is by no means entranced by the distortion, the same "fasciation" in the case of the Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*) forms its principal attraction.—F. M. BAILEY, F.L.S.

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De Vis, Charles Walter. 1884. "Perameles bougainvillii, Q. & G. [Note]." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 1(2), 101–102.

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