

CADAMUSTUS TYPICUS—A MINOR COCONUT PEST.

In August last, Mr. J. H. George of the Dindings-Selama Coconut Company, sent to the Botanic Gardens specimens of a "white fly" found feeding in numbers on the juices of coconut leaves at Matang Kubu in the Dindings. This insect was sent to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, at the British Museum of Natural History and a reply received from Mr. G. A. K. Marshall, the Director, to the effect that the insect is "*Cadamustus typicus*, Distant, which was originally described from Ceylon, where it was found to attack Cardamons and Bananas." Mr. Marshall adds that it has recently been received from the Philippine islands.

Cadamustus typicus is a Tingid fly of small size with the wings beautifully laced and the body curiously shaped.

A VERY DESTRUCTIVE FLASH OF LIGHTNING.

In the night of January 10th—11th, 1914, a grove of coconuts on the coast near Bedok, east of Singapore, was struck by lightning, and the number of trees which died at once or slowly over the months which followed amounted to one hundred and four.

The case is recorded on account of the extent of the damage, and of the fact that the cause of the death of the trees is in this case indisputable. This usually is not the case when a Malay ascribes the death of a coconut palm to lightning.

I. H. BURKILL.

BORROWINGS FROM NEW BOOKS.

Culture et Exploitation du Caoutchouc au Brésil, by O. Labroy and V. Cayla, Paris, 1913, pp. 1-233.

This book is a report to the Government of Brazil upon the conditions under which rubber is produced in that country at present and the existing facilities for planting agriculturally viewed. It does not cover the whole ground of rubber-production in Brazil, but for certain regions only; and much of the book is intended to teach the adoption of planting as practiced in Malaya. But there are many interesting observations scattered through its pages, some of real importance to Malaya. The authors (p. 30) say that *Hevea brasiliensis* shows considerable variability in the Amazon basin