

Maharaja no European gardener has supervised those gardens, and I hear they are not exactly in the condition in which I left them.

In conclusion, I would add that I also, like Mr. Griffiths, will be glad to assist with hints and suggestions those who desire to cultivate ferns and orchids successfully.

H. ST. JOHN JACKSON.

Allahabad, 14th October, 1891.

#### VIII.—A FASTING SNAKE.

On the 29th September, 1890, a Python (*Python molurus*) was brought to the Public Gardens here, and we tried it with various animals regularly every fortnight, but until the 9th October, 1891, it ate nothing, when it took a single white rat, and two days afterwards it took two more. It was therefore without food for a year and ten days, during which time it changed its skin more than once, and always looked glossy and in perfect health.

HAROLD. S. FERGUSON.

Trevandrum, S. Travancore, October, 1891.

#### IX.—THE SAGACITY OF THE LANGOOR.

The following story was related to me by Ballaji, Patel of Kusba Serazgaon, yesterday, when I was encamped there :—

“About a year ago,” he said, pointing to a well in a garden by the roadside, surrounded with high tamarind trees, “a woman of the Mali caste left her baby 3 months old in a swing by the well, and went into the garden to work. After a while she returned and found the child gone. It had on a red garment. Search was made everywhere, and at last a monkey was noticed at the top of one of the high tamarind trees with something in its arms, and there was no doubt it was the child. They did not dare to do anything, but went off to a distance from the tree and watched. After some time the monkey came down and put the child back in the swing. It was found unhurt and the little boy is alive now.”

The monkey was a female, and belonged to the common species known as “Langoor.”

FRED. WRIGHT.

Ellichpur, 6th November, 1891.



Ferguson, H S. 1891. "A fasting snake." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 6, 424–424.

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