

He absorbed all the information which the ordinary sight-seer obtains by means of the amplest facilities, and a whole world beside. Men of means and influence extended to him free hospitality and service; their private homes and public works were open to his enjoyment and inspection; and nature laid bare her choicest secrets to one who could understand and solve their meaning. The narrative of so rich an experience could not fail to be interesting. Professor Haeckel has the enthusiasm and simplicity of a child, and he surrendered himself without restraint to the emotions which the luxuriant beauties of the tropics excited in him. To witness his intense delight over every new species of life on land or in the sea, and every fresh phenomenon of the earth or the sky, gives the reader a pleasure apart from that of his own enjoyment of the things described. Ceylon proved a paradise to the traveller, which he left with pangs of regret, but bearing with him priceless collections of natural objects and "a mass of mental pictures and ideas" which will be a cause of gratitude for the remainder of his life. Not an accident or a day of illness marred the sojourn in Ceylon, and the return home by way of Egypt was as fortunate in every respect as the experience it concluded.

ERNEST HAECKEL'S account of his visit to Ceylon (S. E. Cassino & Co.) has much of the interest of Wallace's "Malay Archipelago" or D'Alberti's "Explorations in New Guinea." It is by the renowned German scientist who has espoused with such fervor the doctrine of evolution, and contributed various learned treatises to the libraries of science. It had from youth been the dream of Professor Haeckel to view the splendors of tropical scenery and study its wonderful forms of animal and plant life; but not until his forty-eighth year could the keen desire be realized. In 1881 circumstances favored the contemplation of a trip to Ceylon, which should extend over six months, allowing two for the journeys there and back, and four for exploring, collecting, and similar naturalist's pursuits on the island. All through the summer of that year, the Professor was busy with preparations for the undertaking. He had received leave of absence from the University of Jena; his friends lent him every assistance which their influence, experience, or possessions could render; and he rounded out his personal aptitudes and accomplishments by acquiring and improving himself in the arts of oil-painting, photography, the use of the gun, of nets and traps, soldering metal, etc. The first chapter of his history of the expedition relates, in the most ingenious manner, the many preliminaries which were required and the happy spirit in which they were arranged. At last, on the 8th of October, the traveller and his sixteen trunks and cases containing his elaborate outfit, were under way with the alluring lands of India as their destination. A stay of a week was made at Bombay on the voyage out, and every moment of it filled with expeditions in and around the city, and once to a considerable distance inland. Indeed, from the hour he left Jena to the hour he returned again, the Professor was taking in new sights, sounds, and sensations.