

of the naval officers or members of the scientific staff. The invitation was accepted by Mr. Moseley, whose account of the excursions is as follows :—

“The river steamers are small paddle-boats, old and dirty. The Caxoeira boat was crowded with passengers, mostly Brazilians and negroes, but amongst them several German Jews going up to buy diamonds.

“The bay has all the appearance of an inland lake, there being several islands scattered about in it covered with green to the water's edge. Near its mouth the banks of the river are somewhat low but backed by hills, and here and there are mangrove swamps. As the river was ascended the hills and cliffs on either hand soon became higher. They are thickly covered with vegetation, but with cliffs and occasional rock masses showing out bare amongst it.

“The scenery on the whole is not unlike that of the Rhine, except that there are no castles ; but the white buildings of sugar estates perched here and there on the tops of the lower hills take their place. The far-off hills appear of the usual bluish green due to distance, and successive ranges become gradually yellower as they lie nearer to the eye of the observer, and show more and more plainly the forms of the vegetation clothing them ; only in the actual foreground do the palms and feathery bamboos, planted in long lines as boundaries, distinguish the scenery as tropical. The bamboos are especially conspicuous, from the bright yellow green of their foliage. The steamer left Bahia at 10 A.M., and reached Caxoeira at 4 P.M.

“Caxoeira consists of two towns, one on each side of the river, and both have the usual white-washed houses and two or three churches, one broad street and several narrow ones, with mostly dirty dilapidated two-storied houses, tailing off towards the country into one-storied hovels. On the river, canoes hollowed out of a single tree trunk, simple and trough-like in form and pointed at both ends, and large enough to contain six persons, ply between the town and its suburb.

“The hotel at which the night was spent consisted of a restaurant below and a long barn-like chamber above, with a passage down the middle, and a series of small bed-chambers on either hand, enclosed by partitions about twelve feet in height. As one lay in bed one looked up at the bare rafters and tiles, and was apt to receive unpleasant remembrances from the bats. Sleeping places arranged in the same manner are to be found in an hotel at Point de Galle, Ceylon, and it is closely similar in all Japanese houses. The great disadvantage is that the guest has to put up with the snorings and conversations of all in the hotel.

“In the evening, just outside the town, in a pond, a number of small toads were making a perfectly deafening noise. The sound is like a very loud harsh cat's mew, and it was difficult at first to believe that it could come from so small an animal. It is, however, not unlike the extraordinary moan made by the fire-bellied toad of Europe (*Bombinator igneus*), but much louder and with more distinct intervals between the sounds. The frog