

## THE TWELVE-WIRED BIRD OF PARADISE.

Two years were spent by Dr. F. H. H. Guillemard (1883-85), of England, with his steam yacht in natural history explorations in Kamschatka and New Guinea, and the results of his observations are given in two royal volumes, superbly illustrated, published last year in London, entitled "The Cruise of the Marchesa." After infinite labor and expenditure of much time, he at last succeeded in securing two or three living specimens of that most rare bird, *Seleucides nigricans*, the twelve-wired bird of paradise. The author says:

"The native-prepared skins seen in European museums give no idea of the glorious beauty of the living bird. The subular plumes, whose prolonged and wire-like shafts have given the bird its English name, are of a rich golden-yellow, and the pectoral shield, when spread, shows to advantage its tipping of metallic emerald.

"These exquisite creatures were fed on the fruit of the pandanus, with an occasional cockroach as a *bonne bouche*. In devouring the insects, which they did by throwing them in the air and catching them again, they displayed the wonderful grass-green coloring of the inside of the mouth and throat. The feelings of admiration with which I watched these birds, which are among the most exquisitely beautiful of all living beings, I need not attempt to describe. My reader, if a naturalist, will divine them; if not, no description of mine would ever make him realize the intense pleasure of the first sight of such masterpieces of coloring."

On another occasion, speaking of one of these birds, the author says:

"The bird, a male in full plumage and already tolerably tame, was brought in in its bamboo cage, and although we had previously seen this species alive in the aviary of the Resident of Ternate, we could hardly keep our eyes off our new acquisition, so striking was its beauty.

"He became tame very quickly, and would readily eat from our hands. By day he usually remained more or less quiet, and was fond of resting motionless, with the head sunk low on the chest; but in the morning and evening he moved restlessly from perch to perch with a peculiar bounding hop. His manner of feeding was wonderfully neat. Any cockroach that ventured into his cage he would catch with lightning rapidity, seizing it across the body with his long, sharp beak. Then giving it a sudden snap, he would throw it in the air and catch it lengthways, displaying the vivid grass-green coloring of his mouth and throat in the operation.

"The only note he ever uttered was a single unmelodious croak. The least fall in temperature seemed to be felt by this beautiful creature, and though every care was taken of him, he died before we got beyond the tropics.

"The method employed by the natives of New Guinea in catching the *Seleucides* appears almost incredible. Patiently searching the forest until he has discovered the usual roosting place of the bird, the hunter conceals himself beneath the tree, and having

noted the exact branch chosen, climbs up at night and quietly places a cloth over his unsuspecting quarry. The species being exceedingly fond of the scarlet fruit of the pandanus, the roosting places are easily recognized by the dejecta. The plan would, perhaps, by most of us, be regarded as very similar to that counseled by our

they returned again, but this time empty handed. They had discovered a second tree, but one of the Alfuros of the interior had interfered and shot the bird with his blunt arrow.

"In the discussion that ensued our man got the worst of it and retired from the field, having very narrowly escaped being added to his enemy's bag."



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nurses, in which a pinch of salt is the only requisite; but the noiseless movements of the native hunters overcome all difficulties, and the tree once discovered, the chances are said to be considerably against the bird.

"Finding the tree is, however, not so easy, and the month spent by our natives in the forest resulted in the capture of only one bird. Four days after our arrival

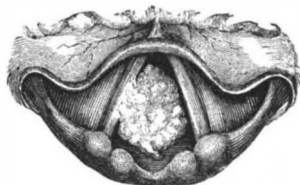


Fig. 2.—VOCAL CORDS ATTACKED BY PAPILLOMA..

is that Virchow has certainly not found the sections under examination to be epithelioma having the nest cells, as that would settle the question; but that he has found the growth to be that of papilloma. He still hesitates to say that the growth is non-malignant, however, and therefore I should draw the inference that he has found cells and other indications which raise a doubt in his mind as to whether the growth is not undergoing a transitional course from the benign to the malignant type, which is very frequently the case, and always to be feared. The fact that four operations have already been performed, with the rapid recurrence of the growth, are alarming features



Fig. 1.—EPITHELIAL CANCER.

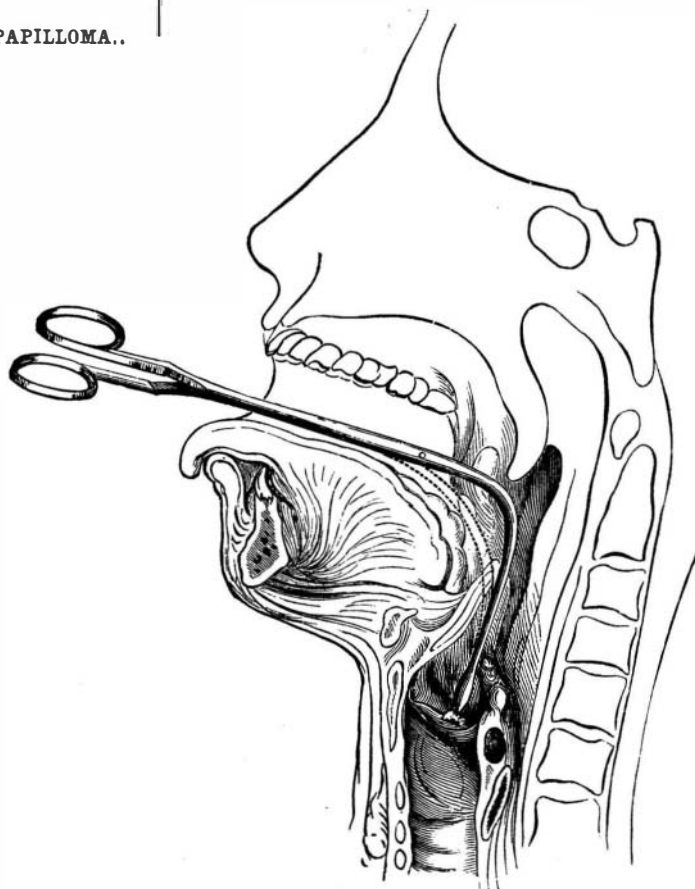


Fig. 3.—REMOVAL OF PAPILLOMA FROM THE VOCAL ORGANS.