

MISCELLANEA.

GENERAL.

MALARIA MORTALITY IN THE FRINGE AREA OF CALCUTTA.—On p. 98 of Mr. C. A. Paiva's "Materials for a Survey of the Mosquitoes of Calcutta" (Rec. Ind. Mus., vii, 1912, pp. 93—98) it is stated that, as far as Calcutta is concerned, malaria is most common in the fringe area. Dr. Pearse, Calcutta Health Officer, writes informing us that, so far as can be judged from the death-rate per 1,000 from the disease, this had just ceased to be the case when the survey was instituted. He attributes the improvement largely to the drainage scheme commenced in 1909, and observes that "since 1908 the fringe area has compared very favourably with the eastern and southern wards of the city." Mr. Paiva tells me, moreover, that his record of adult malaria-carrying mosquitoes from this area is based on specimens collected prior to the initiation of the mosquito survey.

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INSECTS.

ON THE LARVAL HABITS OF *Toxorhynchites immisericors*.—In Mr. Brunetti's supplementary Catalogue of Oriental Culicidæ (Rec. Ind. Mus., vol. iv, No. x) I find a statement attributed to me with which I am not entirely in agreement.

On page 436, under *Toxorhynchites immisericors*, I am represented as asserting that "the larvæ prey first upon those of their own race before proceeding to devour those of other species," and again "Mr. E. E. Green thought it eats its own species first."

I was puzzled, for some time, to understand how or where I could have said anything to give rise to this impression, until—on looking through my early paper on the life history of this insect ('Spolia Zeylanica,' vol. ii, pp. 159 to 164)—I found the following sentences:—"Confirmation of the supposed carnivorous habit was soon forthcoming: firstly, by the rapid disappearance of most of the young larvæ while the remainder waxed fat; and secondly, by the detection of one larva in the act of devouring a comrade the same size as itself."

"Though well supplied