to the top. The flora there is very different from anything we
have even at the lower part of the cliffs, and in many respects
is similar to that of the limestone rocks of the Lankawi islands.

In recording this discovery of a connecting link between
two regions so far apart as Tenasserim and Borneo, I may men-
tion another, viz. that of Dendrobium heterocarpum Wall,
(D. aureum Lindl.) which was known to occur in India (Nepal,
Assam, Malabar and Ceylon), in Java, and the Philippine islands,
and which has recently been found by Mr. A. B. Stephens in
Perak, on the Thaiping hills.

H. N. R.

Boriah.

In part II. of Clifford and Swettenham’s Malay-Eng-
lish Dictionary, under the head of Boriah, I find Boriah,

A topical song. Бочка борiah بوریه ب ج To sing a
topical song.

No derivation of the word is given. The use of the word
is chiefly confined to the pantomimes or mimic plays which are
acted by Malays in Penang Town during the month of Muharam.
It is of Persian origin, according to Forbes, and means a “mat”
in Hindustani. The following account of the word which I have
received from an Indian in Penang will throw some light on the
subject, as I believe, fanciful derivations of the word have been
suggested.

“The plain meaning of the word Boriah in the Hindustani
“and Deccan language is a place of prayer (praying carpet), and
“in Malay they call it Tilkar (a mat). Formerly in the year 1845,
“the 21st Regiment was transferred from Madras to Penang. The
“Muhammedans of the Regiment used to be given ten days’ leave
“in the month of Muharram for the purpose of mourning for
“the grandsons of the prophet. These military men used to
“form parties and sing songs of mourning. For instance,
“representing four persons, Nanak Shah, Jogi Majnun, Balva
“Ghaghri, and Boria, they used to dress up in clothes made of
“mats and mourn for Husain, and used to recite the following
“piece of poetry—
"Boria the best of its kind;
"Boria everywhere in the world;
"Boria the beautiful (was) seen;
"Sacred and pure Boria.

"In the countries of Madras
"The Boria is made of grass;
"Fences are made with bamboo;
"Boria is green in colour. etc., etc.

"But in Penang the name of Boria is from the 21st
"Regiment, and has become celebrated. Now-a-days the
"Malays have given their own different names to it, but they
"call all of them Boria for the purpose of asking charity for
"them. In Madras wherever the Regiment is the Boria play
"is performed."

H. T. Haughton.