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Esquints

"Perak" bamboo of which the half civilized or "tame" (as contrasted with the "wild" men) Semang, make their sumpitans. This is neither the Western Semang's nor the Eastern Pangghans. Those used by the four Western families of the Meneck were sent you in the last consignment of 3 cases of Semang exhibits & like the Eastern Pangghans is quite a different bamboo. This Perak bamboo grows on several hills in Northern & Middle Perak, at about 400 metre elevation. The demoralized & degenerate Perak Semang alone use them as they are too lazy & indifferent as a rule to make the long journey into the "Kenghiri" country in Kelantan to barter for the "Battak" bamboos only growing there (vide history ^{accredited} ~~perian~~ sent you as to the Battak). Nearly all the sumpitans which have found their way into Europe hitherto are from these men & of this bamboo (Perak), as the tame men have for years had a regular trade in them with Malays who sell them to Europeans at Penang. It is an unreliable bamboo

soon rotting, quickly attacked by insect, splitting, warping, twisting and shrinking in drying & in after use. Moreover it is not so true in the bore or tube, as the Nengtiri one & is seldom found of such length of internode. Hence many of the best of the "tame" menumpitan have the interior bamboo of the weapon made of the thin smooth hard, durable, Nengtiri & the outer or sheath of the local bamboo, a Nengtiri bamboo will last, accidents excepted, for several generations but in such cases as above, where the sheath is of Pesak bamboo & the interior of Nengtiri, three years is assigned as the limit of the sheath at most, it being decayed by that time. Whereas a good panqitan menumpitan properly cared for, is handed down from father to son for generations unharmed by the lapse of years, both internal & external tubes being of the durable Nengtiri bamboo.

This exhibit (N^o 1), shows the manner in which a great number of the Pesak bamboos spoil soon after being

cut. N^o. 1 was intended for a sheath
& N^o. 4 for the internal part. (which
see)

2 A very good specimen of the same
Perak man's rumpitan. two years
old, but darkened by oil & smoke
intentionally applied. Both interna
& external bamboos are the local
ones. There is no significance in
the rings & engravings, made on
it, these being entirely for
ornament & at the fancy of the
owner. The shape of the true
Semang mouthpiece is retained
but, (furnished with various
knives) wood is substituted for
the resin, as material. In this
instance, a sufficiently long
bamboo for both interior and
exterior has been found, to
avoid the joining shown in
exhibits N^{os} 3 & 10.

Attention is directed to the
muzzle or distal end. The bore or
diameter of the tube ~~not~~ being, rarely
true in this kind of bamboo, or
shrinking unequally in drying

a small supplementary tube of bamboo is inserted in the end of the sheath as a packing, so that the inner tube shall fit closely & ~~not~~^{neither} shake about nor droop. It is only done where inner & outer tubes do not fit well.

No 3 The interior tube, only, of the "tame" Perak sumpitan showing the method of joining two short bamboos. Attention is directed to the want of evenness in the "round" of these local bamboos rendering packing behind the dart an ^{absolute} necessity & much waste of lung power in "windage".

No 4 a Perak bamboo, intended for the interior part of a sumpitan but spoiled by cracking in drying. In some measure this is the result of taking young bamboo not fully hardened by age in growth, but such selection is inevitable & unavoidable because this kind of bamboo does not, like the Nungturi, remain of small diameter while living & if not cut early, would be too

* This is necessary, because, before expelling the dart, the wild man, holding the sumpitan vertically, jerks it up & down a few cm. of distance, the end being over the bore, the mouthpiece at the time. The jerking of the tube apart to split the tubes of the sumpitan loosely one within the other is like taking care the rounds so close to the shot as to