MISCELLANEA.

THE SAHASRĀM, RŪPNĀTH, ETC., EDICT OF AŚŌKA.

I find that I cannot deal explicitly with the second important passage in this record, without presenting somewhat lengthy comments on some of the details of the texts of it; even though the cases are but few in which I differ from decipherments made by Dr. Bühler and M. Senart. For more than one reason, those comments cannot be given in this Journal. And I shall therefore defer the completion of my second article for this Journal, until I have fixed the texts of the passage, with my remarks on them, in a separate note in the *Indian Antiquary*.

Meanwhile, I would say that the announcement made by me in this Journal, 1903, p. 829, is to be modified as follows. A closer study of the Brahmagiri text has shewn me that, while Aśoka did join the *Samgha* early in the thirty-third year after his *abhishēka*, it was not until five years later, early in the thirty-eighth year, that he abdicated and passed into religious retirement. And thus the edict further endorses the statement of the *Dīpavaṃsa* and the *Mahāvaṃsa*, that Aśoka reigned for thirty-seven years.

I take this opportunity of saying that Suvarṇagiri, where Aśoka was in religious retirement when he issued the edict, was one of the hills surrounding the ancient city Girivraja, in Magadha.

J. F. FLEET.

16th January, 1904.

GUESSING THE NUMBER OF VIBHĪTAKA SEEDS.

Nala, chapter xx, describes how Nala drove King Rūtparṇa. They come across a *vibhītaka* or *bahērā* tree.