

35. *Apios tuberosa*, Moench. Groundnut.—Damp thickets. Infrequent.

36. *Amphicarpa monoica* (L.) Ell. Hog Peanut.—Rich and moist woods. Common.

Galt, Dec. 26th, 1911.

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### Jungle Life on the Hills of South India.

BY G. J. SPENCER.

THE hills of Southern India present a pleasing harmony between the luxury of the Tropics and the milder and less vivid coloring of the temperate regions. The foot of the hills is essentially tropical; dense forests cover the slopes, divided up into regular sections by the fire paths of an active forest department. The trees are all hardwood, and among the "jungle trees" the teak and sal represent valuable timber. Here and there matted bamboo clumps afford retreat to small animals and birds, for a large animal cannot hurry through them and one can generally find the jungle fowl and partridge or quail scratching vigorously among the dried leaves, safe from the swooping hawk or the pouncing jackal who has very little to hide him among the bamboo stems.

It is in these foot-hill forests that the tigers and panthers find good hunting among the sambhur and spotted deer, and only in the dry season when the land is parched, do they go further up the hills after the deer which move upwards for green grass and the mountain streamlets. In the dense forests also live the peacock and sometimes one comes across a native mud temple, hidden away among the huge trees, where the priests regard the peacock as sacred and feed him, and are ever ready to fight fiercely with their bamboo staves if a foolish sportsman should shoot one of the temple birds. The peacocks' love dance is in the form of a figure 8 and the pea-hens look on admiringly at their lords' extended tails. It is curious that these forests are very silent although they teem with animal, bird and insect life. Only at night can one hear the animals when the forest utters strange noises, but the birds in their bright plumage generally fly silently, except in the early morning and afternoon, and then they sing for a short time. The only bird that loves his own voice is the big