

Singapore April 9 1900.

Dear Eschke,

I must admit I have considerable doubt in my mind as to the correctness of this paper based on Vaughan Stevens' work. I remember his telling me some thing about these markings on the *D. pits* & Combs, and also several other extraordinary observations on traditions & ceremonies of the Semangs which I could hardly credit. He certainly was among the Semangs for a long time, or rather in their country, but I should like to see this subject worked over again by someone who would live among them, as he is supposed to have done. Martin was here long enough and did he get among the Semangs proper? I can hardly think that the Semangs were civilized enough for so elaborate a scheme of magic. The Jakais I have met the more southern race did not seem to

me up to any thing like this, but I have not been
among the Remangs.

Clifford used to declare that Vaughan never
got a Panghan Vocabulary or a lot of information
of \times from the Panghans when he had
in reality seen one for a few minutes. In
all his work concerning plants, which I could judge
of, I found his statements verified, esp. statements
as to plants used in darts-poison, though he could
not have known what the plants themselves were,
nor whether they had any properties or no. As you
know many of his popular statements were discredited
& indeed known to be purely imaginary but I
thought his published work was pretty reliable.
Ikeat may have some evidence in this Govt
Gar business but he is not back yet. I can't
help thinking that it seems too elaborate for so
simple a race to have invented.

Yours very truly
J. Henry N. Ridley