

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. RAJUKA OR LAJUKA.

*Netherclay House, Taunton,
April 24th, 1895.*

DEAR SIR,—In a short article at p. 466, vol. xlvii, of the *Zeitschrift d. D.M.G.*, Dr. Bühler proves that the word *Lajuka* or *Rajuka*, used in Asoka's edicts to denote some high official, is a shortened form of *Rajjuggahaka* (=Skr. -*grahaka*) "rope-holder," and that the title was derived from the circumstance that the official in question was employed (probably among other things) in measuring fields with a rope for the purpose of assessing them to land revenue, then, as now, one of the most important duties of officials in India. This derivation seems on all grounds unassailable, but I may, perhaps, point out a curious confirmation of it in an official title still existing. As is well known, the chief native official in a collector's office (and in many other offices also) is still known by the title of "Serishtadar," as it is commonly written. This is the Persian phrase, سر رشته دار, *sar-i rishta dār*, literally "he who holds the end of a rope." We have been accustomed to regard the word as meaning "one who conducts or rules the sarrishta," and the term "sarrishta" is now commonly used to imply an office or department. But by what far-fetched metaphor it came to have this meaning I never could understand. The matter seems now clear. Dr. Bühler rightly denies to *Todar Mal*, the great finance

minister of Akbar, the honour of having invented the modern land-revenue system of India. He, of course, merely modified and improved a system which had been in existence for centuries before his time. But he probably found the old Prakrit term *rājuka* in common use, and naturally enquired into its meaning, which he forthwith translated into Persian *sar-i rishta dār*. It is true that a modern sarishtadar's duties are no longer confined to settlement work, nor does he often condescend to hold the rope himself. But the rope is still used for measuring lands in settlement proceedings, where it has not been superseded by the bamboo *laggi*, or the more scientific Gunter's chain, and Dr. Bühler's explanation is undoubtedly the solution of the puzzle which has exercised so many English officers in India, why the highly respectable and experienced head of a large office should be designated by the simple title of "one who holds the end of a rope."—Yours truly,

JOHN BEAMES.

2. VIDYĀDHARA PĪṬAKA.

In the letter from Mons. Louis de la Vallée Poussin, in our last issue, readers are requested to correct the following misprints:—

- p. 435, lines 13, 23, *for* Tapās *read* Japās.
 p. 436, line 6, ,, correct ,, collect.
 ,, line 29 ,, Kangika ,, Kauṣika.

3. ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

SIR,—The discussion of Hofrath G. Bühler's proposals as to future Archæological Research in India ended without any definite vote of our meeting on June 11th; and I myself, speaking late and pressed for time, could say little. I have, therefore, the honour to offer the following remarks in black and white:—