

About Members.

DR. (Colonel) C. S. Ryan has temporarily left Melbourne to be present at the coronation of the King. He is the first office-bearer of the newly established Aust. O.U. to visit England, and no doubt when abroad, and matters pertaining to Australasian ornithology and the Union crop up, he will not hide the light of either under a bushel.

In the list of original members of the Aust. O.U. published in last issue of *The Emu* the initials of Mr. Webb (North Queensland) were printed "E. W." instead of "E. H."

Consequent upon the death of his father (Mr. Albert A. C. Le Souëf), Mr. Dudley Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S. (the hon. secretary of the Aust. O.U.), has been appointed Director of the Zoological Gardens, Melbourne. While sympathising with our secretary in his bereavement, members of the Union will be gratified that he has been called to fill an important office held by so worthy a father.

It is somewhat over a year since Mr. A. J. Campbell's work on "Nests and Eggs" was distributed in Australia. Those who assisted in its publication by subscribing will be pleased to learn that the market value of their copies has increased to 70s. Except a very limited portion of the edition in the hands of Mr. Edwards, bookseller, Marylebone, England, and a few over-copies in the possession of the author, there are none available. When these are sold the book will be practically out of print.

AN EXPLORING COLLECTOR.—The following is an extract of a letter received from Mr. Tom Carter:—"The bulk of my skins is made when travelling, often at dinner hour. When one must push on to get water, they get out of shape by being packed green and jolted over this rough country in buckboard. All this coast country is bad to work on account of the shortness of water. I took a trip to the North-West Cape last month (March), hoping to get round and work part of the Exmouth Gulf. There have been splendid rains here, and I had hoped for a good time, but 60 miles above here there had been no rain at all, and consequently no food for the horses, and no road, but dense low scrub and heavy sand, honeycombed with rat holes. There were stony boulder creeks to cross, and soakages of water in rocks were all filled and fouled by kangaroos, &c., and what water there was was salty and bad. One had to clean out the native wells, then fill bucket with pannikin and carry to horses out of a hole which is often 10 feet deep, in the nature of a cave. It is marvellous how the horses do drink brackish water and eat dry feed. The country north of here is very rough, the ranges being 10 to 15 miles

wide and 75 long. It is hard work going over them. I explored one deep gorge with precipitous cliffs and found a great cave a long way up, with water dripping into two pools on the floor. It was evidently a harbour for wild dogs, for their tracks were plainly seen about the cave. Next day I shot an Emu at a pool in the gorge, 2 miles lower down, and laboriously carried half of it, and after much exertion and narrow escapes of having bad falls, I got it inside and poisoned. I had with me my gun and rifle, and my dog was knocked up, its feet being completely skinned. There were lots of Painted Finches (*Emblema picta*) in the gorge watering, but I failed to find any nests. I saw 30 perched on one giant boulder—it was a beautiful sight. I shot a pair of strange birds (Shrike-Robins?) in the mangroves, which I cannot make out; they may be new."

Obituary Notice.

SNOWBALL.—On the 22nd April, at "Nahoo," Narracan, Gippsland, William Snowball, M.B., aged 47 years.

THE general regret felt in widely spread medical circles at the death of Dr. William Snowball is nowhere more keenly felt than in the more inner circle of his ornithological friends and acquaintances.

Dr. Snowball was a keen naturalist, and lover of natural history books, and knew their value well. Although he had not much spare time to devote to ornithology, he had amassed an oological collection of considerable value, many of the specimens being unique. Naturally, the Doctor took much interest in the Aust. O.U., and was present at the initiatory ornithological dinners—the historical "beginnings," so to speak, of the Union. We shall miss his influence and kind advice much.

The Coloured Figure Fund.

THE Council of the Aust. O.U. hope shortly to increase the usefulness of *The Emu* by the insertion of a coloured plate of one or the other of hitherto unfigured birds. The following subscriptions have been received towards the fund:—Dr. C. Ryan (Melbourne), £1; Mr. R. B. Ritchie (Penshurst), 6s.; Col. Legge (Hobart), 6s.; T. Cullen (Wahgunyah), 5s.; Rev. W. Fielder, 1s. 8d.; Mr. A. Mattingley (H.M. Customs), a promise not exceeding £1, when required.