

S.A. Society for Protection of Birds.

THE eighth annual meeting of the Society for the Protection of Birds was held at the Royal Society's Room, Institute, North Terrace, Adelaide, on Wednesday afternoon, 25th November. His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte) presiding over a large attendance, chiefly ladies.

Interesting speeches were delivered by His Excellency, Mr. W. J. Sowden, and Sir Lancelot Stirling.

On the motion of Mr. Simpson Newland the following officers were elected for the ensuing year :—Patroness, Lady Tennyson ; Patron, His Excellency the Governor, Sir George Le Hunte ; President, Lady Bonython ; Vice-President, Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart. ; Committee: Lady Way, Mesdames Harmer, Clampett, J. T. Ralph, John F. Mellor, T. W. Hall, Paton, Somerville, Knox, and H. H. Norman, Misses N. Wigg, Ware, Lewin, and Cunningham, Rev. A. W. Clampett, M.A., and Messrs. M. Symonds Clark, J. W. Mellor, and C. C. Cornish ; Chairman of Committee, Mr. J. G. O. Tepper ; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. J. Playford.

The following is taken from the annual report presented by the Hon. Secretary (Mrs. Playford) :—

The number of members has increased from 1,175 to 1,274. The committee thankfully acknowledges assistance given by friends and associates. Its thanks are also due to the press for the insertion of articles and items of information respecting bird life. The society is glad to learn that the Government contemplates compiling an illustrated catalogue of all protected birds for the use of the police. It is especially glad to announce the passing of a new Act of Parliament to amend, or, rather, add to, the *Birds Protection Act* of 1900. In this amendment the punt gun is absolutely forbidden, and the legal size of the bore of guns much reduced. This will prevent much useless and cruel slaughter. The amendment also contains valuable enactments respecting licences and other matters in the Northern Territory. More legislation is still needed, especially for the raising of the age at which gun licences can be obtained from 14 to 20. The persistent wearing of aigrettes and whole birds in hats and bonnets, and the continued falsehood of the tradesmen, who assert that feathers are artificial or manufactured, are deplored. There are thousands of tender-hearted people and societies at work with heart and soul to protect and save the birds, and the society trusts yet to see the day when women will look upon the wearing of birds or their feathers in its proper light, as a sign of heartlessness and a mark of ignominy and reproach. The work of the society shows steady progress. It is encouraging to state that not one appeal for support to the most influential ladies and gentlemen in the highest positions has been unsuccessful, and it is hoped that by degrees all classes will be educated as to the stern necessity, as well as the humanity, of protecting to the utmost the most lovable, useful, and beautiful creatures in God's world. The financial statement shows a credit balance of £30.

DONATIONS TO COLOURED FIGURE FUND.—W. Armstrong (V.), 12s. 6d. ; Col. Legge (Tas.), 10s. ; H. C. Thompson (Tas.), 5s. ; A. Gedge (S.A.), 5s.