

Though (to quote Mr. Milligan) Col. Legge "has not had the opportunity of comparing the two forms," it must be remembered that his extensive ornithological knowledge would prevent his forming a hasty or illogical judgment. As to Mr. Milligan's assertion that "nothing further can be said," the matter is open to question. As in the case of many other newly-named species and sub-species (of which probably too many have already been made in Australasia, as elsewhere), there is a great deal to be said. Isolation and environment must have played their part; climate also—Mr. Milligan's own paper supplies evidence of this.—EDS.]

About Members.

THE following is an extract from a letter by Mr. H. E. Dresser, 28 Queensborough-terrace, Hyde Park, London W., received by the Honorary Secretary :—"I am busy collecting materials for a work upon European eggs, on the same scale as my 'Birds of Europe,' and probably shall extend it to the eggs of all the Palæarctic birds. Of the Eastern Palæarctic species there are several which breed in your latitude, and of these I want the eggs of the following :—**Sterna anæsthes*, **Anous stolidus*, *Oceanites oceanicus*, **Pelagodroma marina*, *Puffinus griseus*, *Puffinus leucomelas*, *Puffinus carneipes*, *Æstrelata mollis*, *Æstrelata brevipes*, *Diomedea melanophrys*.

"Of those marked with an asterisk I have eggs, but require more, and more especially varieties.

"I have probably one of the largest and most complete collections in Europe, and have many duplicates, and would be glad to give exchange for or purchase any of the above eggs well authenticated. Trusting that you can help me in this matter."

Obituary Notice.

MR. E. P. SEALY, one of the original members and founders of the Aust. O.U., passed away, at the age of 64, on the 30th October last, at his home, Southerndown, Timaru, N.Z. The deceased gentleman was an enthusiastic naturalist. In addition to a first-class oological collection, including the eggs of the now extinct New Zealand Quail (*Coturnix novæ-zealandiæ*), he possessed moths, butterflies, and birds' skins. Having left England in the early "fifties" for New Zealand, the late Mr. Sealy, as may be expected, saw some stirring times in that colony. He started sheep-farming, which he relinquished for a time to join the Provincial Government as surveyor, and accompanied the late Sir Julius Von Haast on most of his exploring expeditions to the head waters of the Canterbury rivers, Mr. Sealy taking observations, as well as photographs, for Sir Julius. When surveying in the Mackenzie Country Mr. Sealy did some courageous mountaineering. He was the first man to explore to their sources

the Tasma and Hooker Glaciers, and in doing so he carried an old-fashioned camera, 12 x 10, which with plates and accessories weighed at least half a hundredweight. Years before the present dry plate process was invented he obtained some very fine photographs of the glacier region, some of which may be seen in the Christchurch Museum; and others won for him a gold medal at an International Exhibition in Vienna. Apart from his scientific attainments, the late Mr. Sealy was of a retiring disposition, a man of sterling worth, and strictly honourable in all his dealings, being conscientious to a degree. Had he been spared longer it was his intention to write an article for *The Emu* on the Double-banded Dottrel (*Ochthodromus bicinctus*), an interesting bird which he had especial advantages of observing in the field, particularly during its breeding season. His not having been able to do so is a distinct loss to ornithological science.

The Coloured Plate.

THROUGH the generosity of the contributors to the Coloured Figure Fund the Council has been enabled to have executed the second coloured plate (Plate XVI.), depicting two hitherto unfigured Honey-eaters, an old species and a new one—namely, *Melithreptus brevirostris* (Brown-headed Honey-eater) and *Ptilotis carteri* (Carter Honey-eater).

It is somewhat remarkable that the former, described by Vigors and Horsfield, and so long known, should only now be figured. With regard to *Ptilotis carteri* (Campbell) some ornithologists may have *P. leilavalensis* (North) in mind. *P. carteri* was first publicly exhibited and described at the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 13th March, 1899. The first announcement of *P. leilavalensis* appeared in the *Australian Museum Records*, 17th April following. Irrespective of the *pros* and *cons* as to priority, some authorities entertain a doubt as to the two being identical, especially as the types came from localities widely apart. *P. leilavalensis* in vernacular terms has been called the "Lesser White-plumed Honey-eater." On oological grounds, at all events, there is certainly some distinction to be drawn between this species and *P. carteri*. The eggs of the latter are as large, if not larger, than those of the ordinary White-plumed Honey-eater (*P. penicillata*), therefore if *carteri* = *leilavalensis* how can it be called the Lesser White-plumed Honey-eater? However, this is a matter for the authors of the forthcoming "Check-List" to settle.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith, F.Z.S., Addiscombe, Surrey, is again to be thanked for so kindly superintending the production of the plate in England.