

protecting bird-life, and keep watchful eyes in order to have the provisions of the *Birds Protection Act* carried out. The protection of the Nankeen Kestrel was discussed, and thought advisable, owing to its useful habits in killing mice and other vermin, while the imported Goldfinch and Black-bird were now so numerous and harmful that they should be totally unprotected. A large number of exhibits was shown to illustrate and compare notes and observations taken by members upon the genus *Ptilotis*. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., and Mr. E. Ashby showed specimens from various parts of Australasia, and included rare species of this honey-eating family of birds. Mr. F. R. Zietz and Dr. Angove also showed stuffed birds—the former three species of Field-Wrens (*Calamanthus*), and the latter the smallest Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus ruficeps*), from Western Australia. Dr. A. M. Morgan and Mr. R. Crompton exhibited birds' eggs, Dr. Morgan's contributions consisting of those of the Great Bower-Bird and the Koel. Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited *Acanthizas* from Tasmania, including the Brown-tailed and Ewing Tits and an albino of the latter. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz reported having received two Emu eggs from Melville Island, the first that had been procured in that locality.

### The late Professor Alfred Newton.

IN connection with the notice of the late Professor Newton in the last issue of this journal (p. 113), it was thought that members of the A.O.U. would approve of a likeness of the deceased ornithologist, therefore one is herewith given (plate xii.) reproduced from the October number of *British Birds*. Besides for his great attainments, the late Professor was held in affectionate friendship by many of his correspondents, the same as was the late beloved Baron von Mueller.

### Notes and Notices.

OOLOGY.—Mr. H. L. White, A.O.U., Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, desires to purchase certain rare Australian birds' eggs. None but well-authenticated full clutches will be considered. Reference, Mr. A. Mattingley, hon. secretary A.O.U.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE.—The hon. secretary of the A.O.U. has received the following letter from Leverett Mills Loomis, Director of the California Academy of Sciences:—"At a meeting of the California Academy of Sciences held 5th August, 1907, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—'Resolved that the thanks of the California Academy of Sciences be tendered to the Council of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union for its generous contribution of *The Emu* to the library of the Academy. Coming to us as it does in the hour of our disaster, it has given us renewed hope and courage.'"



The late Professor Alfred Newton, F.R.S., of Cambridge, England.

MRS. F. H. HUTCHINSON (Drouin) writes:—"I have just received my copy of *The Emu*, containing Mr. Mattingley's splendid photographs of the Egrets' nests on the Murray. Would it not be possible to have them published in *The Australasian*, so as to arouse the interest and sympathy of the general public to the cruel slaughter of the birds and starvation of the unfortunate nestlings? I am sure anyone with a spark of humanity would be roused to indignation by those photographs. Comparatively few persons see *The Emu*, and they are all more or less interested in birds, whereas *The Australasian* is so widely circulated."

A CLASSICAL WORK BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.—"A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares)," by F. Du Cane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S. All the known species of Petrels, Shearwaters, and Albatrosses will be fully dealt with, and the work will be illustrated by more than 100 hand-coloured plates, drawn and coloured under the most careful supervision. Large quarto (10 x 13 inches). Printed on rag paper. The work to be completed in five quarterly parts. All the plates are prepared, and the manuscript for the work is practically complete, and the publishers promise a punctual issue of the parts. The edition will be limited to 225 numbered copies. The subscription price of each part is £2 5s., and the complete work may be paid for in advance at the reduced price of £10 10s. Cheques should be made payable to the publishers, Witherby and Co., 326 High Holborn, London.

BIRD ILLUSTRATIONS.—Mr. E. M. Cornwall, Mackay, Q., is still active with his camera. The latest of his happy results are:—"Nest of Brown-breasted Fly-eater (*Pseudogerygone brunneipectus*);" "One-tree Rock" (a nesting place of many sea birds); "Nestling of Sea-Eagle (*Haliastur girrenera*);" "Nest and Eggs of Black Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus quoyi*)."—an exceedingly beautiful picture. The Butcher-Bird's nest was taken near Mackay on the 11th November, and was prettily situated in a parasitical clump in a tall melaleuca (tea-tree) growing in a swamp. "This," writes Mr. Cornwall, "is the first occasion in this district that I have noted these birds nesting away from the mangroves. They are very plentiful here in their favoured haunts, but so far I have not observed a brown individual. [If there be no birds in brownish plumage in the Mackay district belonging to this species, what is the reason? Why do the black birds cease to throw brown ones in the south and not in the north of Queensland?—EDS.]

A COLLECTOR'S DIFFICULTIES.—Mr. J. P. Rogers, A.O.U., writes:—"I left Derby for Wyndham last May on a collecting trip. Small mammals were the chief object, but am sorry to say the trip was fruitless. I found that on the Fitzroy River nearly

all small animals had died out; this includes opossums, rats, 'squirrels,' bandicoots, native cats, &c. The rock wallaby seems to be going too. Whilst at Mount Wynne, 100 miles inland from Derby, I searched in vain for the rock wallaby. In 1899 I could see 6 or 7 almost any evening, and was always sure of seeing 2 or 3. Last May I spent one day on the hill, and did not even see traces of them. I had no opportunity of trying the Ord River valley, as my cart broke down, and by the time I effected repairs I had to push straight on to Wyndham. I had a nice lot of birds' skins when the accident happened, but the dingoes got at them. When I left the cart to get help I had to go into Hallock, 40 miles away. On my return only a few feathers were left of the skins."

"GALDENS."—Adverting to the recent correspondence on this subject, Mr. Tom Carter has sent the following extract from a letter received from the late Professor Newton, written under date of 21st March, 1907:—"What precise species Dampier meant by his 'Galdens' must be left for your Australians to decide on, but I should not, as a matter of choice, fix either on a blue or white one, for I suspect the name originated in America, and there it is almost entirely confined to the pretty dark-coloured *Butorides viridescens* (a little Bittern-looking bird), and it would probably be to some similar-looking bird that the name would be applied in Australia." It appears the Professor held different views from Mr. Carter upon the subject. The letter Mr. Carter wrote to *The Emu*,\* with extract from Buffon, shows that Mr. Carter had good grounds for his views. A copy of Buffon's note on Galdens was forwarded to Professor Newton, but he died before the letter reached him.

### Handlist to the Birds of Australasia.

The Council of the A.O.U. has pleasure in publishing a "Handlist to the Birds of Australasia," by one of its members, and an Australian native, Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, of Watford, Herts, England. No apology is needed for the list, which has been approved of by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and other eminent ornithologists. Mr. Mathews has compiled the list, which is up-to-date in classification, as a preliminary step to his proposed classical work in which he intends to give a coloured figure of every known Australian bird. The Council desires to assist Mr. Mathews in his single-hearted enterprise. It was also thought that this new list would form an excellent foundation to the long-deferred "Check-List of Australian Birds." Mr. Mathews' "List" will be issued in the form of a "Supplement" to this issue of *The Emu*, and members are invited to subscribe 2s. 6d. each towards the additional expense.

\* Vol. vii., p. 101.