

information which my letter desired should be embodied in a book of convenient size. This excellent work of Professor Ridgway should be of great assistance to a committee in arriving at a uniform standard colour-chart. An official system of nomenclature of colours for naturalists, approved internationally, is urgently needed to prevent the chaos of colour descriptions which exists in many branches of natural history at the present time. Precision of colour description will be a distinct gain to science.—Yours, &c.,

A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.

Melbourne, 4/9/09.

### Notes and Notices.

"THE EMU," VOL. I.—Mr. F. E. Howe, 39 Young-street, Albert Park (Vic.), would be glad to purchase any parts of this volume if extant and for sale.

BROINOWSKI'S "BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA."—A large and useful work on Australian birds, containing over 700 coloured illustrations, originally issued at £19, is to be sold at £4 10s. Apply to Acting Hon. Secretary A.O.U.

COLOURED FIGURE FUND.—The hon. treasurer (Mr. J. A. Ross) acknowledges with thanks the following contributions to the Coloured Figure Fund, received during the year ending 30th June, 1909:—Dr. Angove (S.A.), 1s. 6d.; F. L. Berney (Q.), 10s.; Miss Brumby (Tas.), 5s.; Mrs. Burrell (N.S.W.), £1 10s.; H. Burrell (N.S.W.), 5s.; Geo. Graham (Vic.), 2s. 6d.; J. G. Gray (N.S.W.), £1; Col. W. V. Legge (Tas.), 7s. 6d.; J. P. Rogers (W.A.), 1s. 6d.; C. S. Thompson (U.S.A.), 5s.; J. M. Thomson (Vic.), 5s.; Thos. Tindale (Vic.), 2s. 6d.; S. P. Townsend (Vic.), 2s. 6d.; H. L. White (N.S.W.) (in addition to £20 for illustrating part 5, vol. viii.), £4 18s.

EGGS OF *NINOX OCELLATA*.—In rearranging and tabulating my oological collection, I find that typical eggs of *Ninox ocellata* do not appear to have been described. Comparing mine with the type (described by Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., in *The Emu*, ii., page 86), which I have acquired, they do not agree. An undoubtedly authenticated clutch of *Ninox ocellata*, taken by Mr. F. L. Whitlock on the Coongan River, North-West Australia, 5/9/08, are white, round in form, texture inclined to be coarse, surface slightly lustrous. Measurements—(1) 1.7 x 1.42, (2) 1.67 x 1.47, (3) 1.65 x 1.4 inches. Those described by Mr. Le Souëf are smaller, more elongate in shape, and more resemble the eggs of *Strix delicatula*.—H. L. WHITE. Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W.

BASS STRAIT EXPEDITION.—A reunion of the members of the Australasian Ornithologists' expedition to the Bass Strait islands in November-December last year took place on 9th July, 1909, at the Independent Hall, Melbourne, in conjunction with an entertainment given by the Bird Observers' Club. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Gibson-Carmichael attended, and the chair was occupied by Mr. E. B. Nicholls, A.O.U. Among those present were—Dr. G. T. Howard and Mrs. Howard, Dr. C. L. Lempriere, Mr. J. A. Leach, M.Sc., and Mrs. Leach, Mr. W. T. Kendall, M.R.C.V.S., and Mrs. Kendall, Dr. S. A. Ewing, Dr. George Horne and Mrs. Horne, Dr. H. W. Bryant and Misses Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Mattingley, Mr. Andrew Scott (Elmore), Mr. O. W. Rosenhain, Mr. A. R. Aylwin, Mr. W. A. Shum and Miss Shum, Misses Le Souëf, Mrs. A. J. Campbell and Misses Campbell, Miss Fenton, Misses Nicholls, Miss B. Wood, Miss Barrett, Messrs. A. H. Kenyon, Z. Gray, and J. Barr. Mr. Donald Macdonald was to have given a history of the expedition, but was unable to attend, through indisposition. Mr. Charles Barrett (hon. sec. B.O.C.) took his place, and, with the aid of a fine selection of lantern slides, described the voyage of the s.s. *Manawatu* from the time she left Melbourne till she stranded in Western Port Bay. Views were shown of the bird rookeries on Penguin, Cat, Storehouse, and other islands. Mr. A. J. Campbell, Col. M. B.O.U., then gave a very interesting account of the Mutton-Bird (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). He described the wonderful nesting habits of the bird, and explained how the half-castes who live among the islands gather the eggs and the nestlings. The lecturer was warmly applauded.

After a brief interval, Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., the leader of the Ornithologists' expedition, made a few explanatory remarks prior to a display of the cinematograph pictures, which were taken under his direction by Mr. O. Perry, an expert operator. The films were unlike anything yet seen in Melbourne. Hundreds of seals were shown clambering about the rocks at Seal Island and making graceful evolutions in the sea. Then appeared on the screen pictures of the great Gannet rookery on Cat Island. Thousands of big white birds were seen flying about their nesting-place, and the domestic economy of the Gannet was shown. The Cormorant films proved equally interesting, and finally the members of the expedition were shown climbing the rocky hillside at Deal Island. At the conclusion of the display there was hearty applause. During the evening Lady Carmichael was presented with a souvenir album of photographs of the Bass Strait islands and their bird-life. The presentation was made by Miss Fenton, on behalf of the Bird Observers' Club.—*Herald*, 10/7/09.