

Review.

"SCIENTIFIC Notes on an Expedition into the North-Western Regions of South Australia," by S. A. White, M.B.O.U., and others, reprinted from "Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia," vol. xxxix., 1915, will be welcomed by all interested in the "Dead Heart" of Australia. It is fortunate for scientific research in general, and ornithology in particular, that the lure of this romantic region has so drawn our President, Captain S. A. White, that he has completed another big trip into this vast area. The present party visited the unexplored Everard Ranges, where a tribe of aborigines unknown to white men was met with. Captain White was able to make friends with the chief of the tribe, with valuable results. The fine series of photographs reveals a people of splendid physique, and of great interest to anthropologists. Varied collections were made by Captain White in different branches of zoology and botany. These have been dealt with by Messrs. Edgar R. Waite, F.L.S. (Mammalia and Ophidia), Lacertilia (F. R. Zietz), Mollusca (A. R. Riddle), Arachnida (W. J. Rainbow), Coleoptera (A. M. Lea, F.E.S.), Lepidoptera (A. Jefferies Turner, M.D., F.E.S.), Hymenoptera (Professor W. M. Wheeler), Botany (J. M. Black), and Language of the Everard Range Tribe (J. M. Black), while Captain White himself has supplied the interesting "Narrative" of the expedition, the valuable account of the "Aborigines of the Everard Range," and the section treating of "Aves" (Birds).

Captain White, with Mr. J. P. Rogers, well known as a field ornithologist and collector, accompanied a Government geological expedition into the unknown North-West from Oodnadatta. John Gould's long-lost Chestnut-breasted Whiteface (*Aphelocephala pectoralis*) was re-discovered, and two sub-species of birds new to science were discovered.

Captain White, the "explorer ornithologist," has earned the gratitude of Australian nature students by his zealous and self-denying labours and by his faithful scientific treatment of the material collected on these arduous journeys into the vast solitudes of those central deserts.

Obituary Notice.

MR. Henry Eeles Dresser, the author of a number of important ornithological works, died suddenly on 26th November, 1915, at Cannes, France, at the age of 77 years. For the past seven years he had been in failing health. The cause of death was heart failure. The late Mr. Dresser's collection of Palaearctic birds' skins and eggs, the material on which his monograph was based, together with his library of ornithological works, are in the possession of the Manchester Museum, England.

Publications Received.

The Australian Naturalist, January, 1916.

The Victorian Naturalist, January and February, 1916.

The January number contains an interesting article by Mr. G. A. Keartland, entitled "A Study of Birds at Breeding Time."

The Report of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia for 1914-15.

It is stated in the report that the Museum now contains the skins of 520 species of birds, and the collection includes many sub-species and different phases of plumage due to age, sex, season, and colour variation.

The Zoologist, November-December, 1915.

In the November number is an interesting and instructive article on the "Pleistocene and Later Bird Fauna of Great Britain and Ireland," by Mr. Alfred Bell.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, April to August, 1915.

Avicultural Magazine, November, December, 1915, January, 1916.

In the November number Dr. A. J. Butler gives an account of the longevity of Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*) in an aviary. His experience is that the birds need much shelter in winter. In his aviary, in which he introduced a radiator in cold weather, they lived for years, and bred all the year round. Dr. Butler concludes that these birds, although hardy, are naturally short-lived, although one of his specimens lived for 10 years. The December number contains an article by the Marquis of Tavistock on "Pennant Parrakeets at Liberty." Many of the birds made full use of their liberty by flying away from where they would be protected and fed. In one case the young left the nest when in adult crimson plumage, which is very unusual. Dr. Hopkinson concludes his article on "English Names for the Parrots." In the January number Mr. G. A. Heumann gives an account of his week-end trips to the country adjacent to Sydney in spring, and of the bird-life he saw there.

British Birds, November, December, 1915, January, 1916.

Revue Française d'Ornithologie, November, December, 1915.

In the November number appears an interesting article by Mons. P. Bede on "Birds and Electricity." In the December number Dr. Millet-Horsin gives a list of 36 birds observed at the island of Lemnos. Many of the birds mentioned were also observed by Dr. H. W. Bryant, R.A.O.U., of Melbourne.

Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institute for 1914.

Expeditions to little-known parts of the world continue to be sent out by the Institute, and their results must greatly enrich