

slightly larger than the female. The paper was illustrated by a splendid series of skins of the Little Penguin in different stages of development, and some excellent pictures that had been obtained by Mr. T. H. Tregellas.

Mr. Le Souëf then screened many unique studies of different species of Penguins, and his remarks upon them were greatly appreciated by members. Eggs of several species of Penguins were exhibited by Mr. A. C. Stone.

---

The third (September) conversazione of the R.A.O.U. was held on Wednesday, 5th, at the room, Temple Court, and a fair number of members attended. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, who welcomed to the meeting Mr. Quinney, of Mortlake, and Miss Cayley, of Sydney. Mr. Alexander and Dr. Nicholls exhibited skins of the Little Penguin from Western Australia, and called the attention of members to the coloration of the backs of the birds, which was somewhat brighter than is found in the eastern birds. The subject for the evening was "Honey-eaters," and Mr. W. H. D. Le Souëf opened the subject with a fine series of lantern slides dealing with many species. From his comments on the pictures members gleaned much interesting information. Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley then contributed some interesting notes on the subject, his remarks being illustrated by some praiseworthy pictures of many forms of Victorian Honey-eaters. Messrs. Alexander, Stone, Keep, and Ross took part in the discussion which followed. Mr. F. E. Wilson then read a letter from Private L. G. Chandler, which showed that, in spite of exacting military duties in France, he was still able to gain a little time for nature study.


A feature of the evening was the series of eggs of Honey-eaters exhibited by Mr. A. C. Stone, and about which he made some interesting remarks. A fairly extensive series of skins of Honey-eaters from the Union's collection was tabled, and a comparison of them added much to the evening's enjoyment.

---

### About Members.

**Ornithologist at the Australian Museum.**—The trustees of the above institution have decided not to fill permanently for the present the position of ornithologist, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. A. J. North, C.M.B.O.U. Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, R.A.O.U., has offered his services in an honorary capacity, and the Museum trustees have accepted the offer.

Mr. Basset Hull is to be congratulated (and members of the R.A.O.U. may well congratulate themselves, likewise the trustees of the Museum concerned) on his patriotism in giving up gratuitously so much of his valuable time in the interests of the ornithology of his State, and incidentally of the Commonwealth.



By reason of the "material" and fine library at his hands, Mr. Basset Hull's services on the "Check-list" Committee will be doubly valuable.

---

### Obituary.

DEATH has removed two influential members of the R.A.O.U.

First, Mr. O. W. Rosenhain, who was travelling with Mrs. Rosenhain in the East at the time. Three days before arriving at Japan Mr. Rosenhain was attacked by a heart seizure, which ended fatally on the 4th September, 1917. He was born in South Australia, and was comparatively a young man. He took keen interest in birds and bird protection, and promoted the "Bird Protection Court" at an exhibition held in Melbourne some years ago. At the Bird Observers' meetings and field outings the late Mr. Rosenhain was the most genial of members, and his loss will be keenly felt.

Second, Mr. E. A. Petherick, C.M.G., the Australian bibliographer, who, in submitting himself to an operation, died at Mount St. Evin's private hospital, East Melbourne, on the 17th September. Mr. Petherick was born at Burnham, Somerset, England, and was 70 years of age. In 1909 Mr. Petherick presented the nation (through the Commonwealth Parliament Library) with an invaluable collection of books, documents, charts, &c. (numbering several thousands—the collection of a lifetime) pertaining to the history of Australia and the early voyages of navigators in the Southern Seas. At the annual session of the R.A.O.U. held in Sydney, 1911, a movement was started to have the Petherick bibliography concerning Australian ornithology published. The movement has not yet borne fruit, and, on purely national grounds, should be set afoot again, perhaps after the war. The work of the "Check-list" Committee would be greatly aided by such an indispensable reference.

All members of the R.A.O.U. will desire to pay tribute to the memory of these two deceased members, and tender their sincerest sympathy to the respective families.

---

### Notes.

THE honorary secretary, Mr. Le Souëf, would be glad of any notes that members can give him from actual observation on the food of birds of prey, especially Eagles.

THE honorary treasurer is desirous of reminding members that subscriptions for the current year are now due. Owing to the great increase of printing cost, he would be glad to receive subscriptions promptly.

FOLLOWING the decision of the vote of members, the Council has decided that the annual congress and camp-out shall not be held this year, and that the election of officers and the business of the annual meeting shall be conducted by correspondence.