

Obituary

Mr. F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

Much regret will be felt in the death of Mr. Fritz Robert Zietz, the well-known South Australian ornithologist. This occurred at his residence—Seafeld Avenue, Kingswood, Adelaide—on Monday, April 10th, 1922, after a short and painful illness. Mr. Zietz was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. C. Zietz. His father, after being connected with the Kiel Museum, Germany, became Assistant-Director and Ornithologist of the Adelaide Museum. He held these positions until his retirement under the Septuagenarian Act a few years ago. Mr. Robert Zietz was born on October 11th, 1874, and was therefore only 48 years of

age, and in the prime of life. He was appointed a student-apprentice at the Adelaide Museum on March 6th, 1891, and promoted to the position of museum assistant on July 1st, 1897. In June, 1919, owing to his studious habits and attention to careful discipline, he had gained such a wide and varied knowledge of our native Australian birds, and those of other parts of the world, that he was appointed to the office of Ornithologist—a position that he held until his death. Under his careful supervision and personal attention, the bird and egg collections advanced wonderfully. Mr. Zietz was also an ardent field worker, and collected for various parts. He was able to assist greatly all those interested in ornithology by giving advice, and by being able to place his hand on any specimen needed for comparison and on names needed in working out the life-histories of the various species. Both in his official and private work nothing was ever too much trouble when assisting the ornithological movement.

Mr. Zietz was a foundation member of the South Australian Ornithological Association, and also a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union for a number of years. In these bodies, especially the former, his death will be keenly felt, as he was a hard and continuous worker, and had been for a long time on the editorial committee of the *South Australian Ornithologist*—the official organ of the local association. He was also a member of the Royal Society, and to all of those societies he from time to time contributed valuable papers. During recent years he had taken up the study of the Australian lizards, and had compiled a catalogue of these for the Adelaide Museum. Both in the study of this branch of natural history and that of ornithology and oology, Mr. Zietz showed marked ability, doubtless inherited from his father, who was a wonderfully keen and authentic naturalist.

Mr. Zietz leaves a wife and one son as well as a mother to mourn their loss; his father had only recently passed away.

At a meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association, held on April 28, feeling reference was made to the death of Mr. F. R. Zietz, and eulogistic remarks were passed upon his ability and life work. The members present stood in silence for a short time as a token of respect in which he was held.

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WILLIAM O'MEARA, R.A.O.U

William O'Meara died suddenly at his office, Park Street, Parkville, on Tuesday, April 10th, 1922. Mr. O'Meara was one of the pioneer builders of Kalgoorlie, and was also a well-known Melbourne contractor. His total deafness from early youth made him quiet and reticent, but to those who knew him he was an exceptionally well-read man. He retired from active busi-

ness many years ago, and had visited the Continent and America several times. He joined the R.A.O.U. a few years ago, and was present at the sessions of the Union held in Queensland and West Australia as well as the camp-outs on the Bunya Mts. (Q.) and at Yallingup (W.A.).

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FREDERICK GEORGE FENTON, J.P.

It is with regret that we have to record the death, on 22nd May, 1922, of Mr. F. G. Fenton, J.P., a well-known and much respected resident of Nathalia, Victoria.

Mr. Fenton was a lover of Nature and was particularly interested in animals and birds, of which he had a fine collection at his home, "The Hut," Nathalia. He was a valued and esteemed member of the Union.

His death was the result of a long and painful illness. Our sympathy is extended to his relatives and wide circle of friends.

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THOMAS TINDALE, R.A.O.U.

Mr. T. Tindale was born at Heaford (Lincolnshire) in 1837, and came to Australia in 1850. He was for thirty-three years manager of Langi Kal Station (Vic.) and later lived on his own property, "Lowlands" Apollo Bay, where he died, after an accident, on May 16th, 1922. He was always keenly interested in natural history and especially in Bird Life and though not an active member of the R.A.O.U., he maintained his interest in it from the date of the first "Emu" to the time of his death.
