

grass there was generally evidence that a Gull's nest had been there at some time or that running water did, at times, pass through the patch.

The frozen grass-tufts would, and doubtless do, derive considerable benefit by being built into a Gull's nest. The warmth from the sitting bird although killing the inside tufts would thaw and stimulate growth in those on the outside. A certain amount of guano would be added, and although I was unable to remain to see the process through, I anticipate that these growing nests would flower with certainty and at an earlier date than those growing in a free state.

My own efforts to grow this grass in a tin on a ship's deck were not successful, in so much that although the grass is alive after over four months, yet its growth was almost nothing and there is no suggestion of flowering.

The Gull (*L. dominicanus*), a local race, larger and lighter as an immature bird than that inhabiting the Falklands, appears to be able to arrange its nesting to suit the variations of climate. In the Falklands, eggs are laid on or about the 10th of December. At South Shetlands they are much earlier. Deception Island, 63° S., is volcanic and still warm. Here suitable snow-free nesting spots appear early and the Gull breeds accordingly. Eggs were not fresh on November 18th. One degree further north, at Admiralty Bay, fresh eggs were found well into December, and very few before. The reason would appear to be lack of sites until the snow starts melting away. Nesting must commence as early as possible to ensure that the young get off before winter sets in.

R.A.O.U. Congress, 1927.

The Hon. State Secretary of the R.A.O.U. for Western Australia (Mr. D. L. Serventy) has forwarded a tentative programme for the next Congress and camp-out of the Union. Members are invited to state their view of the following programme :

- Sept. 14th Leave Sydney.
- Sept. 15th Leave Melbourne.
- Sept. 16th Leave Adelaide.
- Sept. 19th Monday. Arrive in Perth. Civic reception. In the afternoon a reception at the Zoological Gardens.
- Sept. 20th } In session at the Museum. Leave for Camp-out
- to } on the afternoon of the last day.
- Sept. 22nd }
- Sept. 23rd }
- to } Camp-out.
- Oct. 2nd }

The suggested locality for the camp-out is a point between Denmark and Pemberton, in heavily timbered country,* where settlement has not penetrated. It is hoped to obtain accommodation at a settler's house on the outskirts of settlement.