

been recognized by scientific circles as *facile princeps* amongst medicinary entomologists, so that he was selected to lecture on this subject to the Pan-Pacific Congress held in Sydney in 1923. Last year, as President of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, his address—written while the dread Bright's disease held him in its grip—was a model epitome of the work done to the present date in this wonderful theatre of work—a work that is making safe the tropical world to the white man. Only twelve months ago the writer was one of a happy band of science pilgrims to the A.A.A.S. Congress at Perth. On this journey, and on the long expeditions organized by our hosts, Eustace Ferguson was always to the fore, delighting in the splendour of wild flowers, insects, and birds now seen for the first time in their own habitat. He contributed many papers to the Linnean and other scientific societies of Australia on his favourite subjects, and was the authority on the Phalidurine or ground weevils, peculiar to this continent—a group that had greatly puzzled previous workers, many of which he described, some discovered by himself. Of late years he wrote chiefly on the classification of Australian Diptera (flies), and an extensive addition to our knowledge of these has already resulted; alas, but a fraction of what we had hoped had he been permitted the ordinary span of man's life.

Born in New Zealand in 1884, graduating in Sydney in 1908, Dr. Ferguson entered the Department of Public Health in 1913. From 1915-1918 he served in the Australian Army Medical Corps in France and Palestine. In 1920 he succeeded Professor Cleland as Microbiologist to the Department of Public Health. Here his naturalist's eye could classify the microbe or bacillus with the same accuracy as in the larger scale of nature. His many friends will lament the untimely passing of a thoughtful and genial companion, whose wide reading and kindly temper made him welcome within or outside the house. A wife and six children, five sons and a daughter, mourn his loss.—H. J. CARTER.

Council Meetings, R.A.O.U.

At the June meeting of the Council deep regret was expressed at the death of Mr. H. L. White, and the action of the General Secretary in forwarding a letter of condolence to Mrs. White was endorsed.

It was decided to communicate with the Tasmanian Government, asking that steps be taken to protect Cape Barren Geese, and with the Chief Secretary of Victoria stating that the Union strongly opposes any recurrence of the general open season for opossums.

The following motion was also agreed to unanimously:—
"That, in view of the frequent requests for open seasons, and

for the removal of protection of fauna, the R.A.O.U. urges the Chief Secretary of Victoria to appoint an Advisory Committee from Natural History Societies or to at least consult the societies before action is taken."

It was agreed that the names of members whose subscriptions are two years in arrear should be removed from the roll. The Council expresses the hope that members whose subscriptions are in arrears, usually as a result of mere neglect, will render it unnecessary for the foregoing decision to be acted upon.

Five new members were enrolled.

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At the meeting of the Council held on 13th July a memorial minute was approved placing on record the various gifts for which the Union is indebted to the late H. L. White, and of the Union's deep sense of gratitude therefor.

It was decided to send a strong protest to the Customs Department against the importation of birds from other countries to Australia. The secretary was also instructed to forward to the Chief Secretary of Victoria a protest against the use of Galahs for trap-shooting in the northern parts of Victoria.

Dr. J. A. Leach drew attention to the practice of the Defence Department of providing Emu feathers for the head-dress of certain Australian troops. It was agreed that the Department should be asked whether the use of such feathers was considered essential.

Dr. Leach reported that further efforts were being made to obtain Lyre-Birds for liberation in Tasmania, and the secretary was instructed to apply for the necessary permit from the Chief Inspector of Fisheries.

Messrs. J. A. Ross and A. G. Campbell were appointed to represent the R.A.O.U. on a deputation to the Chief Secretary regarding game protection.

Four new members were enrolled.

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The August meeting of the Council was held on the 8th of that month at the new rooms of the Union in Latrobe Street, opposite the Museum. Satisfaction was expressed at the appearance and convenience of the room, and the thanks of members were tendered to Mr. Favaloro, whose energy had resulted in the premises being obtained. The work done by a few members and others in connection with the task of removal from Flinders Street was also appreciated.

Delegates of the Union who attended a deputation to the Victorian Chief Secretary reported that the Minister had promised to give sympathetic consideration to the requests made for stricter protection and for the appointment of an Advisory Committee.

The Commonwealth authorities wrote stating that investigation had been made of a newspaper report that aeroplanes had been used in the interior from which to shoot Emus, and it was believed that the report had no foundation in fact.

In connection with the bait used by fishermen for crayfish pots, it was decided to ask the State authorities to arrange that the licenses issued to these fishermen should be indorsed with suitable extracts from the game laws.

A letter was received from the Defence Department giving the reasons for which it was considered desirable to continue the use of Emu plumes in the head-dress of Light Horse Regiments. Members expressed the opinion that the time had arrived when the practice could be dropped with advantage.

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A special meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday evening, August 16, in order to meet Mr. A. H. Chisholm (editor of *The Emu*), who was in Melbourne for a few days. There were twelve Melbourne members of the Council present. Mr. Latham, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, also attended. Dr. Leach presided.

The early part of the evening was occupied by a general discussion on the habits of Lyre-Birds, which are receiving considerable attention, both in Sydney and Melbourne. Mr. Chisholm showed some very fine pictures taken by him near Sydney.

Mr. Latham drew attention to the fact that skins of protected animals, etc., are still being exported in large quantities, and suggested that the Commonwealth Government be urged to assume control of fauna preservation. Steps have been taken already in this direction, and the support of the Union will be sought at the proper time.

Later in the evening Mr. Chisholm expressed the views of some inter-State members on questions affecting the management of the Union. Stress was laid upon the need for amendment of the Articles, and Mr. Chisholm undertook to consult other members of the sub-committee appointed at last Congress and to forward concrete suggestions for consideration.

The printing of *The Emu* was also discussed, and general satisfaction was expressed at the appearance of the last number, which was printed for the first time by *The Australasian Medical Publishing Co., Ltd.*, Sydney.

The evening was a very pleasant one and served to show that personal visits, such as that of Mr. Chisholm, do much to clear away misunderstandings and to promote the welfare of the Union.
