

Great Barrier Reef Expeditions.

Already more than thirty persons interested in the birds, turtles, fishes and coral animals of the Great Barrier Reef have intimated their intention of participating in one or other of the two nature study excursions organized by Mr. E. F. Pollock, R.A.O.U., to visit the islands of the Bunker and Capricorn groups, off the coast of Queensland, at the end of this year.

All the islands visited by the R.A.O.U. expedition in 1910, viz.: Masthead, North-west, Heron, Erskine and Tryon Islands, and North Reef, will again be explored, and, in addition, Lady Musgrave, Fairfax, Hoskyn, One Tree and Wreck Islands will be visited. No systematic survey has hitherto been made by ornithologists on the last-named group. It is known that there is a large colony of Brown Gannets or Boobies on Hoskyn Island, and doubtless each of the others will prove to be the breeding haunts of various sea-birds.

The first expedition, leaving Sydney on 13th November, and Bundaberg two days later, is already filled, and includes representatives of every State of the Commonwealth except Western Australia. Several members of the R.A.O.U. are taking this opportunity of visiting the fascinating atolls.

The second excursion has been timed to suit the convenience of teachers and others who can only make the trip during the summer holidays, and will leave Sydney on December 27. It will cover the same ground as the earlier one, and any members who cannot complete the whole period of 26 days on the islands can be landed a few days earlier. Mr. Pollock, whose address is at 7 Carrington Avenue, Strathfield, N.S.W., states that there are still vacancies in this second party.

Notes and Comments.

Probate was granted in July of the will of the late Henry L. White, of "Belltrees," Scone, N.S.W., the distinguished member and financial supporter of the R.A.O.U., who died on May 30, leaving an estate of the net value of £160,850, of which £128,049 represented an interest in a partnership. The testator, who was 67 years of age, appointed his son, Alfred Henry Ebsworth White, his brother, Arthur George White (both of "Belltrees"), and Arthur Charles Ebsworth, solicitor, of Sydney, his executors and trustees. He bequeathed to his widow, Louisa Maude White, £1,000, to be paid to her out of the first moneys coming into the hands of the trustees, the sum of £2,764 standing to the credit of his current account in the bank, the household furniture and effects, and the use

and enjoyment of the homestead at "Belltrees" during her life. He left his collection of birds' eggs and nests, except that made by him in his boyhood, to the National Museum, Melbourne, a legacy of £15,000 each to his daughters, Dorothy Ebsworth Minell and Norah Ebsworth Hordern; £1,000 each to an employee, Sydney William Jackson, his solicitor, Arthur Charles Ebsworth, the Scott Memorial Hospital at Scone; and the income of £1,000 as an addition to the stipend of the Anglican clergyman of the parish of Gundy, in the diocese of Newcastle. After making other bequests, the testator directed that the residue of the estate should be divided into equal parts, one of which was to go to his son, A. H. E. White, absolutely, and the income from the other part paid to his widow during her life. After the death of testator's widow the second part was to pass to A. H. E. White.

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It has become sadly apparent in recent years that many of the most beautiful of Australia's Parrots have become alarmingly rare. Because of this fact, *The Emu* has devoted considerable space to these birds of late. In the last few issues particularly, attention has been paid to the small Parrots of the genus *Neophema*. The Scarlet-chest, Blue-winged, and Orange-breasted species have been illustrated in colour, with accompanying notes. In the present issue a coloured plate is given of the Bourke and Turquoise Parrots, with notes by students of these rare species. The genus will be completed later with a coloured plate of the Rock and Elegant Parrots. It is probable that, subsequently, the *Polytelis* group of Parrots will also be figured in colour. All paintings are rendered free of charge by the artist, Mr. N. W. Cayley.

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Captain S. A. White, of Adelaide, a former president of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, was married in Sydney on July 12, 1927, to Miss Muriel Fisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher, of Back Tenandra, Armatree, N.S.W. The newly-married couple subsequently embarked on a tour abroad.

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The address of the headquarters of the R.A.O.U. is now 168-170 Latrobe Street, Melbourne. All matter intended for *The Emu* should be addressed to Mr. A. H. Chisholm, *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney.