

Coloured Plates.—Mr. Neville Cayley, M.B.O.U., after providing many paintings of Australian birds as originals from which the blocks for the coloured plates have been prepared, has been forced by pressure of work to notify the Council that he cannot continue to provide paintings. The Council ordered the inclusion in the minutes of a permanent record of its great appreciation of the high value of the service rendered by Mr. Cayley during many years past.

Meetings of Council of R.A.O.U.

The March meeting was held on Tuesday, the 13th. Mr. J. A. Ross occupied the chair.

In view of the proposal to hold the 1928 Congress in New Zealand, Mr. W. R. B. Oliver wrote supplying information as to a site for camp-out and the tentative arrangements for Congress. Since the previous meeting, however, it had been learned that the Articles provide for the holding of the annual Congress in an Australian State, and it was, therefore, necessary to defer the proposal to meet in New Zealand. In the meantime, Messrs. Chisholm and Wolstenholme will be asked to consider this amongst other matters when submitting proposals for amendment of the Articles. Regret was expressed that disappointment may have been caused to members in the Dominion.

The Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game (Vic.) wrote acknowledging the valuable report submitted by Mr. A. G. Campbell regarding the Mutton-bird rookeries on Phillip Island. A resolution was carried thanking Mrs. Lambert for the gift of a very fine cabinet of microscopic slides of embryos.

Considerable time was devoted to correspondence in connection with the presidential address and the editorial footnotes published in *The Emu*. A resolution directing that footnotes be devoted, in future, to matters of fact was passed by a large majority. A resolution affirming the Council's opposition to collecting in schools was also passed. It was felt that the incident should be closed, and it was decided, on the advice of a majority of the members of the Printing Committee, not to print a further communication regarding the matter.

At the April meeting Dr. Leach occupied the chair. Further reference was made to the editorial footnotes which appeared in the January *Emu*. Some Interstate members asked that the Council should publish a disclaimer of the footnotes referred to. It was decided that no further action be taken.

At the suggestion of Mr. A. G. Campbell it was resolved that, as a first step towards the preservation of the Mutton-bird rookery, the Lands Department (Vic.) be requested not to renew the grazing lease on Cape Woolamai.

Mr. N. J. Favaloro was appointed as one of the representatives of the Union on the Victorian Flora and Fauna Advisory Committee. A notice of motion forwarded by the President, Dr. E. A. D'Ombraim, suggesting a referendum of members on various questions was referred to the Sub-Committee which is dealing with amendments of the Articles. It was decided to accept for publication, if finances permitted, a valuable treatise on the Kangaroo Island Emu.

Consideration was given to a plan proposed by Mr. A. G. Campbell for the formation of branch committees or bird clubs. The proposal was received enthusiastically, and Mr. Campbell undertook to submit further details at the May meeting.

At the meeting held on the 8th May Dr. Leach again occupied the chair. Mr. Cayley wrote stating that it would be impossible for him to supply originals for coloured plates in future. It was resolved to thank Mr. Cayley for the very valuable gifts made by him in the past, and to express in a suitable minute the appreciation of the Council. Mr. A. J. Campbell wrote apologising for absence on account of illness, and it was decided to convey the sympathy of the Council. Mr. A. J. Campbell reported that a majority of the Printing Committee was in favour of accepting the treatise on the Kangaroo Island Emu. As the authors had offered a generous donation of £10, the cost of printing would not be at all serious.

Mr. Chisholm reported that Mr. H. A. White, of "Bell-trees," Seone, has decided to donate Vol. 12 of Mathews's *Birds of Australia* and thus complete the very fine gift of his late father. The Council directed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. White, and another to Mr. Chisholm.

Mr. Chisholm wrote resigning as Editor of *The Emu*, and indicating that he was leaving for Queensland on a health trip. The Council expressed its appreciation of the very fine work done by Mr. Chisholm and its regret of the circumstances of his resignation. It was hoped that his trip would restore him completely to health.

Mr. J. N. McGilp and Professor Cleland forwarded a notice of motion in which it was proposed that the Council should disclaim responsibility for the editorial footnotes in January *Emu*. As the Council had already done this by restricted footnotes, further action was considered unnecessary.

The question of editing *The Emu* was discussed. Dr. Leach and Mr. A. J. Campbell were asked to carry on the work

in the July issue until an Editor could be found. Messrs. Sharland and Kinghorn were mentioned.

Mr. A. G. Campbell gave further details of his plan for the formation of Bird Clubs as part of the Union's activity. A more detailed reference to the matter will be found elsewhere in this issue, and the Council recommended the plan for adoption by the next Annual Congress.

The June meeting was held on the 19th. Dr. Leach occupied the Chair. It was decided to allow the Advisory Council for Fauna and Flora recently constituted by the State Government to use the rooms of the Union for meetings.

Mr. A. G. Campbell reported having attended a meeting called for the purpose of forming an Avicultural Society in Victoria. It had been decided to form such a Society, and Mr. Campbell suggested that, later on, steps be taken to have the new Society affiliated with the Union.

It was decided to ask the Tasmanian Government to proclaim an area in the south-western portion of the Island as sanctuary in order to provide for the preservation of the Ground Parrot. It was also decided to draw the attention of the Commissioner of Police in Tasmania to the necessity for strict protection of these birds, especially during the forthcoming nesting season.

After consideration of the views of Interstate members of Council, it was decided that the Congress be held at Canberra this year, and the camp-out be held somewhere in the Federal Territory.

It was agreed to ask the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and Game for a permit to allow of the capture of three pairs of Lyrebirds for introduction into Tasmania.

The accounts necessary to close the financial year on the 30th inst. were passed for payment.

NEXT CONGRESS AT CANBERRA.

On account of a less favourable season in South Australia, the next Annual Congress and camp-out will be held at Canberra during the last week in October. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance of delegates and members. Early notification to State Secretaries is requested.

Early notification of items of business and nominations for office-bearers should be made to the General Secretary, Melbourne.

The date of publication was July 1st.