

Songs and Poems. Issued by N.S.W. Gould League. See review on outside back cover.

The South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. xii, part 8.

Checklist of Birds of the World, by James L. Peters. Vol. 2. Will be reviewed in next part.

Obituary

DR. A. M. MORGAN.

Dr. Alexander Matheson Morgan was born at "Netherby," Mitcham, South Australia, in 1867, and was a son of Sir William Morgan, one of the founders of the State. Dr. Morgan from when quite a boy showed a great love for nature and no boy could have had better surroundings in which to indulge a taste for bird life, for his old home's spacious grounds were well stocked with native and other trees. At that time the adjacent country was in its natural state of virgin bush. Dr. Morgan was educated at the Geelong Grammar School, and, after he took his M.B. and B.Sc. degrees at the Adelaide University, he practised in the country—mainly at Laura and Stone Hut. There he devoted all his spare time to the hobby that interested him so much—and the district was a wonderful one to further his knowledge of ornithology and zoology. Over a space of several years he made a large collection of bird skins and eggs.

It was about 1898—when the Doctor came to Adelaide to practise—that the writer came into touch with him, and ever since a strong and lasting friendship existed between us. All the early meetings of the South Australian Ornithologists' Association were held at his rooms. At that time the Doctor was a good friend and strong supporter of that Association. About 1907 he went to England and specialized as an oculist during his sojourn there. He came into touch with leading British ornithologists, which was a source of great pleasure to him, and often he recounted discussions he had over nomenclature and other matters relating to ornithology.

At first Dr. Morgan was inclined to support the "old school" in ornithology, but he soon realized that trinomials must be used and it was not long before he was a strong supporter of the "new thought." It was the writer's great pleasure to undertake many excursions with Dr. Morgan, both inland and along the coast. Some trips stand out very prominently, such as the "Cruise of the Avocet," in search of Skuas and other forms. Dr. Morgan was especially fond of the sea birds, and our trip together in a mutual friend's yacht, the *Avocet*, in January, 1916, was most enjoyable.

We put to sea again the following Easter and spent a wonderful time amongst the sea birds in Spencer's and St. Vincent's Gulfs, the account being published in *The Emu*. September, 1917, found Dr. Morgan amongst the birds of Lake Victoria and a hundred miles down the Murray (*The Emu*, Vol. xviii, pt. i). There were too many trips to enumerate but through them all my late friend's cheerful companionship stands out very strongly.

After Dr. Morgan disposed of his practice and retired he became honorary ornithologist to the South Australian Museum and carried out that work to the benefit of the Museum and his own lasting credit. He gave his collection of bird skins and eggs to the Museum some time ago. Dr. Morgan's papers were complete and authentic and his death was a great loss to Australian ornithology. A widow, two sons and a daughter survive him.—S.A.W.

Correspondence

RELATION OF BIRDS AND INSECTS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—A. H. Chisholm in his interesting "Bird Wonders of Australia," states that there is nothing in text-books to indicate that Starlings in Britain place ants under their wings and thus the suggestion arises that the habit has been cultivated since Starlings were introduced into Australia.

This curious behaviour has been known to me for some years, although I have never been fortunate enough to see British Starlings thus employed. But my attention was drawn to the habit by an Essex man who, when I was in England, asked me whether I had ever watched Starlings collecting insects and placing them under their wings. He told me that I would see them in the autumn walking about on the lawn, picking up insects and stowing them under their wings. It was his belief that they did so prior to migrating (seasonal migration from one part of England to another) in order to have food with them when needed.

Whether his theory is more correct than that of the placing of ants under the wing for the control of parasites I cannot say, but it indicates that this habit is an old-standing one in the Starling family and I believe it dates back prior to their introduction into Australia.—Yours, etc.,

PERRINE MONCRIEFF.

"The Cliffs," Nelson, N.Z., November 7, 1934.

The Report of the Bird Observers Club and some other matter has been held over.