

given, but also valuable notes on their habits in a wild state. The work is well illustrated, and is to average about three coloured plates per part. The three parts to hand contain admirable examples of the work of Mr. H. Goodchild and Mr. H. Grönvold, whose faithful reproductions of bird life are well known to ornithologists. Amongst the Australian items of interest in the first three parts are the sections dealing with the Swainson or Blue-bellied Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*); the Red-collared Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubitorques*); the Scaly-breasted Lorikeet (*Psitteuteles chlorolepidotus*); the Musky Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus concinnus*), so common in parts of Eastern Australia; the Cockateil or Cockatoo-Parrakeet (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*), which is described as, with the exception of the Budgerigar, "the commonest Australian Parrakeet with English aviarists;" the Great-billed Parrakeet, from Western New Guinea, &c., and other Malayan species; Barraband Parrakeet (*Polytelis barrabandi*), so well known as the "Green-Leek" in Eastern Australia (this admirable coloured plate is by Mr. H. Grönvold); the Black-tailed Parrakeet (*Polytelis melanura*), commonly known in Australia as the "Rock-Pebbler"; and the Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandræ*, Gould), from Central and Western Australia, brought more under notice since the Horn Expedition, 1894. When it is remembered that the present parts of the work embrace also American and Asian species, and that for each full notes and instructions are given, it will be realized how valuable it must prove to aviculturists and students of bird life. The publisher is Mr. R. H. Porter, 7 Prince's-street, Cavendish-square, W., from whom the numbers under review have been received.

Obituary.

A RECENT mail brought news of the death of one of the founders of the American O.U. Mr. Thomas M'Ilwraith, author of the first text-book on Canadian birds ("The Birds of Ontario"), and ornithological superintendent of the district of Ontario since the first meeting of that Union, was a man (in the full sense of that word) who devoted every available hour to the duties of his office and the pursuit of bird-lore. He passed away on 31st January. The late Mr. M'Ilwraith possessed one of the largest and best private collections in Canada, got together by many an hour of patient search in American woods. The M'Ilwraith family, and more particularly Mr. Wm. M'Ilwraith, of Rockhampton, to whom the deceased was closely related, and who was the suggester of the system of observing stations which the Aust. O.U. has endeavoured to establish throughout Australia, are so well known to local ornithologists that deep sympathy will be felt for a loss which is not only personal to them, but one to the scientific world.