

### About Members.

MR. Richard C. M'Gregor, Ornithological Collector to the Bureau of Science, Manila, Philippine Islands, has returned to his duties after a well-earned term of furlough in America.

A POST-CARD, dated Vancouver, 9/4/06, has been received from Mr. Ed. Degen, F.Z.S., bearing the following :—" Westward, ho ! to Japan and Northern Siberia, returning *via* Alaska and here to New York by November." Mr. Degen's friends will wish him every success in this adventurous collecting tour. His last African trip to Uganda was a thorough success, the British Museum alone benefiting to the extent of at least 50 new types of animals.

MR. J. C. M'Lean, M.B.O.U., New Zealand, whose interesting article on the Fern-Bird appears in this issue, has kindly promised further field observations on N.Z. avifauna. He is at present most favourably situated for field work in a large tract of virgin bush-land on the East Coast of the North Island, where bird life is still very abundant, and where he is able to observe it in the same conditions as existed in the days of Capt. Cook. Mr. M'Lean finds *Certhiparus albicapillus* (Whitehead) and *Miro australis* (Wood-Robin)—species considered to be all but extinct—common. Another bird, *Anthornis melanura* (Bell-Bird)—supposed to be lost to the North Island—is fairly common. He has also noted *Creadion carunculatus* (Saddle-back), while *Acanthidositta chloris* (Rifleman)—the smallest of N.Z. birds—is usually seen hunting amongst the scraps by the camp kitchen. The only bush birds belonging to the North Island avifauna not noticed by Mr. M'Lean up to the present are *Apteryx*, *Pogonornis*, and *Turnagra*, but he may yet meet with one or all of these. Of course, *Huia* does not extend so far north, but *Glaucopis* and the *Psittaci* are very plentiful.

ON the retirement, with the close of the 5th volume, of Mr. A. J. Campbell from the post of one of the editors of *The Emu*, the following letter was written to him by the secretary of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union by the direction of the Council :—

"Owing to Mr. A. G. Campbell notifying his acceptance of the position of honorary co-editor of *The Emu*, the Council of the A.O.U. was enabled at its last meeting, definitely, though regretfully, to accept your resignation as one of the honorary co-editors of the *The Emu*. They desire me to express to you the esteem in which they hold you, and to inform you that a hearty vote of thanks was accorded you by them, as well as by the members of the Union, for whom they stand as sponsors, recognising that you have been one of the leading founders of the society, and subsequently one of the main pillars of the

Union. They also wish to place on record your devotion to the science of ornithology, and to the duties of the honorary co-editing of *The Emu* journal, knowing full well what sacrifices you have perforce made, owing to the quantity of work devolving upon you, and the inroads this work has made into your social and domestic affairs by occupying most of your spare time for the last five years. Believe me, the Council and members of the Union are cognisant of the high standard of literary, scientific, and artistic excellence which has characterised your efforts, and which are reflected in *The Emu*, the first five volumes of which stand as a permanent testimony of your ability. The members of the Union and ornithological science at large are under a deep debt of gratitude to you for your faithful and able editing. The contemplation, in after life, of your strenuous labours for the benefit of rising ornithologists, and the advancement of science generally, will bring its own reward mentally. The Council avow, however, that you may still be of great service to the Union, and they desire to have the further advantage of your mature experience and ripe judgment, and would therefore ask you to accept the position of an honorary advisory editor, which post, though onerous, will be devoid of the drudgery and consequent loss of time pertaining to the work of editing *The Emu*."

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### Obituary Notice.

THE news of the death, in the 39th year of his age, of Dr. Paul Leverkühn, Private Secretary to H.R.H. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and Director of the Royal Scientific Institute and Library at Sofia, will be received with great regret by all ornithologists who knew of his work. He was born in Hanover in 1867, and died of pneumonia, supervening on typhoid, at Sofia, on 5th December last. He was a man of varied abilities—scientist, diplomat, litterateur, and musician. He had been in the service of the Prince of Bulgaria from 1892, and at the time of his death was at work on the new Museum of Natural History at Sofia, which was intended to be opened next year. His ornithological writings are marked by punctilious care in reference to authorities and general arrangement. Probably the best known is the treatise entitled "Fremde Eier im Nest" ("Another Bird's Eggs in the Nest"), which appeared in 1891, when the author was but four-and-twenty; it is an exhaustive summary of the records of results occurring when one bird's eggs have in some way or other been placed in another bird's nest. It contains, moreover, in a lengthy footnote (pp. 36-45) a complete list of everything that had been written to the date of its publication on the mound-building birds (*Megapodidae*), which will be found most valuable