

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*."

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

to students of that interesting family. Dr. Leverkühn was the author of part of the introduction to the "New Naumann," which was reviewed in this journal last July, and was in correspondence with the editors only a short time before he died. He was a corresponding member of the British Ornithological Union. At his funeral two velvet cushions on which rested no less than 21 orders were carried behind his coffin. Dr. Leverkühn's interest in the work of the A.O.U. was very great. He had kindly promised to send the editors a list of names of Continental magazines which might be useful to the Union, but was not spared to fulfil that promise.

Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

ROUGH MINUTES OF THE 37TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE A.O.U., HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF DR. C. RYAN, 37 COLLINS-STREET, MELBOURNE, THURSDAY, 31ST MAY, 1906.

Correspondence.—A large amount of correspondence was dealt with, including a communication from the Department of Lands, New South Wales, in reply to a letter advising the reservation of Oil-tree Lagoon, Goombargona (water reserve No. 2,897), as a sanctuary for waterfowl, stating that, as the lagoon occasionally dried up, it was deemed inexpedient to reserve the locality. Captain Barton, of New Guinea, wrote stating that he was recording notes of the migration of birds between New Guinea and Australia as far as he was able. He also stated that prodigious quantities of gorgeous butterflies flew from Australia to the shores of New Guinea across Torres Strait, and suggested that the flights of these insects were probably due to hereditary instinct, and that they followed the course of old land connections. A letter was received from Mr. A. J. Campbell, in reply to a communication forwarded to him by the Council of the A.O.U. accepting his voluntary resignation as one of the hon. editors of *The Emu*, but at the same time requesting him to accept a position as an hon. advisory editor. The Mortlake Progress Association also wrote requesting the co-operation of the Council of the A.O.U. with a proposition that a swamp, lake, or lagoon in every district of Victoria be reserved as a breeding-place for birds. It was decided to give the Association moral support. Mr. F. P. Godfrey tendered his resignation as hon. treasurer of the A.O.U., stating that owing to circumstances it was impossible for him to attend to the work pertaining satisfactorily. It was decided to accept the resignation with regret, and to appoint Mr. E. B. Nicholls, Victoria-street, North Melbourne, to the vacant post. Col. Legge, in reply to a letter of condolence at the death of his only daughter, mentioned that both Mrs. Legge and himself were deeply touched at the kind expression of sympathy forwarded them by the Council of the A.O.U.

General Business.—The hon. Secretary stated that he had written a letter to the daily papers with reference to the proposed destruction of the rabbit by inoculation, pointing out that at the last congress held at Sydney, 28th November, 1904,* the members of the A.O.U. gathered together from the different States of the Commonwealth had unanimously passed a resolution that, whereas the introduction into the Commonwealth of "chicken cholera" or any "unknown" or "patent" disease may be fraught with dire consequences to our introduced and indigenous fauna, those diseases whose

* *Emu*, vol. iv., p. 86.