

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.

actions were in an experimental or partially known stage should be prevented from entering into Australia. The hon. secretary further stated that the letter to the press had been the means of bringing the danger prominently before the public, who had thereby been visibly perturbed. It was further decided to write to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, requesting him to declare unknown, patent, and dangerous diseases "prohibited imports" into the Commonwealth. The copyright of *The Emu* magazine was produced by the Secretary. It was dated 15th May, 1906, and was numbered 11,248B. Amongst other questions discussed was the programme of the next annual congress, to be held in Tasmania. It was decided to compile an index to the first 5 vols. of *The Emu*, and to ask Mr. F. L. Berney (Queensland) to undertake the task.

*New Members.*—The following were enrolled :—F. S. Smith, Victoria ; W. Young, Victoria ; W. H. Cornford, Victoria ; E. J. Banfield, Queensland ; Gregory M. Mathews, England.

### Bird Observers' Club.

THE third quarterly dinner of the above Club was held in Melbourne on the evening of 20th June, fifteen members being present. At the ordinary meeting afterwards Mr. Donald Macdonald took the chair. The hon. secretary, Mr. F. P. Godfrey, stated that the result of the recent ballot-paper sent to members concerning the constitution of the Club resulted as follows :—Are you in favour of members that are absent from three consecutive meetings without an apology being crossed off the roll? Yes! Are you in favour of ladies attending ordinary meetings? No! Are you in favour of increasing the membership to 30? No! (*i.e.*, for the present). A long discussion followed the suggestion of Mr. A. G. Campbell that the Club should begin some organised effort of collecting information concerning the movements and habits of birds, especially in reference to migration and the class of country inhabited. It was decided that next meeting be devoted to the examination of lists of birds found in the Cheltenham district, where some of the members have had a long experience, the initial idea being to group the birds into summer and winter lists, to note which species nest there, and which are becoming rarer or more common. Notice of motion was given by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley that corresponding members be appointed in country districts to enlarge the field of the Club and further the collecting of information. It was decided that Mr. C. L. Barrett be selected to prepare a condensed account of the bird notes brought before each meeting, so that they might be published in *The Emu*. Some interesting skins were exhibited of Victorian shore birds, but the discussion of the characters of this interesting section of the avifauna was postponed until next meeting. Skins of some common birds of North-east Victoria were also shown, and Mr. A. J. Campbell exhibited three races of Emu-Wrens (*Stipiturus*), the new form being a large-billed bird from the Mallee. Mr. Mattingley showed a crocodile egg, and remarked that its similar-shaped ends showed an affinity to the eggs of mound-building birds. A sprig of early wattle bloom decorated the table.

The greater part of the evening was devoted to a very interesting paper by Mr. J. A. Ross upon a December visit to the swamps of the Murray frontage, which he made in company with Mr. Mattingley, who illustrated it with some excellent lantern views. Mr. Ross graphically described the difficulty of making one's way about the swamps in order to witness and photograph the numberless colonies of Ibis and other water birds at home. Some fine pictures were obtained of Ibis nests and young, of Grebe and Coot nests, and of Spoonbills and Little Cormorants nesting together in red gum trees.