

The first part deals with the Pittas, Scrub-Birds, Swallows and Martins, and three Flycatchers. The Australian Robins, here subdivided into seven genera of one species each, the Short-billed Tree-Tit, and the White-throated and Brown Fly-eaters are treated in Part II.

Mr. Mathews has worked himself during the past fifteen years into a leading position amongst the world's ornithologists, and Australians are proud that their avifauna is being so thoroughly studied and so excellently depicted. They approve of the splendid treatment given by Mr. Mathews, but regret that in one matter they are unable to follow his lead. Attention has previously been drawn to Mr. Mathews's excessive splitting of genera. In the parts under notice Mr. Mathews has quite out-Heroded Herod by using 21 genera for the 22 species described, *Microeca* alone having two species. Six of the generic names are due to fine splitting by Mr. Mathews, and he has adopted all previous suggestions of generic subdivision.

In Mr. Mathews's "Check-list," Part I., 1920, recently issued, a tendency to moderation and to the adoption of a middle position was noted, but in these parts an extreme position is apparent. Possibly the parts were prepared for press before the completion of the "Check-list." This extreme position is the one factor likely to depreciate the value of Mr. Mathews's monumental work. He started in a medium position as regards genera; then became a violent lumpner, and is now in the extreme splitting position. Indeed, with one more split he would have reached in these parts the physical limit of generic splitting—a genus for each species. It is with regret that we have again to draw attention to this rendering useless of generic names.

Additions to the Library.

By F. ERASMUS WILSON, R.A.O.U., HON. LIBRARIAN.

OWING to pressure on space I am not able to comment on any of the articles appearing in the following publications:—

Victorian Naturalist, vol. xxxvi., parts 11 and 12; vol. xxxvii., parts 1, 2, and 3.

Science and Industry, vol. ii., parts 3 and 4.

Australian Naturalist, vol. iv., part 10.

Hawkesbury Agricultural College Journal, vol. xvii., parts 4 and 5; vol. xviii., part 1.

Ibis, vol. ii., part 1.

British Birds, vol. xiii., parts 2 and 4.

Avicultural Magazine, vol. xi., parts 2 and 4.

Bird Lore, vol. xxii., part 1.

Le Gerfaut, 1919, fas. 1 and 2; 1920, fas. 1.

- Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1919.
- Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*, vol. xlv., part 4.
- Revue Francaise d'Ornithologie*, No. 131.
- Condor*, vol. xxii., part 2.
- Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology*, vol. i., parts 3 and 4.
- Auk*, vol. xxxvii., part 1. Contains an *in memoriam* article by H. W. Henshaw on the grand old American ornithologist, William Brewster.
- South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. iv., parts 2 and 3.
- "University of California Publications in Zoology," vol. xix., part 10.
- "A Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology," by W. H. Mullens, H. K. Swan, and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain. Part II. Witherby and Co., London.
- "New and Noteworthy Philippine Birds," by R. C. M'Gregor. (Reprint from *Philippine Journal of Science*.) From the author.
- "A Handlist of the Birds of the Philippine Islands," by R. C. M'Gregor and D. C. Worcester. From R. C. M'Gregor.
- "Suggestions for Ornithological Work in Canada," by P. A. Taverner. (Reprint from *Ottawa Naturalist*.) From the author.
- Five Reprints, by Walter F. Collinge — (a) "On the Value of Different Methods of Estimating the Stomach Contents of Wild Birds," (b) "On the Food and Feeding Habits of British Game Birds," (c) "Some Observations on the Food of Nestling Sparrows," (d) "The Value of Insectivorous Birds," (e) "Some Recent Investigations of the Food of Certain Wild Birds." From the author.
- "The Birds of Red Deer River, Alberta, U.S.A.," by P. A. Taverner. From the author.

Notes.

MANY members of the R.A.O.U. have assisted and given of their time and substance for patriotic enterprises during the war. Mr. Rowland Archer's was a novel method. In the interests of the Y.M.C.A. he had on exhibition for two years his fine oological collection, and realized a handsome sum for the cause.

ON Friday, 15th October, a strong party of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victorian delegates will leave Melbourne per the transcontinental express for Perth, where the Annual Congress of the R.A.O.U. will be held. Many important subjects are on the agenda paper for consideration. Several papers will be read, and the draft report of the second edition of the "Official Check-list" will also be presented.