He was born at Delatite Station, Mansfield, Victoria, in November 1869. He commenced his medical course at the Melbourne University and completed it at King's College Hospital, London, with the degrees of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P.

At the age of 33 he married Florence Eve Turner at Crystal Brook, South Australia: his wife predeceased him, dying in 1940. There were three daughters and one son

born of the marriage.

Dr. Chenery practised in various country centres until 1944, first at Port Augusta—there is a paper in volume 2 of *The Emu* with a list of birds on a trip from there to Yardea Telegraph Station in the Gawler Ranges—then at Sale, Tocumwal and Wentworth. He was in practice at this last place for 28 years, retiring at last on account of the lill-health, and thereafter residing with his daughters—at Kerang, Perth, and finally Melbourne with his daughter Patricia Marie, the wife of Dr. E. Harvey Barrett, who supplied this detail.

Dr. Chenery wrote little for *The Emu*, and was quiet and unassuming in his ways, like so many of the older bird-men. To see and know him was to realize that here was another of those 'gentle men' who have found contentment and riches in their associations with nature.—C.E.B.

Reviews

Crows of Australia and New Guinea.—During the 1914-18 war Dr. Erwin Stresemann published a revision of the thick-billed crows of the Indo-Australian region, in which he considered all the populations of the birds concerned as constituting a single Formenkreis. More recently he published another review ('Die Gattung Corvus in Australien and Neuguinea', Journal für Ornithologie, 91 (1), 121-135, Jan. 1943), dealing particularly with the forms occurring in Australia and New Guinea. The following five species are now recognized by him—C. coronoides, C. bennetti, C. orru, C. macrorhynchus, and C. philippinus. Stresemann further regards C. validus as an offshoot from C. orru which has reached specific status.

The Australian and New Guinea forms are placed under two superspecies, namely coronoides and orru. C. bennetti and C. cecilae he considers distinct, noting, however, that both Mathews and Campbell believe intergradation occurs between these species in northern Australia. The form cecilae is regarded as a subspecies of orru, to which it is linked by the race salvadorii Finsch of south-east New Guinea. The species coronoides is divided into three races. The author evidently has not seen recent Australian work on the eye-colour of the species.

One skin from Queensland presented great difficulties as it does not agree with any of the three familiar Australian forms of crows. Stressemann tentatively regards it as a new species, describing and naming it Corvus difficilis. It was taken at Malbon, Malbon River, Cloncurry district, by Dr. G. Neuhäuser, on February 27, 1938. d adult, in Zool. Museum Berlin. "Diagnosis: Most nearly allied to C. coronoides, but differing from it (1) in the very small bill, which is not larger than in C. bennetti; (2) in the very pale feather bases, which are whitish-grey on the back and abdomen, and dirty-white on the chest and neck. Hackles short (to 25 mm.), lanceolate, not forked. The bird is at the end of the moult of the large feathers, and is at least 13 years old. Dimensions: Wing 345, culmen 45, tail 189, tarsus

57, middle toe with claw 51.5 mm. Primary 1 exceeding longest

"Comparison: The considerable wing-length and pointed wing rule out C. bennetti. Cecilae has a longer and stronger bill, blunter wing, and (already after the post-juvenile moult) snow-white feather-bases everywhere. In the coloration of the feather-bases difficults approaches most nearly certain specimens of coronoides (almost gradation from whitish base towards black tip), but coronoides has a very much

longer and stronger bill," [ibid. p. 125].

It is to be noted that difficilis is based on a single specimen, which may be either a mutant or a hybrid, and its status must remain in doubt for the present. The bird is possibly an aberrant Australian

Raven.

Stresemann makes a number of important observations on the comparative morphology of the crows of the Indo-Australian region. and includes in the paper a table giving dimensions of specimens examined by him. The paper is a notable contribution to our knowledge of the Corvus species concerned.—E.F.B.

Fairy Wrens.—Such 'conversation pieces' as A. H. Chisholm's 'Fairy Wrens', placed between elementary bird accounts and learned expositions, must serve a distinctly useful purpose in nature education. Take an attractive group and present a miscellany of its characteristics, spiced with touches of its origins and history—that is the recipe. The wrens of the genera Malurus and Rosina have few peers for such a presentation.

The plate of wrens accompanying N. W. Cayley's What Bird is That? and half-tone photos. are included, so readers may confirm the author's account of their beauty.

We do not know whether retention of the so-called White-backed Wren is purposeful or accidental, but, quite apart from the fact that most ornithologists regarded that bird as a 'sport', the Checklist committee officially combined it with the White-winged Wren (Malurus leuconotus—olim cyanotus) in October 1947.—C.E.B.

News and Notes

A meeting of the Union was held at the lecture hall of the National Museum, Melbourne, on July 2. About 40 members and friends heard a talk by Mr. E. S. Hanks on cuckoos and the origin of the parasitic habit in birdsan interesting discourse with a world-wide range, and introducing particularly observations on the cowbirds of America by Dr. Freidman and on the English Cuckoo by Edgar Chance.

The remainder of the evening was taken up by an informal discussion on the subject. Reference was made to records of the Black-eared Cuckoo in the vicinity of Melbourne-at Bayswater, Little River and Toolern Vale. Consideration of how many records are there of Australian cuckoos actually seen laying brought discussion of a number of instances, including a record by Mr. A. D. Selby who had seen a cuckoo lay its egg on the ground and then carry it to a nest.

Mr. P. Crosbie Morrison drew attention to how little was known about the Australian cuckoos and particularly the matter of where they went after leaving southern