

The Illustrations.

PLATE vii., "Gannets Nesting." This fine subject was taken by Mr. D. Le Souëf on Cat Island during a recent trip to Bass Strait, mentioned on page 79 of the previous part (2). During the visit of a party from the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria in 1893 it was estimated there were about 2,500 Gannets on that island. It is pleasing to be able to report that in the opinion of Mr. Le Souëf the number of birds is greater now.

Plate viii., "Red-capped Dottrel's Nest" and "Pied Oystercatcher's Nest." These pictures were taken by Mr. Le Souëf during the same excursion, and make admirable illustrations of his paper, "Protective Colouration," &c.

Plate ix. The photograph of the nest of the White-headed Osprey, which is situated on an isolated rock near the mouth of the Margaret River, Western Australia, has been kindly forwarded for reproduction by Mr. Bernard Woodward, Director of the Perth Museum, and was taken by his assistant, Mr. C. P. Conigrave. A petition has been presented to the Commissioner of Crown Lands (W.A.) for the permanent reservation of the site. Readers of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds" will remember the description given therein of the difficulties which beset those who wish to reach this spot. It would be interesting to know whether or not the same pair of Ospreys own this aerie as when Mr. Campbell photographed it eleven seasons ago.

Last, but by no means least, plate x. represents "Taking Topknot Pigeons' Nests" in the Big Scrub. During his visit to the scrubs of the Richmond River district of north-eastern New South Wales, in 1899, Mr. S. W. Jackson succeeded in finding many rare nests and eggs. Among his finds were two nests with an egg each of the Topknot Pigeon (*Lopholæmus antarcticus*). Both nests were found on 26th October, 1899, and were built in a very tall fig tree at an altitude of over 100 feet from the ground, and were obviously very difficult to obtain—in fact, they could not have been procured without the aid of a climbing ladder. After taking the nests Mr. Jackson photographed the tree, as the find was an important one. The crosses near the top of the tree show the situations of the two nests. The young man standing in the fork has lowered the ladder and just finished the operations. The interesting finding of these Pigeons' nests is chronicled in "Nests and Eggs" (Campbell), page 672.

To raise the Jackson climbing ladder a fine line weighted with an ounce of lead is shot from a catapult over a limb at the required height. On recovery of the weighted end it is



Taking Topknot Pigeons' Nests.

FROM A PHOTO. BY S. W. JACKSON.

attached to a stronger line, and then to a one-inch rope which is hauled over the limb and down to the ground. The ladder is now attached and drawn up into position, the end of the guy line being made secure to a heavy log or tree-trunk. The ladder is 120 feet in length and is made of the best Manila rope with rungs of sound cedar. For the sake of convenience it is made in two lengths, and may be rolled up and fitted into a bag.

All the photo. blocks were engraved by Messrs. Patterson, Shugg and Co., 256 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne.

About Members.

HERRN Adolph Nehrkorn, Braunschweig, Germany, is the first foreign member to join the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. Herrn Nehrkorn possesses one of the largest scientifically-classed egg collections in the world—nearly 4,000 species. Although he has bequeathed his great collection to the Berlin Museum, he retains possession of it during his lifetime, for, notwithstanding his three score years, he is still an active collector.

Very general regret will be felt at the announcement that, owing to continued ill-health, Dr. William Snowball has retired—for the present, at all events—from his practice, to reside at his country residence at Longwarry, Gippsland. On account of his great skill, his enforced retirement, even for a short period, will be a public loss as far as suffering humanity (especially children) is concerned, while his metropolitan oological friends will miss much his pleasant chats about their mutual hobbies.

Mr. Edward Degen, formerly of the National Museum, Melbourne, and whose name has been mentioned in the "Beginnings" of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union, has been engaged as zoological collector to an expedition organized by Colonel Harrington, the British Consul-General at the Court of King Menelik, Abyssinia. A start is to be made by caravan from Zaila, on the Somali Coast. "From Zaila," Mr. Degen writes in a letter to one of the editors, from London, "this journey will be 500 miles overland to the capital, Ades Abbeta, which for some time we shall make our headquarters. From here excursions into the different districts will be made in all directions, while Lake Tsana or Dembea will be made the object of thorough investigation from a piscine standpoint. Of course big game will also receive due attention, likewise the avifauna its due share. The return journey will be made down the Blue Nile, through the Dar Berta country and contiguous mountains, to reach the Sobat River, called Addena at its head-waters. On reaching the White Nile, south of Fashoda, we shall follow this mighty artery to Khartoum, and in due course hope to reach Cairo." Mr. Degen expects the trip will occupy about nine months' time.