

Fourth International Ornithological Congress.

THIS Congress, which is to be held in London during June, promises to exceed all former ones in importance.

The Congress is under the patronage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and will be presided over by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe. Besides a Home Committee composed of eminent ornithologists, there is an influential General Committee representing all the more important countries of the world, Australia and New Zealand being represented by Sir Walter Buller, Messrs. Alfred J. North, Chas. W. De Vis, and Dudley Le Souëf. Capt. F. W. Hutton and Mr. Frank Littler, who will be in England when the session is sitting, will be the official deputies of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. The business of the Congress will be divided into the following sections:—(1) Systematic Ornithology, Geographical Distribution, Anatomy, and Palæontology; (2) Migration; (3) Biology, Nidification, Oology; (4) Economic Ornithology and Bird Protection; (5) Aviculture; and, as is the custom on a smaller scale in the Antipodes, the session terminates with an excursion to a "rookery" of sea-birds—Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.

The subscription for members is £1, which also entitles members to a copy of the published proceedings of the Congress. Circulars, &c., may be had on application to the editors of *The Emu*.

New Nature Study Societies.

A MEETING of persons interested in the formation of a Field Naturalists' Club at Cairns (Queensland) was held in the School of Arts on the evening of 12th March. A Club was formed, with the following office-bearers:—President, Mr. E. M. Cornwell; vice-president, Mr. J. G. Fearnley; secretary, Mr. E. Allen; committee, Messrs. D. Dean, J. Hyland, F. Barrett, Ingram, Anderson, and Burnett.

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At the invitation of Mr. C. L. Barrett a number of gentlemen interested in field ornithology met at his residence, "Craigielea," Brighton Beach (Victoria), on the evening of 12th April.

On the proposition of the host, Mr. A. J. Campbell was voted to the chair.

After discussion, it was resolved:—

To form an association of field ornithologists, limited to 25 members (for the present).

That the association be called the "Bird Observers' Club."

That Mr. F. P. Godfrey be elected hon. secretary.

That the subscription be 2s. 6d. per annum.

That the Club meet once a month, at some member's residence or other place to be named at the previous meeting.

The following were elected original members:—Messrs. Donald Macdonald (*The Argus*), A. J. Campbell, Col. Mem. B.O.U., A. G. Campbell, C. L. Barrett, F. E. Howe, A. H. E. Mattingley, A. J. Kershaw, F.E.S., D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., C. F. Belcher, M.A., LL.B., F. P. Godfrey, R. P. Godfrey, C. P. Kinane, H. Kendall, Robt. Hall, F.L.S., and E. Brooke Nicholls.