

"The chief trouble I have had has been from the persistent way in which vernacular English names are quoted without the Latin names. Mathews' 'General Index' will, however, put this right. I find him a very good fellow, and an extremely keen man. When once his work gets started I think he will do splendid work.

"In reading through *The Emu* I find that many Australian naturalists—Colonel Ryan for one—have visited England, and apparently have not been to see me. Perhaps they hit on my vacation time, as I do not remember their coming to the Bird-room. As I have not been away on vacation for four years (since my congress), I can't think that I could have missed them. As Le Souëf will tell you, I am a *very* busy man, but I always do my best. I seldom have a moment to myself, and have to do the most of my work at home, and scarcely an evening that I do not work from 8 p.m. till 2 and 3 a.m. I have finished vol. v. of the 'Handlist' at last, thank God!"

Notes and Notices.

ERRATUM.—*Emu*, part 2, p. 70—"I first met with this Robin on 12th November, 1908." The date should read "17th."

A NATIONAL COLLECTION.—With 750 species, Mr. H. L. White, Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, possesses the largest Australian oological collection extant.

"THE NEW COLLECTING."—A good deal is written just now in denunciation of the collectors of birds' skins and eggs, &c. Why do not these "new collectors" be logical and advocate a heavy tax on cats? For one bird killed by or for ornithologists at least a thousand are killed by the "feline favourites."—*The Bulletin* (London).

NOMENCLATURE.—Since the inception of the A.O.U. the list of Australian birds followed has been that of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which was adopted at Sydney, 1898. This list will eventually be superseded by the proposed A.O.U. "Check List." In the meantime, if authors of articles, &c., are obliged to use other authorities for nomenclature, references should be given, because it is obvious that only *one* accepted name should be used for a given species in the pages of *The Emu*, otherwise some confusion may arise, for which the editors can hardly be responsible.

THE PRICE OF A PLUME.—The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has been making excellent use of Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley's Egret pictures in England. Six sets of seven subjects, enlarged, are being shown in shop windows in leading thoroughfares, while lantern slides, made from the photos., are being exhibited at many lectures throughout the country. But

perhaps the most interesting "exhibit" has been in the shape of a supplement to *Bird Notes and News* entitled "The Story of the Egret," with Mr. Mattingley's seven scenes artistically reproduced in half-tone and mounted on art paper. All this will be a deadly blow to the fair plume-wearers as well as the vile plume-hunters, and indirectly a great advertisement of the usefulness of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union.

PROTECTION OF GRASS-PARRAKEETS.—In accordance with representations made by the A.O.U., backed by the South Australian Ornithological Association, the machinery has been effectually set in motion regarding the total protection of the family *Neophema*. In South Australia all members of this elegant family, including the Rock and the Bourke Parrakeets are now perpetually protected. It is sincerely hoped that all the other States will fall into line concerning the respective species within their own territory. South Australia has pushed further ahead, and, through the Government, has proclaimed all the islands in Coffins Bay—chiefly the habitat of the Rock-Parrakeets—bird protection reserves. Commendable promptitude indeed, seeing that the Union's expedition only visited the locality last October.

A NEW LIST OF BIRDS.—A handlist of value, and indispensable to collectors, has been issued. It is the laborious work of a member of the A.O.U.—Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, Sydney. Every member should encourage him by replying to the following announcement:—"A List of the Birds of Australia," compiled by A. F. Basset Hull, Sydney. Price one shilling, post free. Sample line:—

Mathews.	Campbell.	Hall.	A.O.U.	
590	203	209		OREOSCOPUS GUTTURALIS <i>De Vis.</i>

Printed on one side of the paper, for use as labels. Contains all the latest additions. References to numbers as in Mathews' "Handlist," Campbell's "Nests and Eggs," Hall's "Key," and the Vernacular List (A.O.U.) Edition limited to 500 copies. Early application necessary, as large orders are already booked. Address: Box 704, General Post-Office, Sydney.