

for music. I know a barbarian who shot his Magpies on account of "the noise they made in the morning." He would perhaps have delighted in Dr. Bancroft. The voice of the Magpie is music to me, and to hundreds of others, and we decline, in spite of Dr. Bancroft's opinion, to consider it a "harsh, guttural sound."

—I am, &c.,

FRANK S. SMITH.

Noorat, Victoria.

About Members.

CAPTAIN S. A. White and Mrs. White, of Adelaide, have started on a trip to Central Australia, and will be absent, probably, for several months. In a letter to a Melbourne member of the R.A.O.U., written before setting out, Captain White stated:—"We will make for Macumba, with the object of visiting some fine bores, where birds may have collected. Next, we will proceed to Dalhousie Springs. From the Springs we will move on to the Finke River, and follow its course into the Macdonnell Ranges, travel along the southern side of the ranges, making trips into the heart of the mountains where gorges will permit of a passage. After reaching Alice Springs we propose to push on further east, exploring the range for all kinds of animal life as we travel. We will work out the extreme eastern end of the Macdonnell Ranges, which is new country, return to the Hall River, run it down into the unknown, and find our way back to Oodnadatta through country which looks fairly blank on the map. This means, of course, 2,000 miles of travel over rough country."

Obituary Notice.

NEWS was received in May of the accidental death by drowning of Mr. Lachlan M'Kinnon Burns, at the Forrest River, near Wyndham, Western Australia. Mr. Burns, although only 24 years of age, had done valuable scientific work in different parts of the western State. A native of Gippsland, he went to Western Australia when a lad. Soon after leaving school Mr. Burns was engaged on survey camps for some time. Two years ago, when Mr. C. Price Conigrave organized his exploring expedition to traverse the extreme northern part of Western Australia, Mr. Burns joined as second in command. Through the efforts of Messrs. Conigrave and Burns a valuable collection of the fauna and flora of that part of the continent was made. Shortly after the return of the expedition, Mr. Burns accompanied a party to the Montebello Islands, off the Western Australian coast, where interesting zoological finds were made for the Royal Society of London.

In the early part of May, 1913, Mr. Burns volunteered to join an Anglican party that was establishing an aboriginal mission station at the Forrest River. Mr. Burns had obtained an intimate

knowledge of the country, as the expedition under Mr. Conigrave's command went into depot for several weeks at the spot where Mr. Burns eventually met his death. When attempting to recover wounded Ducks from a small lily-covered lagoon, Mr. Burns became exhausted, and, despite every endeavour on the part of Bishop Trower, was drowned. The body was subsequently taken in an open boat by the bishop to Wyndham, a distance of 70 miles, and was interred in the local cemetery, Mr. Burns had been a member of the Union for the past three years, and the sincere sympathy of its members is extended to his relatives.

Description of New Parrot.

BY (DR.) W. MACGILLIVRAY, R.A.O.U., BROKEN HILL, N.S.W.

THE discovery of a new and distinct addition to our Parrakeets is due to the enthusiasm and energy of another member of our Union, Mr. M'Lennan. When collecting at Cape York, 1910-1912, he heard several times of a Parrot inhabiting the country in the vicinity of the Pascoe River, and which, from various descriptions given, he thought to be an *Eclectus*, or some allied form. He prevailed upon me to allow him to proceed to the Pascoe River, which enters the sea on the East Coast of Cape York Peninsula, about 20 miles, as the Crow flies, to the north of Lloyd's Bay. When proceeding up the river in search of a suitable camping-place, one of the first objects which attracted his attention was a strange Parrakeet, which flew from the scrub lining the banks of the river. Its call and flight were unfamiliar to him.

I have now received from him a male and female of what seems to me not only a new species, but a new genus. It may be placed in the family *Cyclopsittacidae*.

Although partaking in general of the characters of this family, and of the two genera, *Neopsittacus* and *Cyclopsittacus*, of which it is composed, it differs sufficiently, in my opinion, from both to warrant it being placed in a distinct genus, for which I propose the name *Pseudopsittacus*, the distinctive characters being:—Bill—upper mandible crimson, merging into orange-yellow at the tip; lower mandible dark brown, gonys moderately broad and flattened, with one distinct central ridge; nostrils bare. In the female the bill is wholly olive-brown. Tail short; rectrices twelve, and of equal length.

***Pseudopsittacus maclennani*, gen. and sp. nov.**

Male.—Forehead, lores, cheeks, and ear coverts rose-red; the posterior feathers of the ear coverts tipped with blue; crown, occiput, and nape cobalt blue. The rest of the upper surface grass green, with the exception of a small chestnut-red patch on the tertiary coverts of each wing, and the rectrices, which are yellowish-green with brown shafts, and a brighter green edging to the webs. The chest, abdomen, and flanks a lighter shade of green