

## Obituary.

### DR. GEORGE HORNE.

THE late George Horne, M.D., M.B., of Collins Street, Melbourne, joined the R.A.O.U. early in its history, and was for many years a member of Council. He was not only a bird-lover, but a keen observer. When residing at Clifton Hill he had a flight aviary. He succeeded in keeping in captivity many species of Honeyeaters and the wily Blue Wren. His last important paper, "Blue Wrens in Melbourne Gardens," recently appeared in the *Victorian Naturalist*, XLIII, p. 216. One critic said: "We have read very many 'observations' . . . but few have equalled" that article.

Dr. Horne was an ethnologist of repute. The collection of a life-time of stone implements and weapons he donated last year to the National Museum, Canberra. His book, *Savage Life in Central Australia*, written in collaboration with Mr. G. Aiston, embodied Dr. Horne's life-long research, culminating with two trips into Central Australia concerning the habits and customs of the aborigines.

Dr. Horne was born at Brunswick, Victoria, August, 1860. His death occurred November 14 last. He was educated at Carlton College, Hawthorn Grammar School and Melbourne University. He was one of the leading specialists in gynaecology, and was connected with the Women's Hospital for over thirty years. He was in London when the Great War broke out, and at once joined up with the Australian voluntary hospital unit. By the end of the first August of the war, the unit was in hot service in France, where Dr. Horne (now Lieut.-Colonel) remained till 1915.

Dr. Horne was much interested in the St. John Ambulance Association, and in November, 1924, Lord Stradbroke (then Governor), invested him with the insignia of Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John—a rare distinction. The late doctor had a charming personality. Those who knew him best did not know which to admire most, as one has truly said, "the fine brain and erudition of the man, or his simplicity and integrity of character." He never spared himself. One example came under the observation of the writer. There was a camp-out of the Royal Ornithologists' Union on Kangaroo Island, 1905. One party, in which the doctor joined, had been out all day. When it returned to camp it was reported that a lady, foot-sore, had been left behind. The doctor quietly procured a horse, and going back about three miles put the lady on the animal, walked himself and gained the camp before nightfall.

Members of the R.A.O.U. will sincerely condole with Mrs. Horne and with her neice, Miss Helen Bowie, in their great loss. Miss Bowie, an army nurse, saw service in the war, in France, with her uncle.

## MR. J. R. CHISHOLM.

Members of the R.A.O.U. will regret to learn that Mr. James R. Chisholm, of Prairie, northern Queensland, died recently, at the age of 72. A pastoralist of original views, Mr. Chisholm was best known for his gossipy writings, "Along the Line," in the *North Queensland Register*. He was a student of birds in a modest way, and contributed several interesting paragraphs to *The Emu*.

## MR. LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES.

Louis Agassiz Fuertes, noted American painter and illustrator of bird-life, was killed in a railroad crossing accident on August 22, 1927. Mr. Fuertes was born in Ithaca in 1874 and had been lecturer on ornithology at Cornell. He was the illustrator for Chapman's "Handbook" and "Bird Life," Burgess's "Bird Book for Children" and "Animal Book," and Mabel Osgood Wright's "Citizen Bird" and "Birdcraft," as well as numerous species series for the "National Geographic Magazine."

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Mr. Littlejohns' Lyre-Bird Film.

MANY of the difficulties against which nature-photographers have to contend were revealed in a moving picture of Lyre-Birds which was shown to a large audience of members of the R.A.O.U. at the Foresters' Hall, Melbourne, on October 17, 1927. The filming of these birds had been carried out by Mr. R. T. Littlejohns, who is well known throughout Australia for his fine bird-photographs. In introducing Mr. Littlejohns to the meeting, Dr. J. A. Leach complimented the photographer upon the splendid work he has already achieved with the camera and predicted that similar success will attend him with the cinematograph.

The screening of the picture ran through 900 feet of film and many phases in the home-life of the Lyre-Bird were shown. Some very fine forest scenery was shown in the "haunts of the Lyre-Bird," and this was followed by several striking views of the female as she scratched for food amongst the *débris* on the ground. Other times she could be seen running along fallen logs out of the way of the cinematographer, and once she came out into the open and ran for some distance along a tourist track. The shyness of the male bird is well known, but Mr. Littlejohns has even succeeded in filming the male, with its tail outspread, on a dancing mound. The film concluded with several unique scenes of the female bringing food to the young.