

as to the existence of good pasture land in the centre of Australia, and basing it on the migration of certain species of birds. Sturt's journals contain many references to birds observed by him—the 'Diamond birds (*Amandina*) [which] were bold enough to perch on his spade,' the bird-life at his 'Depot' on the trip to Central Australia where 'the parrots and paroquets flew up and down the creeks collecting their scattered thousands,' where 'pigeons congregated together; bitterns, cockatoos, and other birds; all collected round as preparatory to migrating'; and his description of the birds near the Murray mouth, and in the vicinity of the Coorong, where the last Camp-out of the Union was held.

It is refreshing to have this aspect of the exploration of our Continent brought to our notice. To read the pioneers' own descriptions, as we are enabled to do through the medium of this volume, is to appreciate their journeys from a more direct point of view than is possible from a perusal of 'written-up' accounts. With Vol. 2 Professor Scott completes the task ably begun with his collection of narratives of maritime exploration and places at the disposal of the reader a fairly complete record of the principal exploring expeditions in this country.

To discriminate is probably odious, but special recognition of the faithfulness of the aboriginal Wylie, the companion of Eyre in his tragic journey around the Bight, seems required. Apart from that it is a case of all honour to those who, as Prof. Scott says, 'prepared the way for the pastoralist, the miner and the farmer.' Let us also add 'the ornithologist.'—C.E.B.

News and Notes

It is indeed gratifying to have so much matter forwarded by members for *The Emu*, nevertheless the selection of articles is a task requiring judicious handling, as it often causes other contributions to be held over. Thus the article on Wilson's Promontory (Bryant) was accepted by the late Dr. Leach in January, 1929, whilst that on the birds of Wyperfeld Park (Hanks), although read at Congress, was submitted about May last. Both these have been continually held over since. In future contributions will be published strictly according to the date of receipt. Articles containing descriptions of new species and contributions of special interest will, of course, receive the priority they require.

Will authors receiving proofs for correction kindly return them, when corrected, to the Editor, not to the printer.

It is a matter to be regretted that some members handling the skins in the Union's collection do not replace them with the care that should be bestowed on them. This is disheartening in view of the labour expended in arranging the collection last year. Members are again requested to assist the curator of skins in keeping the collection in order.

In addition to the books referred to in *Library Notes* the following donations have also been made by the estate of the late A. J. Campbell and are here acknowledged:— Photograph of Gould, cabinet containing about 100 sets of eggs, 20 bird skins, 40 nests and 3 glass shades. A large collection of lantern slides has been promised.

A quotation for binding *The Emu* at 7/- per volume, and for covers only at 2/9 per volume, has been obtained. These rates are available until May 15, 1930, and members desiring to avail themselves of the opportunity should forward loose parts to the Hon. Sec. not later than that date.

A request was made in the January issue for prompt payment of subscriptions. Little response was received, and *the Council of the Union will be compelled to consider reduction in size of The Emu if outstanding arrears, amounting to about £300, are not received.* Will each member in arrears kindly endeavour to bring his subscriptions up to date immediately?

The Council of the Union has accepted the invitation of Queensland to hold the next Congress in that State. Details will be published later. The suggestion to visit New Zealand was again considered, but it was decided that it was not practicable at present.

Members are reminded that under the Articles of the Union a member may only resign *after payment of all moneys due by him to the Union.* Resignations have been tendered without arrears of subscriptions accompanying them, and such cannot be accepted until the arrears are paid.

The following new members have been enrolled since the issue of the list in the January number:—

- E. A. R. Lord, Airleas, Murphy's Ck. Qld.
- John Fitzgerald, c/o A. McDonald, Leonora, W.A.
- G. S. Hill, Bungay, Wingham, N.S.W.
- W. Heathcote, Northumberland Rd., Pascoe Vale, Vic.
- G. Mack, National Museum, Melbourne, Vic.
- R. S. Miller, B.C.E., 1 Parry St., Moonee Ponds, Vic.

The following are no longer members:—

- Library, United States National Museum, U.S.A.
- L. D. Cameron, N.S.W.
- Albert & Sons, W.A.