whether the good they do in this direction is commensurate with the loss sustained by the destruction of our birds.

Gerald F. Hill.

Darwin, Northern Territory, 11th Feb., 1915.

Bird Observers' Club.

The monthly meeting of the Bird Observers' Club was held at the Oldfield Tea Rooms, Melbourne, on 21st April, 1915. Mr. D. Le Souëf, president, occupied the chair. Mr. K. M'Mickle was the host. Mr. F. E. Wilson read a report of the sub-committee appointed to deal with the question of "ringing" birds. An interesting letter from Dr. H. W. Bryant, describing his experiences on a visit to the Cairo Zone, was read. Several members mentioned the extraordinary movements of birds owing to the drought conditions. Many birds, it was stated, found it difficult to find food on account of the scarcity of insect life. The president read a copy of the measure that had been passed in the United States of America prohibiting the importation of all plumes except those of domestic poultry and Ostriches. The president showed a copy of the new list of British birds, compiled by a committee of the B.O.U.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S., retiring president, occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Club, held on 26th May, at The Oldfield Tea Rooms, Melbourne. The annual report stated that many valuable papers had been read at the meetings, while numbers of lantern slides were shown and interesting specimens exhibited. Attention had been given to bird protection and other important matters. Six members, who were serving the Empire, had been given extended leave of absence. The balance-sheet showed the financial position was very satisfactory. The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. Charles Barrett; hon. secretary, Mr. George Finlay; hon. treasurer, Mr. G. Dyer.

Mr. Barrett, in sketching the history of the Club, said that it was born on 12th April, 1905, when a number of enthusiastic bird-lovers met at his residence, Were-street, Brighton Beach. Those present were Messrs. A. J. Campbell (who presided), F. E. Howe, A. H. E. Mattingley, D. Le Souëf, J. A. Kershaw, C. F. Belcher, A. G. Campbell, Fred. Godfrey, R. P. Godfrey, C. P. Kinane, and C. Barrett. Several others had been invited, but were unable to attend. After a full and free discussion, the meeting decided that a Bird Observers' Club should be formed, number of members to be limited to 25. All the founders of the Club were still living, but some had, for different reasons, ceased to be members. Before the Club was formed "bird men" in Melbourne were wont to meet occasionally at each other's homes, to chat over field observations and exhibit and exchange specimens; many delightful bush rambles were also made in company. The idea of the Club must have been floating in several minds before steps were taken to give it practical shape. The Club had had some vicissitudes, but it had never languished, and to-day it was more firmly established than ever.

Mr. Le Souëf gave a most interesting lecture on "Birds' Nests and Eggs," illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides from photographs taken in many parts of Australia.