

length, the Premier said he fully sympathized with the movement, and was particularly pleased to see that those interested were willing to assist the Government in bringing about the desired reform, and in giving effect to the provisions of any Act that might be passed. A large number of Acts were placed upon the statute-book, but in many cases great difficulty was met with in their administration, not only through lack of funds, but owing to the absence of such assistance as was offered in the present case. He thought those who had spoken for the deputation had said sufficient to force home the fact that it was time something should be done to place the matter of protecting the native fauna on a proper footing, and while he and his colleagues were quite prepared to do all they possibly could to meet the wishes of the deputation, it was necessary to point out that the Parliamentary draftsman at present could not prepare the bills which the Government contemplated bringing forward. He would therefore suggest that a committee, consisting of representatives of the different interests concerned, should be appointed for the purpose of drawing up recommendations, which they could embody in a draft bill, to be submitted to Ministers. If that were done, the chances of getting something definite done during the current session of Parliament would be very much greater.

[NOTE.—The deputation from the Council of the A.O.U. that waited on the Hon. the Prime Minister at Melbourne on the 4th August represented the following societies:—Queensland: Central Bird Protection Association and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. W. M'Ilwraith). New South Wales: Field Naturalists' Club and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. L. Harrison). Victoria: Bird Observers' Club and Council and members of A.O.U. South Australia: National Museum (per Mr. A. Zietz, F.L.S.), English Birds Protection Society, local branch (per Sir Samuel Way, Bart.), and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. J. W. Mellor). Western Australia: Perth Museum and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. B. Woodward, F.G.S.) Tasmania: Field Naturalists' Club (per Mr. E. Elliott), Royal Society (per Col. Legge, F.Z.S.), and members of A.O.U. (per Mr. A. L. Butler).]

Notes and Notices.

"THE COLOURED FIGURES OF THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA."
—In connection with the notice to members of the A.O.U. in the last number of *The Emu* (p. 52), Mr. Gregory M. Mathews desires to intimate that he will be glad to receive now notes (however meagre) concerning the first hundred species on his "Handlist" (*i.e.*, Supplement *Emu*, vol. vii.)

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF LYRE-BIRDS INTO TASMANIA.
—The following letter to the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart, has been forwarded by Mr. E. A. Elliott, hon. secretary

of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club :—"I have the honour to inform you that I have been delegated by the Australian Ornithologists' Union to bring under your notice the desirability of introducing Lyre-Birds (*Menura*, sp.) into Tasmania from Victoria. Owing to the destruction of these birds by foxes on the mainland, they are threatened with extermination, and in order to prevent this it is proposed to import some into Tasmania, where the deep mountain gullies with fern glens would make ideal resorts for these unique birds. It was for this purpose that our Club recommended their inclusion in the schedule of protected birds under the *Game Protection Act*. It is desired that this Government communicate with the Government in Victoria, where those interested will assist in the collection of a number of Lyre-Birds and send them to this State. Members of this Club would be glad to undertake the liberation of the birds upon their arrival in places suitable for their breeding, and where they would be free from molestation."

Special Notice.

EXPEDITION TO BASS STRAIT ISLANDS.

THE hon. secretary (Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley) begs to announce that he is arranging for the charter of a regular passenger steamer for a fortnight's cruise after the termination of the annual session in November. The steamer will be installed with electric light, and be provided with steward, stewardess, and all the comforts of a mail boat.

It is proposed to visit several of the islands in Bass Strait which have not yet been scientifically explored. These islands are especially noteworthy on account of having once formed a land bridge between Australia and Tasmania, and are on the fly-line of migrating birds. Apart from the scenery, which is exceedingly fine, many of the islands contain wonderful sea-bird rookeries, notably of Penguins, Mutton-Bird and other Petrels, Albatross, Gannets, Gulls, Terns, Geese, Cormorants, &c.; not to mention seals.

Many of the islands are close to one another, with calm water between. These "waters of rest" will add to the comfort of sleeping and dining aboard, as the vessel will be entirely at the disposal of members throughout the trip.

The expedition should leave Melbourne on the evening of 24th November, and, in order that the steamer may be definitely chartered, it is absolutely necessary that *intending members* (ladies and gentlemen) should *notify* the hon. secretary (the leader) *at once* of their intention of joining.

The total expense will probably average about £8 per head, but will not exceed £10.