

Obituary.

SIR CHARLES RYAN.

THE R.A.O.U. lost one of its most distinguished members when Sir Charles Snodgrass Ryan, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., died on 30 October, 1926. Deceased was a foundation member of the Union, and its third President; he held that office during 1905-07. For his signal services to the Union (including the use, for years, of a room in Collins St., Melbourne), he was subsequently elected an Honorary Member. Two notable addresses given by Sir Charles under the auspices of the R.A.O.U. were published in *The Emu* (Vol. V., p. 110, 1906; Vol. vi, p. 95, 1907).

Sir Charles Ryan was one of a syndicate (the others were the late W. H. D. Le Souef and the late Dr. Wm. Snowball), which sent H. G. Barnard in 1896-7 to explore the rich region of Cape York, chiefly in the interests of oology. That expedition produced the eggs, new to science, of the following birds:—*Ptiloris magnificus* (Magnificent Rifle-Bird), *Phonygammus Keraudreni* (Manucode), *Myiagra ruficollis* (Broad-billed Flycatcher), *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* (Boat-billed Flycatcher), and *Arses lorealis* (Frill-necked Flycatcher), Barnard also first procured a specimen of *Eopsaltria leucops* (White-faced Robin) new for Australia, and discovered *Alectura* (= *Talegallus*) *purpureicollis** (Brush Turkey) and *Aegintha minor*† (Northern Waxbill) both now accepted as good sub-species.

Sir Charles Ryan was born at Longwood, Victoria, 20 September, 1853. He was educated at the Melbourne Grammar School and afterwards studied at the Universities of Edinburgh and Vienna. Sir Charles died under dramatic circumstances. He was returning to Melbourne from a trip abroad (including a visit to Spain and Morocco) and expired suddenly on the Orient liner *Otranto* as the vessel was being berthed in South Australia.

Sir Charles had a distinguished career as a surgeon. During his 47 years connection with the Melbourne Hospitals he served variously from assistant surgeon up to consulting surgeon. In the Russo-Turkish war (1877-8) he was present at the sieges of Plevna and Erzeroum and received six Turkish war medals. He published his experiences in the volume *Under the Red Crescent*. By a singular coincidence, 37 years later, in the Great War, he was on Gallipoli. During an armistice to bury the dead some Turks, noticing Turkish decorations worn by Sir Charles Ryan, literally embraced him. The general, in casually relating the incident to a Melbourne friend, said: "Although they were dirty devils, I accepted the compliment in the spirit in which it was given!"

[A photograph of Sir Charles Ryan is reproduced in *The Emu* for 1907-8, Vol. VII, pl. X.]

*Le Souëf, *Ibis*, 1898, p. 51.

†Campbell, *Nests and Eggs*, p. 492.