

NOTES AND NEWS.

PIERRE LOUIS JOUY, born in New York City February 8, 1856, died in Tucson, Arizona, on March 22, 1894, of consumption of the lungs.

It is with sincere grief that we make the announcement, for we can but illy spare from our ranks men of his stamp, men who devote their lives to the study of Nature from pure and unselfish love of her, men whose first aim is truth and the beautiful, and whose own self comes in only for second place. He was, moreover, a man of keen observation and of sound judgment, qualities which under more favorable circumstances would have insured him a prominent rank among his fellow-workers. Finally, he was a gentleman to the core, honest to a fault, conscientious as few, in brief, a man to be trusted and relied upon. And as he felt, so he spoke; indignant at injustice and sham pretensions, he was often severe in his condemnation of what he considered a wrong, sometimes to his own detriment, though that had no influence with him, for he was above simulating. It is needless to add that being of such a character he was a delightful companion and a faithful friend to those who were fortunate enough to possess his confidence.

Although his interests and work were scattered over a wide field, ornithology was, from an early day, his favorite study, and naturally enough his first interest centered around the birds of Washington, D. C., where most of his life was spent, an interest which gradually extended to those of our entire continent. But Professor S. F. Baird, one of whose devoted pupils he was, had use for him in other fields, and as an opportunity offered itself in 1881 he went out to China and Japan, where he made extensive zoölogical and ethnological collections for the Smithsonian Institution. His ornithological collections from Central Japan were particularly valuable, both on account of their richness and quality, and especially because of the full notes and important observations which accompanied them. The ornithological results were embodied in a paper published in the 'Proceedings' of the U. S. National Museum, VI, 1883, pp. 273-318, one of the most important contributions to our knowledge of the Japanese avifauna. From Japan he went to Korea temporarily attached to the United States Legation. At the capital he at once set to work to bring together one of the largest and most valuable collections of natural history ever made in that distant country, then nearly entirely unknown, collections which were afterwards enriched and completed during a sojourn of several years at Fusan while holding a position in the Chinese custom service of Korea. These collections, after his return to this country, were acquired for the greater part by the U. S. National Museum, and it was always his intention and fondest hope to be able to work up the splendid material which he had gathered, but the museum at first needed his services in other branches, and afterwards failing health, which

exhausted his strength and made it desirable to seek other climates, prevented the accomplishment of this desire. He went out again collecting, this time to Southern Arizona and Mexico, where, in spite of adverse circumstances, he continued his work and observations, helped by his faithful wife who shared the hardships and privations of these expeditions, till she finally closed his eyes in Tucson. The notes made during their stay in Mexico he was enabled to work up into a paper entitled 'Notes on Birds of Central Mexico, with Descriptions of Forms believed to be New' [see *antea*, p. 245], but he did not have the satisfaction of seeing it published, as it was not issued until shortly after his death (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XVI, 1894, pp. 771-791).

Aside from the external circumstances which prevented him from publishing often, or voluminously, there were internal causes which impaired his literary productivity, viz., his artistic temperament and his varied interests in so many branches of science and art, which conspired against his becoming a narrow specialist. But this very thing made him so valuable a collector for others. He was not of the kind that gathers the stuff in by the bushel, or the ton, and to whom quantity is the first consideration, quality the second. He collected with discrimination; his preparation, particularly of the birds, was unexcelled; and his notes were full, to the point, and above all, reliable. Not until all the vast and varied material he gathered in so many lands has been worked up will it be fully appreciated how much science owes to the unpretentious, but honest work of Pierre Louis Jouy.—L. S.

WILLIAM C. AVERY, M. D., an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Greensboro', Hall County, Alabama, March 11, 1894, at the age of sixty-two years. Dr. Avery was a graduate of Burlington College, Burlington, New Jersey, and later pursued his medical studies in both Philadelphia and Paris. He studied ornithology purely for the love of it, and his contributions to the science were by no means commensurate with his knowledge of it. His principal paper, published under the initials "W. C. A.", was entitled 'Birds Observed in Alabama,' and appeared in the 'American Field,' Vol. XXXIV, 1890, pp. 584, 607, 608; Vol. XXXV, 1891, pp. 8, 32, 55. It contains the results of many years' close observation and is the most important paper relating to the region of which it treats.

Dr. Avery's services to science, however, are to be reckoned by the assistance he gave fellow-workers rather than by his published writings. An appeal for information or specimens always met with a ready and enthusiastic response, and he sometimes made special trips to distant parts of the State to procure specimens requested by some correspondent.

Dr. Avery was a man of high classical and philological attainments and our journals attest his aid in solving some of the etymological problems which arise in zoölogical nomenclature.

DR. ALEXANDER THEODOR VON MIDDENDORFF, a Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his estate in Hellenorm, Liveland, Russia, Jan. 28, 1894, at the age of nearly 79 years. He was born at St. Petersburg, Aug. 18, 1815, and studied at Dorpat, taking his University degree in 1837. He afterward pursued his studies at the Universities of Berlin, Erlangen and Breslau, and later at the University of Kiew.

Dr. Middendorf is well known to naturalists everywhere for his great work, 'Reise in den äufsersten Norden und Osten Sibiriens' (four volumes, quarto, 1847-59), as remarkable for the erudition displayed as for the breadth of the field covered by his investigations. His other principal ornithological publication is his well-known 'Die Isepiptesen Russlands. Grundlagen zur Erforschung der zugzeiten und zugrichtungen der Vogel Russlands' (1855). He wrote also extensively on mammals and on mollusks.

DR. LEOPOLD VON SCHRENCK, a Corresponding member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died Jan. 20, 1894, aged 68 years. Dr. Schrenck is perhaps best known to ornithologists for his work entitled 'Reisen und Forschungen im Amur-Lande in den Jahren 1854-56,' in two quarto volumes, 1858-60, over 350 pages of volume I being devoted to birds. He was born at Dorpat, April 24, 1826, and at the time of his death was Director of the Ethnological Museum of the Royal Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg. His name is naturally associated with those of two other celebrated Russian explorers and naturalists — Dr. von Middendorff and Dr. Gustav Radde — who at nearly the same time were exploring Asiatic Russia, and whose works may be well termed 'epoch-making' as regards the ornithology of this previously little known region.

'FOREIGN FINCHES IN CAPTIVITY,' by Arthur G. Butler, Ph.D., etc., is announced for publication in ten parts, royal quarto, with between 300 and 400 pages of text and sixty beautifully colored plates, the first part to be issued June 15, and the remaining parts at intervals of six weeks. The edition will be limited to 300 copies. The publishers are L. Reeve & Co., 6 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, London.

READERS of 'The Auk' will be interested to know that Mr. Charles B. Cory has recently sold his large collection of birds and his ornithological library to the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, in which institution he has also accepted the Curatorship of the Department of Ornithology, which is to be entirely under his direction.

It may also be noted that Mr. William Brewster and Mr. Frank M. Chapman returned about May 1 from their trip to the Island of Trinidad, and the publication of the ornithological results of their work may soon be expected.