

physical standpoint. After ascribing the play of colors in various objects to the physical action of structural differences on the light, not to the coloring matter of the part, he speaks of the prismatic colors seen in certain feathers when examined against a strong light (p. 244, 245); and also states that the wonderful revelations of the microscope, then in its infancy, would doubtless show in such feathers minute prism-like structures as the cause of the iridescence—an interesting prophecy in the light of our present knowledge.—ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, *Boston, Mass.*

Birds Killed by a Storm.—About 11 o'clock P.M., on August 3, a terrific electric storm, accompanied by hail and wind, struck this city. Next morning the streets around the public parks and residence portions were literally covered with dead English Sparrows and a few Robins and other small birds. On one block in the residence portion of the city there were, by actual count, six hundred and twenty-two dead Sparrows, and one Robin. The nests containing eggs and young were blown down, and birds not killed by the fall were killed by the hail. Most of the old birds escaped, but the young, from just hatched to a couple of months old, were mostly killed, and had to be raked off the lawns and gathered up by street sweepers. A few more such storms would rid us of the detestable Sparrow.—WALTER I. MITCHELL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

THOMAS LYTTLETON, LORD LILFORD, late President of the British Ornithologists' Union, and Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northamptonshire, England, June 17, 1896, at the age of 63 years. He was one of the founders of the British Ornithologists' Union, and a prominent contributor to the early volumes of 'The Ibis.' Among his larger works are his 'Birds of Northamptonshire,' and 'Illustrations of British Birds.' He was enthusiastically interested in Hawking and in the study of live birds, his extensive aviaries containing many different kinds of Birds of Prey, Storks, Ibises, Herons, and Water-fowl. "His loss," says 'The Zoologist,' "will be deplored, not only by the learned societies of which he was so distinguished a member, but by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances to whom he had endeared himself by an unflinching kindness of heart and constant readiness to help."

EUGENE CARLETON THURBER, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Alhambra, California, on September 6, 1896, at the age of thirty-one years. Mr. Thurber will be known to the readers of 'The Auk' chiefly through his excellent 'List of the Birds of Morris County, New Jersey,' reviewed in the fifth volume of this journal (1888, p. 421). Shortly after its publication he removed to California, where he hoped to actively continue his ornithological pursuits. He was a careful observer and skilled collector, ever ambitious to win the esteem of his fellow-workers, but failing health so handicapped his efforts that he was never able to do justice to his own high aspirations. During the past two years he has lived an out-of-door life in the field, collecting birds and mammals, as his health would permit, and preserving to the end his love for his favorite study.

DR. GEORGE BROWN GOODE, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Curator of the U. S. National Museum, died suddenly of pneumonia at his home in Washington on September 6, 1896, at the age of 45 years. Although Dr. Goode was not an ornithologist, through his position for nine years as Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in charge of the National Museum, ornithology, in common with other branches of natural history, is deeply indebted to him for his liberality in promoting its interests. As a personal friend and adviser, he was so well-known, not only to ornithologists, but to investigators in all branches of zoölogy, that a few words *in memoriam* of this distinguished naturalist are particularly fitting in the pages of 'The Auk.' Dr. Goode was especially eminent as an ichthyologist, and is the author of a long list of important papers and standard works on the fishes and fishing industries of North America; his last work, 'Oceanic Ichthyology,' written in conjunction with Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, was published only shortly before his death. He combined in rare degree administrative ability with talent as a scientific investigator, and a charming personality that easily smoothed the way to success in whatever he undertook. As a museum director he was doubtless without a peer, and had justly a world-wide reputation as an expert in all matters of museum administration. Stricken down thus suddenly in the prime of life and at the height of his usefulness, his loss to science, and especially to the National Museum, with which he had been officially connected for twenty-three years, seems well-nigh irreparable. When his predecessor in office, the late Professor Baird, passed away, Goode proved to be the man pre-eminently fitted to take up his official duties and carry on his work. But where can be found a man so perfectly equipped to bear the mantle of Goode?

THE question of establishing a Bird Day in the schools has been made the subject of a special circular (No. 17) by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. The plan suggested cannot be too heartily endorsed; its adoption throughout the land would be an inestimable

benefit. Not alone would children learn to know something of the interest and pleasure attached to study of birds, and of their economic value, but they would be brought in touch with nature in a manner which could not fail to arouse their best instincts.

The matter is very forcibly put in a letter from the Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Secretary of Agriculture. He writes: ". . . the study of birds tends to develop some of the best attributes and impulses of our natures. Among them we find examples of generosity, unselfish devotion, of the love of mother for offspring and other estimable qualities. Their industry, patience, and ingenuity excite our admiration; their songs inspire us with a love of music and poetry; their beautiful plumages and graceful manners appeal to our esthetic sense; their long migrations to distant lands stimulate our imaginations and tempt us to inquire into the causes of these periodic movements, and finally, the endless modifications of form and habits by which they are enabled to live under most diverse conditions of food and climate—on land and at sea—invite the student of nature into inexhaustible fields of pleasurable research."

MR. JAMES M. SOUTHWICK, well-known as a commercial naturalist, has recently been appointed Curator of the Museum of Natural History, lately established by the authorities of the city of Providence R. I., in Roger Williams Park. A building has been erected at a cost of \$40,000, a portion of which will be devoted to museum purposes, as required.

It is Mr. Southwick's intention to make the collections under his care instructive, as well as attractive and popular. To this end he will devote special efforts to securing representative collections of the local fauna and later to the formation of small loan collections which can be used by teachers in their class-rooms. Much valuable material is already available for general exhibition.

THE first number of 'The Osprey, an Illustrated Monthly Magazine of Ornithology,' bears date September, 1896. It is a royal octavo of 16 pages, tastefully arranged and well printed, with numerous photographic illustrations, including a full-page half-tone plate of the nest of the Ferruginous Rough-legged Buzzard, with papers by well-known ornithologists. There is doubtless plenty of room for a journal like 'The Osprey,' and we trust it will meet with the cordial support its opening number so well merits. It is edited by Walter A. Johnson and Dr. A. C. Murchison, with the office of publication at 217 Main Street, Galesburg, Ill.

THE GERMAN ZOÖLOGICAL SOCIETY has undertaken the gigantic task of publishing a systematic work on zoölogy, under the title 'Das Tierreich. Eine Zusammenstellung und Kennzeichnung der rezenten Tierformen.' This immense work, it is thought, will require nearly one hun-

dred large 8vo volumes of about 800 pages each. The general editorship has been undertaken by Prof. F. E. Schulze, of Berlin, and the publication by Messrs. R. Friedländer and Son. According to the prospectus the Class Aves has been assigned to able hands. For example, it is announced that Graf Hans von Berlepsch will write the parts relating to the Icteridæ, Tanagridæ, Dendrocolaptidæ, and Tyrannidæ; Mr. Ernst Hartert, those relating to the Micropodidæ, Trochilidæ, Caprimulgidæ, and Podargidæ; Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, the Phasianidæ; Dr. Reichenow, the Sturnidæ, Ploceidæ, and Psittacidæ; Mr. L. W. Rothschild, the Paradiseidæ; Dr. R. B. Sharpe, the Vulturidæ, Falconidæ, and the Strigidæ.

The work will comprise the synonymy, short descriptions, and geographical range of every known species of animal, with diagnoses of the higher groups, etc. A 'Probe-Lieferung,' by Dr. O. Bütschli, of the Heliozoa, has been issued. The arrangement of the matter, in respect to typography, is excellent, and the general make-up is very attractive. Orders for the work should be addressed to R. Friedländer and Sohn, Carlstrasse, 11, Berlin, N. W.

MISS FLORENCE A. MERRIAM'S papers on 'How Birds Affect the Farm and Garden,' noticed in this issue, have been republished by the 'Forest and Stream' Publishing Company as a 32-page pamphlet, which can be procured of the publishers (318 Broadway, New York City) at the nominal price of five cents per copy; special prices being made to individuals or Bird Protection Societies, who may wish it in quantities for distribution.

WE LEARN that the concluding 'Part IV' of Professor Alfred Newton's excellent 'Dictionary of Birds' is already in press, and that its early publication may be expected.

AS WE go to press we are in receipt of Volume XXIV of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' containing the Limicolæ, by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe. It forms a thick volume of over 800 pages, with seven colored plates.

WE ARE also pleased to announce the appearance of the second part of Captain Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds,'—a volume of 500 pages and seven plates, containing about 200 figures. It includes the species from the Parrots to the Grackles.

