

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. HOWARD GARDNER NICHOLS, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., and for a number of years a Resident Member of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, died June 23, 1896, at the early age of 25 years, at Atlanta, Georgia, from injuries received several weeks before by the fall of a piece of machinery in a cotton mill at Alabama City, Alabama. He was a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1893. After graduation he went into the business of cotton manufacturing, and at the time of his death was the manager of a large plant for the weaving of cotton at Alabama City. He was very successful in this undertaking, and had every prospect of a brilliant future. What leisure time he had was largely devoted to the study of birds, and the same zeal and earnestness which he carried into all his work promised much of value as the result of his investigations of the little-known fauna of the region in which he was situated. At the time of his death he was mayor of Alabama City, where his death was mourned as an irreparable public loss, and where he was honored and respected for "his sterling worth, strict integrity, and noble charity."

THE ACTION on the Amendments to the By-Laws of the A. O. U. proposed at the Thirteenth Congress, and referred to the Fourteenth Congress, resulted as follows: The first and third proposed changes were not adopted, but the proposed addition of the words "together with the Ex-Presidents" to the second amendment was adopted. The first paragraph of Article II, Section I, as amended, reads as follows:—

"*Article II, Section I.* The Officers of the Union shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and seven Councillors. These Officers, together with the Ex-Presidents, shall constitute the Board of Management or Council of the Union, for the transaction of such business as may be assigned to it by the By-Laws or by the Union."

THE ornithological collection formed by the late Dr. William Wood, of East Windsor Hill, Conn., has been presented by his widow and children to the Hartford (Conn.) Scientific Society, and will soon be placed on exhibition in the rooms of the Society. The collection is mostly mounted, and contains many excellent specimens of the rapacious birds found in Connecticut.

DAVID DOUGLAS, Edinburgh, has issued a prospectus of 'A History of Fowling, being an account of the many curious devices by which Wild Birds are or have been captured in different parts of the World,' by the Rev. H. A. Macpherson. It will form a quarto volume of about 450

pages, with numerous illustrations in the text. As a "considerable amount of antiquarian lore" is interwoven with the general narrative, the book is likely to interest other readers besides ornithologists. Subscription price, 21s.

AS WE go to press we are in receipt of Part XVI—the last and concluding part—of Mr. H. Nehrling's excellent 'North American Birds,' with plates xxxv and xxxvi, pp. 337 to 452, and index and title pages. The work forms two large quarto volumes, beautifully printed, and illustrated with thirty-six colored plates.

IN 'SCIENCE' for Jan. 1, 1897 (N. S. Vol. V, p. 26), is a short communication from H. Helm Clayton, of the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, Readville, Mass., on 'The Velocity of a Flight of Ducks obtained by Triangulation.' From observations made with specially constructed theodolites, used in determining the heights and velocities of clouds, Mr. S. P. Fergusson and the writer of the article in question succeeded in obtaining measurements of the height and velocity of flight of a flock of Ducks which crossed their field of observation on the morning of December 8, 1896. The height of the Ducks was 958 feet, and the rate of flight 47.8 miles per hour. This record is of special interest, there being as yet so few trustworthy observations of the velocity of flight of birds.

THE A. O. U. Committee on Protection of North American Birds has increased its membership with a view to more effective work, and is at present constituted as follows:

- WILLIAM DUTCHER, *Chairman*, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York, N. Y.
 GEORGE H. MACKAY, 218 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass.
 E. H. FORBUSH, Ornithologist State Board of Agriculture, Malden, Mass.
 MRS. OLIVE THORNE MILLER, 628 Hancock St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 WITMER STONE, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.
 MRS. JULIA STOCKTON ROBINS, 114 So. 21st St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 MISS FLORENCE A. MERRIAM, 1919 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
 DR. T. S. PALMER, Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
 RUTHVEN DEANE, 24 Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 O. WIDMANN, Old Orchard, Mo.
 MRS. E. IRENE ROOD, Fort Worth, Texas.
 LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.
 A. W. ANTHONY, 1929 Front St., San Diego, Cal.

A large edition of the Annual Report of the Committee for 1896 has been published for free distribution. The Committee will gladly receive the co-operation of individuals, Committees or Societies interested in the better protection of our native birds.