

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York city, beginning on the evening of Monday, November 8, 1897, when will be held the session for the election of officers and members and the transaction of routine business. The following three days will be given to public sessions for the reading and discussion of scientific papers. Members intending to present papers are requested to send the titles of the same to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., in time to reach him prior to November 5, in order to facilitate the preparation of the program of papers to be read before the Congress.

MR. LOUIS W. BROKAW, an Associate Member of the American Ornithologist's Union, died at his home at Carmel, Ind., Sept. 3, 1897, after a brief illness.

SIR EDWARD NEWTON, a younger brother of Professor Alfred Newton, died at Lowestoft, England, April 25, 1897, in his 65th year, having been born in November, 1832. He was one of the founders and original members of the British Ornithologists' Union, and "one of the eight who formulated the idea of the Union and of 'The Ibis,'" and was one of the original twenty members to which the British Ornithologists' Union was for a time strictly limited. In 1859 he published in 'The Ibis,' in conjunction with his brother Alfred, an important paper on the birds of St. Croix, West Indies. Later (1862-69) he published various papers and reports on the birds of Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands, including descriptions of many new species, discovered during his official residence at Mauritius as Colonial Secretary. Although harassed and overburdened with official duties while Lieut.-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Jamaica (1877-1883), he found time to form a nearly complete collection of the birds of the island, his observations and collection forming the basis of his well-known 'List of the Birds of Jamaica,' published in the 'Handbook of Jamaica,' issued in 1881. His researches concerning the extinct bird fauna of the Mascarenes will ever give his name a prominent place in the history of that subject.

A UNIQUE and exceedingly appropriate memorial to the late Henry Davis Minot consists of a park of some fifty acres in extent, recently transferred by his four brothers, William, Charles S., Robert, and Lawrence Minot, in accordance with the wishes of their father, the late William Minot, to the trustees of public reservations in Massachusetts, to be maintained as a wild park, "for the use of the public forever." This park, to be known as Mount Anne Park, consists of a tract of about fifty acres of beautiful woodland near the village of West Gloucester, Mass. It

includes Mount Anne, or Thompson's Mountain, the highest point on the North Shore, some 225 feet above the sea, — a pine-clad, granite summit in the midst of a forest wilderness. The park is otherwise charmingly diversified, being a spot of exceptional natural beauty.

WE WOULD call especial attention to the efforts of the Audubon Monument Association of New Orleans to raise funds for the erection of a Monument to the famous ornithologist John James Audubon, in Audubon Park, that city. To this end the Association offers for sale a well written and tastefully bound volume of some eighty pages containing a sketch of Audubon's life by Mrs. Mary Fluker Bradford of New Orleans.

This work can be obtained of the Audubon Monument Association of New Orleans for the price of one dollar. It is not only worth this sum but every purchaser will have the satisfaction of helping a good cause.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY announce among their Autumn publications 'Birds of Village and Field,' by Florence A. Merriam. The book is intended for beginners and, we are told, "is planned primarily to meet the needs of persons who are interested in birds but who know very little about them, — to aid them, without a gun, to know and name the common birds around them." The work will have nearly 300 illustrations.

RESPECTING the collection of birds' eggs in the British Museum, we take the following from 'The Ibis,' for July, 1897: "The great collection of birds'-eggs in the British Museum, which was arranged under the direction of Seebohm shortly before his death, contains about 48,000 specimens, and is, no doubt, by far the most extensive collection of these objects in existence. It is contained in 35 cabinets, with about 24 drawers in each cabinet, and follows the systematic order of the Bird Catalogue. In it are comprised, besides the old collection, the large collections of Gould, Hume, Salvin and Godman, and Seebohm. It is thus rich in Indian, Palearctic, Australian, and Central American eggs, but comparatively poor in South American and African forms. A Handbook of General Oology, based upon this splendid series, would be a most valuable work, and will, we trust, shortly be undertaken. Nothing of the sort has been published since the appearance of Des Murs's 'Traité Général d'Oologie Ornithologique,' in 1860."

From the same authority we learn that the Gätke Collection of birds and eggs, and the library belonging therewith, has become the property of the Prussian State, and placed under the control of the Royal Biological Institution in Heligoland; it will soon be removed to the new Heligoland Museum and be made accessible to the public.