

the parent of 'Bird Clubs' in fact, is always interesting. In this issue we find a full account of the Masque Sanctuary written especially for the Meriden Club by Percy MacKaye, first performed at Meriden on September 12, 1913, and since played in many parts of the country. More than anything else in recent years this play seems to have aroused public interest in bird conservation and it will interest everyone to read this account of its inception and production.

Among many other matters interesting to those engaged in the establishment of bird sanctuaries we find in this report a list of no less than 182 bird clubs which directly or indirectly owe their origin to the Meriden Club—a proud record for Mr. Baynes and his associates.—W. S.

**Mathews' 'Birds of Australia'.<sup>1</sup>**—Part V, of Volume VI of Mr. Mathews' work continues the treatment of the Parrots, figuring ten species of *Psephotus* and allied genera. We notice on p. 391 a new subgenus, *Clarkona*, provisionally proposed for *Psephotus varius*, and on p. 408 two new subspecies, *Psephotus varius thelae*, from Central Australia, and *P. v. orientalis*, from Underbool.—W. S.

**Strong on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs.<sup>2</sup>**—Dr. Strong finds that melanin pigment granules occur occasionally in the so-called cylinder and inner-sheath cells of feather germs from the Common Fowl, and obtains further evidence that this pigment is of epidermal origin.

He found melanophores in the dermal pulp of the feather germs, presumably homologous with the dermal melanophores of the skin. While some of these had processes they did not, apparently distribute pigment to other cells.—W. S.

**Bird Conservation in 1917.**—The bulky report of the National Association of Audubon Societies must be read by everyone interested in bird protection. When we read the lengthy lists of persons engaged in this work today we are dazed at the progress of the movement. With hundreds of bird clubs being organized in every part of the country, thousands of school teachers introducing instruction on bird protection in their classes, with bird lecturers on the Chautauqua circuits and exhibitions of bird houses, feeding shelves and other paraphernalia on every side, it will soon be as hard to find a person who is not affiliated with bird conservation in some way or other, as it was some years ago to find one who was willing to sign a pledge to abandon the use of birds in millinery.

The movement has certainly gotten far beyond the ability of 'The Auk'

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<sup>1</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. VI, Part V. September 11, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> Some Observations on the Origin of Melanin Pigment in Feather Germs from the Plymouth Rock and Brown Leghorn Fowls. By R. M. Strong. Anatomical Record, Vol. 13, No. 2, July, 1917. pp. 97-108.