

of 'The Auk,' seems to the reviewer a questionable one. The names in the latest published edition of the Check-List (followed by standard bird books) will always be more familiar to ornithologists who do not happen to be particularly concerned with the vagaries of nomenclature." Those ornithologists who do not happen to be particularly concerned with the vagaries of nomenclature should confine themselves to the 'Check-List,' and go by the common names in 'The Auk.' After the supplement has been published in 'The Auk' every faunal paper that has enough character to be called scientific should follow it. In fact wherever in 'The Auk' there is occasion to use a scientific name it should be followed. After a name has been accepted as correct it can not be called a vagary, unless the whole system of nomenclature founded on priority is a vagary. After a bird's name has been accurately determined and accepted it cannot in truth have any other.

I think A. C. Bent is right in using the latest scientific names in his works if he is sure they are right, but there should be some way to identify them.

HOWARD WHITNEY,

45 East Street,  
Hartford, Connecticut.

[Our correspondent apparently does not realize that there are two classes of nomenclatural changes, one based on priority and similar definite rules; the other (creation of new genera by splitting up old ones) based on personal opinion. In the latter, one name is as "right" as another, and for that reason more than ever the innovation should be avoided in faunal or general papers until it is endorsed by the A. O. U. Committee.—W. S.]

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Stated Meeting of the Union this year will be held in Cambridge, Mass., during the week of October 8th. The time has been chosen by the Local Committee in deference to a generally expressed desire for an early date for the Meeting. Records show that in eastern Massachusetts this part of October has the best prospect of fine weather in the whole autumn, and it is hoped that visiting members will be able to make some interesting excursions into the country.

Members planning to present papers to be illustrated by cinema, are requested to notify Dr. Glover M. Allen, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, not later than September 1st.

REV. JAMES HIBBERT LANGILLE, an Associate of the Union, died at Forest Glen, Maryland, on April 9, 1923, having been struck by a train while crossing the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Mr. Langille

was in his 82nd year. He was born at Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, September 12, 1841 and received his education at Horton Academy and Acadia College, in the Grand Pré region of Nova Scotia; at Oberlin College, where he was graduated in 1867; and at Rochester Theological Seminary, where he was trained for the ministry. He began preaching at the age of sixteen and continued to preach during his collegiate courses; in 1873 he became pastor of a Baptist church at Knowlesville, N. Y., where he remained for eight years; following this he was pastor of a church in Buffalo for three years. In 1885 he gave up his ministerial work and moved to Maryland, where he purchased a tract of land—largely woodland—near Kensington, about ten miles from Washington. Since that date he has lived continuously on his farm, which he cleared and developed almost entirely by his own labor.

Langille is best known as the author of 'Our Birds in their Haunts: a popular treatise on the birds of Eastern North America,' which appeared in 1884<sup>1</sup> and was republished in 1892.<sup>2</sup> Articles from the book had previously been published in the 'Nuttall Bulletin'<sup>3</sup> and 'The Auk,'<sup>4</sup> and the volume was favorably received, evidently filling a distinct need. The present writer feels that he owes a special debt of gratitude to the author, since this book was the first bird book that came into his possession as a boy and was largely the means of stimulating a budding interest in natural history. As noted by the reviewer in 'The Auk,'<sup>5</sup> Langille had a keen ear for bird music and was unusually successful in his descriptions of bird songs. These descriptions, as well as some of his charming biographies have frequently been quoted by later writers.

He was the author also, of 'Popular History of the Life of Columbus,' (in collaboration with Mary F. Foster) and of eight children's books for Sunday School use. He left a manuscript on 'The Life and Voyages of Americus Vespuccius and the Naming of the Continent.' He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL.

HOWARD EATON, a Life Associate of the Union since 1918 died at Sheridan, Wyoming, April 5, 1922. The immediate cause of his death was peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis. He was in his 72nd year having been born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 8, 1851, and was one of a family of nine children. At the age of 17 he started west and spent a year at Omaha, Nebr., and then returned home. Ten years later, in 1879, he again went west and located in the bad lands of the Little Missouri near Medora, N. Dak., a spot later made famous by Theodore Roosevelt in his 'Hunting Trips of a Ranchman.' Here Eaton became a post-trader

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<sup>1</sup> S. E. Cassino & Co., Boston.

<sup>2</sup> Orange Judd Co., New York.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, vol. 7, pp. 119-120, 1882.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. 1, pp. 268-270, 1884.

<sup>5</sup> Merriam, C. Hart, Auk, vol. 2, pp. 91-94, 1885.

and was joined by two of his brothers and the three engaged in the cattle business. In 1904 the Eaton brothers moved west to Wolf, Wyoming, near Sheridan, where they engaged in ranching and Howard conducted parties through the Yellowstone and other National Parks and to Jackson Hole. The Eaton Ranch became famous as a tourist resort and few men in the west were personally known to a larger circle of acquaintances than Howard Eaton.

Always affable and good natured, he saw the bright side of every situation and had an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes. Deeply interested in the wild life of the West he took an active part in every movement for its conservation and especially in measures for the preservation of the buffalo and elk. While not strictly an ornithologist he knew the more conspicuous birds of the Rocky Mountain region was familiar with their habits and did much to interest others in them and in bird protection. In the death of Howard Eaton the West has lost a unique and ardent advocate of conservation and the Union an enthusiastic Associate and practical field observer.—T. S. P.

DR. WILLIAM W. ARNOLD, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Colorado Springs, Colorado, March 30, 1923, in his eightieth year. Dr. Arnold was born in Connersville, Indiana, August 28, 1843, the son of a physician, John Arnold. He came to Colorado Springs in October, 1886, and resided there continuously from that time until his death. He was married July 14, 1863, to Mary Evaline Shaw, who survives him.

Dr. Arnold was always interested in Nature, and during the last years of his life gave much of his time to the cause of bird protection, and did so in a most practical manner. He gave many talks about birds to the school children of Colorado Springs and vicinity, often illustrating them by means of mounted specimens, and sometimes even with living birds from his well known "Bird Hospital." Always fond of and understanding children he was able to interest them in his pleas for the preservation of our birds, and I suppose it was really as a result of these talks that the Bird Hospital had its beginning.

A child who had heard him at one of the schools brought an injured bird to him and asked him to cure it. The patient was taken in and cared for, and from this beginning the institution grew until there was a good-sized aviary and a number of smaller cages, and the hospital was never without patients. Some were permanent inmates, crippled in some way so that they could not be freed. In most cases, however, as soon as a bird had recovered it was set free. Once after an unusually violent hailstorm in summer I went to see him, and found him caring for over a hundred Robins which had been brought in, besides numerous birds of other species. Many were sorry, miserable looking objects. The hail had beaten them so that some had the feathers stripped from their heads, others had broken wings, many were blinded in one or both eyes. The kindly doctor worked

faithfully with them all. Some were so badly injured that they died but the great majority recovered and were given their liberty. Doubtless without this care many of these also would have perished.

The hospital had many visitors, especially among the summer tourists, and thus became known over the whole country. Dr. Arnold also wrote accounts of it for certain magazines.

In person Dr. Arnold was of rather slight build, always genial in manner, with words of hearty welcome for his friends. While always interested in anything pertaining to birds, or in fact to any other branch of natural history, I think he cared little for the purely scientific side of ornithology, though his knowledge of our local birds was excellent.

An interesting episode in his life was his adoption by the Chippewas of the Crow Wing Reservation in Minnesota in 1869, when he cured an Indian girl of pneumonia, after the medicine man, her grandfather, had failed. He owned a bear claw necklace and a long-stemmed pipe given him by the Chippewas.

He became an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1910, of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1911, and was also a member of the Colorado Audubun Society, as well as of several Medical Societies.—EDWARD R. WARREN.

A TABLET commemorative of Alexander Wilson and his work was unveiled at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia on the evening of May 17, 1923. It was presented to the Academy by the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia, through the generosity of the late Dr. J. Lawson Cameron a native of Paisley, Scotland, where Wilson was born.

The tablet was designed by Dr. R. Tait McKenzie and consists of a medallion of the head of the ornithologist with appropriate inscription. Members of the St. Andrew's Society, the Academy, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and the President and Secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union were present at the unveiling. Dr. McKenzie, B. Gordon Bromley and Dr. John Welsh Croskey were the Committee in charge and Mr. Samuel Scoville, Jr., delivered the address.

LORD ROTHSCHILD as president of the British Ornithologists' Union has addressed a letter, under date of May 25, to the Minister of the Interior of Poland protesting against the bounties offered by the Board of Fisheries in Torun, Poland, for the heads of Kingfishers, Ospreys, White Storks, Black Storks, Gulls, Common Divers (Crested Grebes), Great Divers (Loons), Bitterns, and Herons. The letter calls special attention to "the Black Stork, the Bittern and the Great Divers which are so rare and scattered that it does not seem possible that they can be a real menace to fish and fishing.

"The Black Stork has already become so rare over the greater portion of Europe that it is only by special protection their extermination has been

prevented and there are probably not more than four or five pairs now existing in your Country.

"The British Ornithological Society feel sure that your Government have no desire to imperil the existence of any bird, much less that of birds such as the Black Stork and the Bittern and they sincerely hope that your Excellency and the Board of Fisheries will consent to reconsider their decision and modify it in respect to the rarer species of birds included therein."

DR. LEONARD STEINEGER, a Retired Fellow of the Union, was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences at the meeting in Washington on April 25 and shortly after was awarded the Walker grand prize of \$1000 by the Boston Society of Natural History. This prize was awarded in 1903 to the late Dr. J. A. Allen and a few years afterwards to Mr. Robert Ridgway.

BENGT BERG, of Stockholm, Sweden, a noted writer, traveler and bird photographer, recently spent a few weeks in the United States visiting New York, Washington, Indianapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities en route to the Pacific coast and back. On March 22 he lectured at the American Museum in New York and on March 27 at the U. S. National Museum in Washington on his recent trip to the Nile. The lecture was entitled 'As a Bird of Passage in Africa' and was illustrated by an unusually fine series of motion pictures of Ducks, Geese, Cranes, Storks, Ibises, and other birds. Mr. Berg specializes in photographing large birds or those which are difficult to approach and one of the objects of his visit was to look over the ground for bird photography in this country. He sailed for home in May to make preparations for another trip to the Nile next winter.

Bengt Magnus Kristoffer Berg was born in Kalmar, Sweden, Jan. 9, 1885, and is the author of several popular novels and also several illustrated books on birds. A brief account of his work, with illustrations, appeared in 'Our World' for May, 1923, pp. 70-76.