

surprisingly large amount of literature on birds and other nature subjects which is sold at present; and when a reading public shows its interest by listing Beebe's 'Galapagos,' Thompson's 'Outline of Science,' and other similar works, among its leading sellers in non-fiction? One wonders whether a canvass among the subscribers to the ornithological magazines, and also among others, to get an approximate idea of the demand for it, might not tempt some publisher to undertake it.

It is also disappointing to learn that excellent works of very recent date are no longer available. An outstanding example of this is a well known and much desired National Museum Bulletin on the diving birds, published just so recently as 1919; not to mention many others just as desirable, published before and even since. This condition is made still more acute by learning of certain works, of which only a few copies were printed; or even that certain works were printed chiefly for private distribution.

It seems very desirable that editions of valuable works, which so soon become as scarce as Heath Hens and Whooping Cranes, or even Wild Pigeons, should be larger than they often are, and that periodical re-issues should be made to meet new demands for them.

The same may be said of those mines of information, the ornithological magazines, complete files of which are no longer obtainable for newcomers in this field of interest. Would that somehow it were possible to have a reprinting of these.

If promise of financial success in such matters does not attract private enterprise, many hearts would be glad, I am sure, to hear sometime that some of our institutions for the dissemination of knowledge, or our governments, would include these masterpieces in their printing programs.

Yours Truly

CLIFFORD MARBURGER.

Denver, Pennsylvania.

NOTES AND NEWS.

JOHN HALL SAGE, Ex-president, Secretary for 28 years, and Life Fellow of the Union elected at the first meeting, died in the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, August 16, 1925. He was spending his vacation at a camp in the Maine woods when he was taken suddenly ill and was brought to Boston where he underwent an operation for kidney trouble and a few days later passed away. At the time of his death he was in his 79th year, having been born in Portland, Connecticut, April 20, 1847.

He was the son of Charles Henry and Eliza Hall Sage. His education was received in the common and high schools of Portland and Bridgeport, Conn., and later the honorary degree of Master of Science was conferred on him by Trinity College, Hartford. At the age of 26 he entered the service of the First National Bank of Portland with which he was associated during the rest of his life. He filled various positions serving as

President for a number of years and recently as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He was also Treasurer of the Freestone Savings Bank up to the time it was merged with the recently organized Portland Trust Co.

With W. W. Coe, a business associate of Portland who died in 1885, Sage became much interested in birds and began to publish his observations made in the field. His first paper on local birds was apparently a contribution to the Middletown, Conn., 'Constitution' in 1878, entitled 'Birds of the Garden and Orchard.' From that time on for 47 years he continued to publish on various subjects connected with birds. His bibliography contains upwards of 100 titles comprising more than 70 notes and papers on the birds of Connecticut, a series of 28 annual reports as Secretary of the Union, a number of obituary notices and miscellaneous notes, and his two main works 'Memorials and Other Gifts in Trinity Church, Portland, Conn.,' 1910, and with Dr. Louis B. Bishop, 'The Birds of Connecticut,' 1913. This last work is a volume of 370 pages published by the State Geological and Natural History Survey and contains a catalogue of 334 species in which is incorporated a summary of Sage's 45 and Bishop's 30 years work in the field. In the words of an eminent reviewer it is "a thoroughly up-to-date and well prepared state list and a contribution to ornithological literature of which the authors may well feel proud."

In the intervals of an active business life Sage found time to bring together a valuable collection of birds rich in specimens of local interest and representatives of the birds of prey. His interest in natural history extended to other branches besides ornithology and particularly to botany, and he was well acquainted with the local flora. His broad interest in scientific work is shown by his membership in various organizations. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Connecticut Botanical Society, the Connecticut Historical Society, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Linnaean Society of New York, the Biological Society of Washington, the Cooper Ornithological Club and the Wilson Ornithological Club. He was deeply interested in bird protection and took a prominent part in the early activities of Audubon work both State and National.

John H. Sage was not only a life fellow and officer but he was an essential part of the American Ornithologists' Union. Elected at the first congress in 1883 he had an almost unbroken record of attendance at the meetings, and more than any other member, except the late J. A. Allen, he contributed freely of his time and energy to the success of the organization. His published reports of the meetings contain the history of the Union for two-thirds of its existence. During the years he acted as Secretary he devoted his vacations largely to the Union in preparing for and attending the meetings. As an officer he maintained a high standard of service. Always prompt, affable and efficient he would endure almost any fatigue and inconvenience to perform his duties even to writing up his minutes of the meetings long after midnight. He kept the records

with scrupulous care and the minutes were all written by himself in a clear, legible hand. Though he excelled in the amount of hard work and drudgery which he cheerfully performed for the Union he yielded to none in the amount of real pleasure which he derived from the meetings. He thoroughly enjoyed making the acquaintance of new members, taking part in reunions with old, and attending the excursions whenever possible. He took a deep interest in visiting historic spots and the various places included in the two trips of the A. O. U. to the Pacific Coast. When in recognition of his long and faithful service as Secretary, the Union elevated him to the office of President, he still continued to assist his successor in various ways and acted as custodian of the archives. During his presidency the Union showed a substantial growth both in membership and permanent funds, and after his retirement he continued as Chairman of the Board of Investment Trustees and Member of the Council. His last contribution to 'The Auk,' a notice of his life-long friend Robert O. Morris, appeared only a few weeks before his death.

The biographer who judges the work of John H. Sage by his business activities, the extent of his bibliography, or the nature of his publications will strike wide of the mark unless he takes into consideration the caliber of the man himself. Quiet, modest, unassuming, he nevertheless had a well developed sense of humor and could always appreciate a joke. He possessed all the sturdy qualities of New England character which made him a leader in business, church and scientific circles of his community, and through these same qualities he became widely known in his native state and one of the best known and highly respected members of the Union. His contribution to ornithology was not so much what he published as what he accomplished through his long continued and self sacrificing work for the Union. No higher tribute can be paid him than one he once paid to a friend that "in his death the world has lost a man who daily made it better."

In accordance with custom a formal Memorial of his life and work will be presented at a regular Stated Meeting of the Union.—T. S. P.

DR. ARTHUR GARDINER BUTLER, a Corresponding Fellow of the Union, elected in 1922, died at his home in Beckenham, Kent, England, May 28, 1925, at the age of nearly 81. He was the son of Thomas Butler, formerly Assistant Secretary to the Principal Librarian of the the British Museum, and was born at Cheyne-Walkin Chelsea, England, June 27, 1844. He was educated at St. Paul's School and spent one year at the Art School at South Kensington. From early youth he took an interest in natural history, especially in entomology, and at the age of 19 entered the British Museum as a systematic entomologist under Dr. John Edward Gray. In 1879 he was appointed Assistant Keeper of Zoölogy, a position which he held until he retired in 1901. Most of his time while in the British Museum was devoted to the study of exotic butterflies and moths of which he described and named several thousand.

Dr. Butler was a keen student of British birds and was also much interested in foreign cage birds, a hobby to which he devoted much attention—especially in his later years. He was a contributor to 'The Avicultural Magazine' from its establishment until his death. His best known work was probably his 'Foreign Finches in Captivity,' illustrated by Frohawk, 1894-96. He also published 'British Birds Eggs,' 1885-86; 'British Birds with their Nests and Eggs,' in six volumes, 1896-99; 'Foreign Bird Keeping,' 1899-1900; 'Birds' Eggs of the British Isles,' 1904; and 'Birds of Great Britain and Ireland, Passeres,' in two volumes, 1907-08, the last a reprint with additions of the first two volumes of the work issued in 1896-99. His most recent book on cage birds was entitled 'Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary,' 1910.

He was a Fellow of the Entomological, Linnaean, and Zoölogical Societies, a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and an Original Member of the Avicultural Society which he also served as a member of the council and Honorary Secretary.—T. S. P.

HENRY WORTHINGTON OLDS, better known as HENRY OLDYS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1896, died at Petersburg, N. Y., January 20, 1925, after a brief illness. He was born in Washington, D. C., March 26, 1859. His education was received in the public schools of that city and in the Columbia Law School, now the Law School of George Washington University. At the age of 18 he entered the Government service in the Sixth Auditor's office and in 1899 was transferred to the Biological Survey in the Department of Agriculture, where he remained until 1912 when he resigned to take up lecturing. Shortly after the outbreak of the World War he went to Paris as an auditor for the War Department, but after a few months resigned to enter Y. M. C. A. work and in this capacity he made a trip to Warsaw, Poland.

In addition to his association with the Union he was a Corresponding Member of the Royal Hungarian Bureau of Ornithology and a member of the Biological Society of Washington. He was one of the founders of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia and always took an active part in bird protective work. After his retirement from the Department he spent some time each year for several years lecturing for the National Association of Audubon Societies. He prepared and edited 'Current Items of Interest,' an occasional publication of the local Audubon Society issued in 38 numbers from 1908 to 1918. While with the Biological Survey he assisted in the preparation of the annual summaries of the game laws and published several articles on bird protection, the more important of which appeared in the Yearbooks of the Department on 'Audubon Societies in Relation to the Farmer,' 1902; 'Cage-Bird Traffic of the United States,' 1906; and 'Introduction of the Hungarian Partridge into the United States,' 1909. He was also author of a Farmers' Bulletin on 'Pheasant Raising in the United States,' 1910.

Henry Oldys had considerable musical talent and when he became

interested in ornithology naturally devoted his attention to bird song. He had a very keen ear for bird notes and could distinguish the individual variations in the songs of various birds. He was fond of noting these peculiarities and had recorded more than 40 variations in the song of the Carolina Wren. He was a ready writer, fond of travel and lecturing, and it was only natural that after his retirement he should devote his energies largely to lecturing and literary work. It had long been his intention to publish a book on bird song, but he utilized the material in his lectures, and up to the time of his death had only published a few articles on the subject in 'The Auk' and elsewhere.

Oldys was a good conversationalist, sociable, always cheerful, and a decided optimist. He took an active interest in legislation to restrict the traffic in plumage and was one of the first, if not the first, to suggest including in the Tariff Act, a provision prohibiting the importation of plumage, a proposal which at the time was considered Utopian but which became a reality in 1913.—T. S. P.

RICHARD HUNT, an Associate Member of the Union since 1918, died at the home of his parents near Boston, June 25, 1925. He was born at Winchester, Massachusetts, October 17, 1886. His early education involved attendance at the Winchester High School, 1901-05. Subsequently he attended Dartmouth College, 1905-06, and then Harvard University, taking his A.B. degree there in 1909.

After several years in business positions Hunt's deep interest in natural history began to assert itself overwhelmingly. He had begun collecting birds and studying bird song in Massachusetts about 1905. By 1917 he had made up his mind that here lay the field of interest which should claim his permanent attention. While he was casting about for congenial association, his qualifications and desires became known to the Director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, University of California; and in December, 1917, he was called to a temporary position in that institution. He received a permanent appointment as Assistant Curator of Birds on May 21, 1918, and he held this position, barring a leave of absence for special study at Stanford University in 1922-23, until the date of his death.

Hunt was possessed of certain faculties of mind that made his services invaluable in the institution with which he associated himself heart and soul. He had the "museum conscience"; ingrained within him was the instinct for orderliness combined with accuracy; in the handling of the research materials in his charge, he was alert to see and to hunt out errors and instantly to make the corrections needed.

In the field, Hunt was not so much of a collector as an observer; and his observations centered themselves upon the bird as a living thing and particularly as a vocalist. His field notebooks, now filed in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy, are replete with observations that attest to his keen powers of analyzing and recording what he saw and heard.

A total of nine published articles of an ornithological nature were

contributed by Hunt, all to 'The Condor.' Most of these pertained to the subject of bird song. From the start of his work at Berkeley, he expressed himself as dissatisfied with any of the systems proposed for either the graphical or musical records of bird voices. He felt that some better method was yet to be developed. The most notable of his articles was the last one printed, in 'The Condor' (Vol. 25, November, 1923, pp. 202-208), entitled 'The Phonetics of Bird-sound.' In this article Hunt set forth "a more standardized method of hearing and recording bird utterances" than he thought had previously been proposed. The basis of the method lies in the concept that bird voice is not so essentially musical as it is human speech-like. On this principle, Hunt proposed the designation of bird voices in letters of the alphabet, the sounds being much as are employed in the pronunciation of human "words." This principle is undoubtedly, to the writer's mind, valid both theoretically and in application. And the future development of bird voice study will, we believe, bring out in true measure the lasting value of Richard Hunt's contribution in that field of ornithology.—J. GRINNELL.

MRS. SARA ANDERSON HUBBARD, an Associate of the A. O. U. for nearly 27 years, from 1891 to 1918, died in Brooklyn, New York, July 31, 1918, at the advanced age of nearly 86. Although seven years have passed since her death, no notice of her work has thus far appeared in 'The Auk,' and it seems important to place on record her contribution to the study of birds. She was born in East Berkshire, Franklin County, Vt., September 7, 1832, and was the daughter of David B. and Selena (Anderson) Blakeley. After receiving her education at the Ladies' Seminary in Newark, New York, she married James M. Hubbard, in 1853.

Mrs. Hubbard was engaged in teaching and journalism for many years and was the author of 'Catch Words of Cheer' in three series, the first of which appeared in 1900, the 'Religion of Cheerfulness,' 1906, the 'Duty of Being Beautiful' and the 'Soul in a Flower.' Unfortunately, comparatively few of the members of the Union knew her personally, and as she did not contribute to the pages of 'The Auk' the importance of her work was not generally appreciated. How or when she became interested in birds is uncertain, but of her enthusiasm and ability to impart it to others there is at least one striking illustration in the case of Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, as described by Mrs. F. M. Bailey in 'The Auk' for 1919, pp. 165-166. In 1881, while in Brooklyn, N. Y., Mrs. Hubbard succeeded in interesting Mrs. Miller in observing birds. "My friend [says Mrs. Miller] was an enthusiast and I found her enthusiasm contagious. She taught me to know a few birds * * * and indeed before she left me I became so interested in the Catbird and Thrush that I continued to visit the park to see them, and after about two summers' study the thought one day came to me that I had seen some things that other people might be interested in. I wrote what I had observed and sent an article to the 'Atlantic Monthly' and it was accepted with a very precious letter

from Mr. Scudder who was then editor." With that visit and the interest aroused in birds observed in Prospect Park began Mrs. Miller's work which afterwards found expression in 11 popular works on birds and their habits.

In reality, Mrs. Hubbard was one of the pioneer nature teachers and popular observers of birds, a member of that group which included John Burroughs, Olive Thorne Miller, Bradford Torrey and others. While she herself did not publish much on birds, she carried the message to others and inspired them in a way which often produced far-reaching results. Too much credit can hardly be given those pioneers who in the closing years of the 19th century gave a new impetus to popular bird study in the field.—T. S. P.

COL. HARRY COUPLAND BENSON, U. S. A., Retired, a former Associate of the A. O. U. from 1886 to 1894, died at Letterman General Hospital, at the Presidio, San Francisco, September 21, 1924, after an illness of several months. He was nearly 67 years of age having been born at Gambier, Ohio, December 8, 1857.

He graduated from Kenyon College, Ohio, in 1877, where his father, Rev. Edward C. Benson, was Professor of Latin and where ten years later he received the degree of A.M. Benson entered the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, July 1, 1878, graduated with the Class of '82, and was commissioned a 2d Lieutenant in the First Artillery. He was transferred to the 4th Cavalry, Jan. 31, 1884, and remained in that branch of the service during the rest of his military career. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in 1888, Captain in 1897, Major in 1905, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1911, Colonel in 1914 and retired at his own request after 30 years service in 1915.

Upon his transfer to the cavalry in 1884 Lieut. Benson was detailed to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and took part in the campaign against Geronimo. It was during the years that he was stationed at this post that he took an active interest in ornithology and became associated with the Union, evidently due to the fact that he was in correspondence with Capt. Charles E. Bendire for whom he collected many nests and eggs. Apparently he published nothing on birds over his own name, but his notes were quoted and some of his specimens figured in Bendire's 'Life Histories of North American Birds.' Thus his observations on the Masked Bobwhite, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mexican Black Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, White-Necked Raven and other species were placed on record and his name was added to the list of the early field collectors of Arizona.

In 1891, Benson was detailed to California and much of the time during the next 20 years was connected with the administration of National Parks. In 1891 and 1892 he was stationed in the Sequoia National Park, in 1895-1897, 1899, and in 1905-1908, in Yosemite, and from November 28, 1908, to September 29, 1910, in the Yellowstone. In 1897, he had been made Captain and when he returned to Yosemite in 1905, it was as Acting

Superintendent. His Park service is described at length by F. P. Farquhar in a sketch of his life, accompanied by an excellent portrait, in the 'Sierra Club Bulletin,' XII, pp. 175-179, 1925. Benson's careful field work in the southwest is commemorated in the name of a partridge *Callipepla elegans bensonii* and his service in Yosemite in Benson Lake, a beautiful bit of water in the High Sierra in the heart of the Park which was for several years the scene of his labors.—T. S. P.

JAMES BRITTON PURDY, an Associate of the Union since 1893, died June 2, 1925, at his home near Plymouth, Wayne County, Mich. His death occurred on the farm where he was born and which his father, James Purdy, a personal friend of Alexander Wilson, acquired as a homestead from the Government, nearly 100 years ago. Here the son, James Britton, was born June 23, 1843, and attended the village school in Plymouth at a time when Michigan was largely a wilderness. At the age of 21 he enlisted in the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the Civil War. In 1867 he married Hannah E. Phelps of Eaton Rapids and they had two children.

According to his daughter, Mrs. Nettie L. Moore, the only survivor of the family, young Purdy showed an interest in nature at an early age by his fondness for pets and his love of bird life. His collection of birds began with a Great Horned Owl mounted by a friend from whom he learned the elements of taxidermy. Gradually he brought together a general natural history collection which included in addition to mammals, big game heads, horns, and other specimens, about 180 mounted birds and some 1400 eggs representing several hundred species. He took great pride in this collection and the condition of the specimens and discarded those which did not come up to his standard.

Purdy was a member of the Michigan Ornithological Club as well as of the A. O. U., cooperated in making observations on bird migration, and contributed notes and observations to Cook's 'Birds of Michigan,' 1893.

His publications deal mainly with the occurrence, habits or rarity of Michigan birds and appeared chiefly in the 'Ornithologist and Oölogist,' 'Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club,' and occasionally in 'The Auk.'

One interesting article which he contributed to 'The Auk' for 1895 contains a brief account of the Duncans who were relatives of Alexander Wilson. William Duncan came to America with his uncle Alexander Wilson and was followed shortly after by his widowed mother Mrs. Alexander Duncan, Wilson's sister, and several younger children. Alexander Duncan, the second son, settled near South Lyon, Mich., and became a life-long friend of Purdy's father.

Although he lived to the advanced age of nearly 82, he never lost his interest in birds. Purdy's declining years were saddened by the death of his wife in 1916, and that of his son in 1924, together with the gradual loss of his sight, resulting in almost total blindness shortly before his final

illness. Known personally, or by correspondence, to most bird students in Michigan, through his natural history work and his observations, James B. Purdy, one of the pioneer workers in the state, was associated with the past as well as the present generation of ornithologists.—T. S. P.

THE GERMAN ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY is holding its seventy-fifth anniversary meeting October 3-6, 1925, at Berlin.

At the opening session addresses will be made by President von Lucanus and the Secretary Dr. Stresemann. On the following days an interesting program of papers has been arranged on which appear the names of the leading German ornithologists as well as Dr. Hartert of Tring, England and Mr. Bengt Berg of Kalmar, Sweden.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, Vice-President of the A. O. U., who succeeded the late Ned Hollister as Director of the National Zoological Park, has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. This was the post at one time held by Prof. Spencer F. Baird and it is gratifying to find history repeating itself and a leading ornithologist holding this important office.

It is high time for all members, of the A. O. U., of every class, to prepare to attend the stated meeting at New York City, November 10-12, 1925. November 9 will be devoted to business sessions of the Council, Fellows and Members, while the scientific sessions begin on November 10. It is important that everyone who can possibly attend should be present. The success of the Union and the satisfactory progress of ornithology depends upon the active interest of the members. Those who have attended before, hardly need to be urged, and those who have not, do not realize what they have missed. We trust that a large number of the latter will make their first acquaintance with an A. O. U. meeting next month.

