

NOTES AND NEWS

WITH the conclusion of volume 53 of 'The Auk', Dr. Witmer Stone passes on the editorship to other hands, thus rounding out a full quarter century of devoted service on its behalf. It is difficult for one unused to such work to appreciate the vast amount of effort and worry, of red ink and black, of skill and tact that this long and honorable record implies. In the administration of his duties Doctor Stone has won the gratitude and admiration of ornithologists the world over.

Need of an Endowment Fund for 'The Auk'

THE American Ornithologists' Union has been growing progressively short of funds during the past several years. The membership has fallen off, fewer life memberships have been taken out, and the sale of its publications has not come up to expectations. A large part of our funds have been tied up in the new Check-list, the Ten-year Index of the Auk, the fifty-year memorial volume and the Abridged Check-list. The reasons are obvious; the prolonged depression has reduced incomes and necessitated economies for many of us. But, now that business conditions are improving, we hope for better times. Current bills for the publication of 'The Auk' are not being paid with reasonable promptness, and this situation is growing progressively worse. The Editor of 'The Auk' has abundant good material which he is unable to publish for lack of funds. We must have more income if we are to maintain the high standard and the full size of our official journal. There are several ways in which our members can help to accomplish this. We need more Associate Members; those who join during the year and pay their dues will receive 'The Auk' for 1937, though they cannot be formally elected until next fall.

Members, who can afford to do so, are urged to become Life Members; the income from the Life Membership Fund is devoted to the publication of 'The Auk' or other publications of the Union.

Several of our former members have left to the Union bequests in their wills, as memorial funds, the income to be used for publications. We urge our members to give this matter serious consideration.

If we want our organization and our journal to flourish, we must all do our part to secure more members, induce some of our present members to become Life Members, purchase more of our publications, or make voluntary contributions to our permanent endowment funds.—A. C. BENT, *President*.

THE ninth International Ornithological Congress will be held at Rouen, France, in the spring of 1938. At the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, M. Jean Delacour, the secretary of the congress, extended to American ornithologists a cordial invitation to attend. Under the rules of the congress, all those who register and pay the subscription of one hundred francs gold, are enrolled as members.