

The precautions adopted for concealing their eggs while birds are temporarily absent from the nest claim a considerable share of the author's attention ; particular interest attaching to the description and illustration of

when a child, he was delighted by bird-stories told by his grandfather. "They," he adds, "will enjoy a great advantage over me in being able, through the achievements of my brother's camera, to examine accurate pictures of the birds living, loving and labouring amidst their natural surroundings." No words of ours can add aught to this modest description of the most attractive feature of a charming book.

R. L.

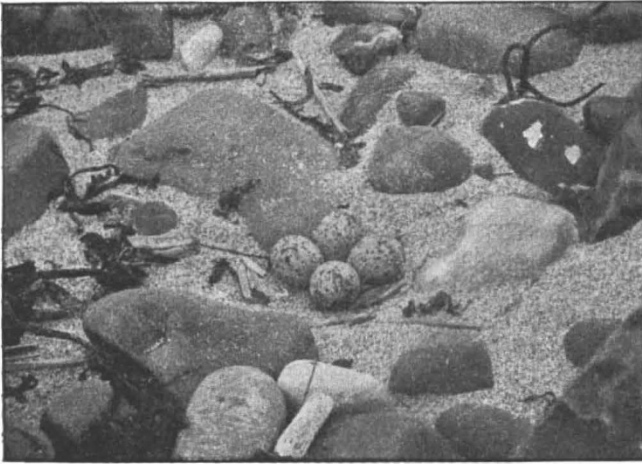


FIG. 1.—Eggs of the Ringed Plover. From Mr. Kearton's "Our Bird Friend."

the manner in which moorhens are in the habit of bending down some of the adjacent reeds in order to prevent the eggs from being seen from above. Not less attractive are the illustrations showing the contrast in the appearance of the nest of the eider-duck when just vacated by the parent bird and when the eggs are enveloped in a mantle of fleecy down. Other illustrations display the adaptation of the eggs of the plover tribe to their environment, as well as the economy in space obtained by the clutch of four being placed with their narrow ends pointing inwards, both these features being admirably displayed in the annexed photograph of a ringed plover's nest. While on the subject of eggs it may be mentioned that some confusion is, we think, likely to occur in identifying which is the raven's and which the curlew's egg in the photograph on p. 80. And it may be added that, on the same page, *Epyornis* is not the way to spell the scientific name of the extinct Malagasy roc, which is compounded from the Greek *ápnos*.

Another subject to which the author directs the attention of his readers is the connection between the structure and form of feathers and the uses they are intended to subserve ; and here, again, the illustrations admirably assist in the interpretation of the letterpress. After describing the manner in which a gannet dashes into the water in its headlong descent when in pursuit of prey, Mr. Kearton proceeds to observe that "the shock produced by such a heavy bird suddenly striking the surface of the ocean after descending from a considerable height at great velocity would kill some species of smaller size on the spot. But the gannet has been properly equipped for its task. The shafts and vanes of its breast feathers have been tremendously thickened, and their quills are buried in a quarter-inch-thick pad of very close-set down, which acts like a buffer when its wearer strikes the surface of the sea."

Contrasted with this are the "fluffy" and loosely-attached feathers on the breast of the heron, which fishes while standing, and therefore needs no breast-plate.

In his preface the author tells his young readers how,

NO. 1625, VOL. 63]

HUXLEY MEMORIAL.

WE have received a copy of the final report of the Huxley Memorial Committee, which announces the completion of their task, and is accompanied by a full donation list, signed on behalf of the committee by the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary. It shows the cost of the statue to have been 1814*l.* ; of the dies for the medal 264*l.*, inclusive of all that pertained to each ; and this, with the sum of 201*l.* for total working expenses, and the balance of 1126*l.*, paid to the Board of Education as an endowment for the medal at the Royal College of Science, brings the total amount received and expended to a little over 3450*l.*, as compared with the Owen Memorial, which realised 1100*l.*, the Darwin rather more than 5000*l.*, and the Jowett about 10,000*l.*

The statue we have already described (NATURE, vol. lxii. p. 12), and of the medal for the Royal College of Science and the arrangement for the production of a memorial medal at the Anthropological Institute, to which we alluded at the same time, the report contains nothing that is new. It concludes with the thanks of the committee to the Hon. J. Collier for the gift of a portrait of the late Prof. Huxley to the National Portrait Gallery, in lieu of their inability to provide one.

The number of persons of distinction of all nationalities who ultimately consented to join the "General

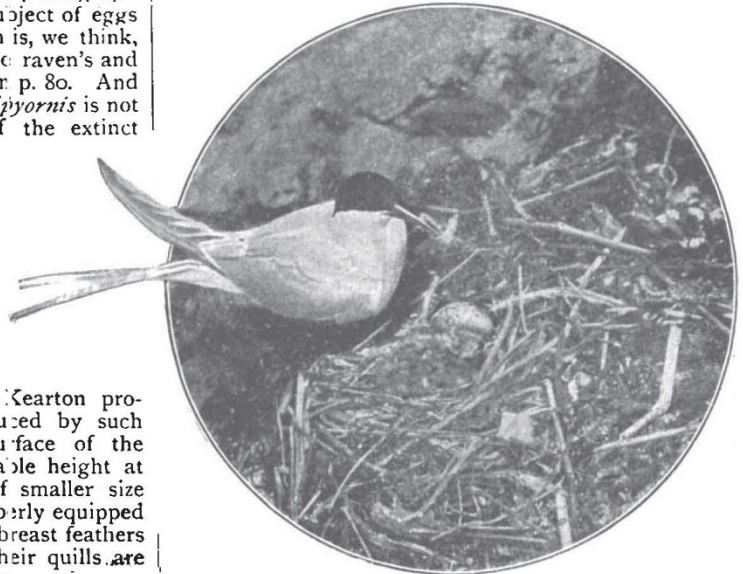


FIG. 2.—Arctic Tern guarding her nest. (From Mr. Kearton's "Our Bird Friends.")

Committee" was close upon 750, and of these one-third were foreigners, 33 colonials. All but 60 of them subscribed, and the total number of contributors was

901, exclusive of local committees, societies, institutions and field clubs, each of which embraced a number of donors, and of which there were 22, making in all a total of 923 entries on the list, and of over 1000 individual subscribers. The sum raised by local subscription was 331*l.* Leeds heads the list with 54*l.*, Calcutta follows with 51*l.*, the New York Academy with 50*l.*, New Zealand contributes 30*l.*, Leicester 25*l.*, South Australia 21*l.*; and these, with Boston, U.S.A., Bristol, Cheltenham, Chester, Chicago, Chili, Ealing, Nebraska, New South Wales, New York, Paris, Servia, St. Petersburg, Upsala, Warrington, and Washington, embrace the chief colonies and centres in this way represented, together with the National Sunday League and the students of the Royal College of Science. The list includes the names of individuals resident in extreme latitudes and on the opposite sides of the globe, the sums contributed ranging from 100*l.* to half-a-crown.

The Executive Committee (of which we published a list in *NATURE*, vol. liii. p. 186) held twelve meetings, under the chairmanship of Lord Shand, and duly appointed sub-committees of their number for the carrying out of details. Of the subscribers, 48 died during the interval of payment and publication of the list, and of the executive, two—viz., Sir E. Frankland and Sir W. Flower, passed away before the completion of their task. Four members did not attend a meeting at all.

Concerning the statue, it may be placed on record that the late Prof. Max Müller early expressed in writing the desire that Huxley and Tyndall should be memorialised together, as are Goethe and Schiller at Weimar.

The medal, which we have not before described, bears on the obverse a profile portrait, with name in full and dates of birth and death; on the reverse a female figure with a lighted lamp in the left hand, and a laurel wreath in right, which she is about to deposit on an altar bearing the word ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΗ, the whole backed by the foreshortened façade of the Royal College of Science. The designs for the medal were obtained by prize competition, and of the sixty-two persons who applied thirty-four competed. The premiated designs were twice the diameter of the dies (viz. 5 inches), and silver replicas of them, presented to the Royal College of Science, hang in Huxley's work-room, now a research laboratory bearing his name, beneath his portrait by Legros, and surrounded by personal relics and his working scientific library and effects, in themselves second to no memorial to his labours.

Specimen copies of the medal have been presented to Mrs. Huxley, to the British and South Kensington Museums, and, conjointly with an enlarged copy of the obverse, to the Royal Society, for their respective collections. By purchase at the cost of production, there have been acquired two sets of impressions by continental museums, and copies of the obverse in various sizes, to the number of thirty-six, by subscribers to the fund in many parts of the world.

Among the proposals for the once contemplated third object of memorial, of which the amount subscribed did not admit, there were submitted in writing suggestions for a Studentship (1) at the Royal College of Science; (2) at the Zoological Gardens, in recognition of Huxley's services to the Society, and of his connection with the foundation of its Prosectorship; for (3) a Scholarship at one of the Universities, to be open to all boys of the United Kingdom, and under the control of the Royal College of Surgeons (with an offer of 50*l.* if acted upon); for a Professorship (4) of Anthropology, and (5) of Hygiene; and (6) for a silver medal to the size of the original design for award by the Royal Society.

NOTES.

THE following have been nominated presidents of sections for the Glasgow meeting of the British Association, September 11-18, 1901: A (Mathematical and Physical Science), Major P. A. MacMahon, F.R.S.; B (Chemistry), Prof. Percy Frankland, F.R.S.; C (Geology), Mr. John Horne, F.R.S.; D (Zoology), Prof. J. Cossar Ewart, F.R.S.; E (Geography), Dr. H. R. Mill; F (Statistics and Economic Science), Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B., F.R.S.; G (Engineering), Mr. R. E. Crompton; H (Anthropology), Prof. D. J. Cunningham, F.R.S.; I (Physiology), Prof. J. G. Kendrick, F.R.S.; K (Botany), Prof. I. Bayley-Balfour, F.R.S.

IN accordance with a resolution which was passed by the General Committee of the British Association at the annual meeting held last September at Bradford, the Council of the Association have recently considered the advisability of establishing a separate section for education. We are informed that the Council have decided that a section of educational science shall be established, but that the section shall not necessarily meet each year. The first meeting of the section will be held at the Glasgow meeting, which will commence on September 11, 1901.

FOR the purposes of a National Physical Laboratory, the Queen has granted to the Royal Society Bushey House, Bushey Park, which was formerly occupied by the Duc de Nemours.

THE Linnean Society has undertaken the collection of title-slips for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland as regards botany for the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. All botanists are asked to support the endeavour to compile a complete record. Societies and other publishing bodies are requested to help by sending their issues as soon as possible after publication, either by gift, loan or exchange, so as to co-operate in producing a yearly record of botanic literature throughout the world. Communications for the catalogue should be addressed to Mr. B. Daydon Jackson, Linnean Society, Burlington House, London, W. Other scientific societies will, we presume, render similar assistance to the work of the International Council.

A FEW weeks ago the new anthropological collections in the American Museum of Natural History in New York were opened to the public, and these valuable collections now occupy five halls, and others are being provided. We learn from our contemporary, *Science*, that the accessions to the anthropological collections of the museum obtained during the last three years have largely been due to extended scientific research undertaken by the institution. In this respect the methods of the American Museum of Natural History differ considerably from those pursued by a number of other institutions. It has not been the policy of the museum to accumulate rapidly and indiscriminately more or less valuable specimens collected on trading expeditions or purchased from dealers; but an endeavour has been made to build up representative collections and to obtain, at the same time, the fullest and most detailed information in regard to specimens, so that each addition to the exhibit of the museum can be made thoroughly instructive and will represent a material contribution to science. There is no doubt this is the best way to build up a museum, and it is to be deplored that the various museums of the British Islands do not follow the example so worthily set by this and other American museums. Our English method is rather to wait like a spider in its web in the hope that something will eventually be caught; in the meanwhile, other institutions are intelligently collecting wholesale in diverse interesting regions, while we are content with occasional specimens which usually have no history, or at most a very imperfect one, and for these we often have to pay a stiff profit to a dealer.