

The Albanian Fauna

THE extensive fighting in Albania is in a region rich in natural history interest, particularly ornithology, where Hugh Whistler, Dr. Ticehurst, Prof. P. A. Buxton, W. E. Clyde Todd and Ludwig von Fuehrer have made collections in recent years (*Ibis*, 1929, 1932, 1936) and 272 bird forms have been listed. Nesting chaffinches examined from Albania have been found to be *Fringilla caelebs balearica* and not the typical form, but there is much of British interest in the bird life. Jays are fairly common in the valleys, up to 1,200 ft., and they have been seen at 1,500 ft. in the Logra Forest on the Acroceraunian Mountains. Magpies (*Corvus cornix sardonius* and *Corvus monedula soemmerungii*) are not so common as formerly reported, and not usually above 2,500 ft. Orioles are common. In his expeditions from Valona to the Acroceraunian Range in 1935, Whistler for the first time verified the great black woodpecker occurring in the country (*Ibis*, April 1936), while birds collected by Ludwig von Fuehrer in 1932 are now in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh. The Spanish sparrow and blackbird are widespread, though local, and there are tree-creepers, marsh-tits, rock-nuthatches, numerous Spanish wheatears, and the robin nesting at 2,500 ft. in the Logra Forests. The imperial eagle nests in open country, the goshawk in the Jinokastro valley, and there are hobbies, peregrines, sea-eagles and harriers; white storks inhabit the ruined towers in summer and a colony of pygmy cormorants nests in the middle of the Lake Terbuf. Colonies of egret nest on the marshes at Durazzo, Valona, etc., along with garganey, pintail, bitterns, purple herons, Kentish plover, pelicans, and yellow-legged herring-gulls, and the adjoining woods have six species of woodpecker, hazel grouse, capercaillie, Cetti's warbler and sub-alpine warblers. The alpine accentor and alpine chough inhabit the mountains, the thick-billed reed-bunting, bearded reedling and penduline tit the plains, the dipper is common at the mountain streams, the crested tit in the fir forests and the red-rumped swallow in many districts.

Leeds University Union's Loan

THE University Union, comprising the whole body of students of the University of Leeds, has decided to lend to the Government free of interest the sum of £1,000. In consequence of the postponement of the construction of the proposed swimming bath and of the extension of the existing gymnasium, the Union found itself with a balance of money which had been set aside for use in connexion with those new developments. In these circumstances the Union Committee felt that this money might appropriately be placed in the hands of the Government until such time as it can be devoted to its original purpose, that is until building work again becomes possible after the War. The University authorities approved of the Committee's proposal and of its wish to forego interest on the loan. The Union has also invested the sum of £400 in Defence Bonds.

The New "Nomenclator Zoologicus"

IT is satisfactory to be able to report that the publication of the "Nomenclator Zoologicus", an announcement respecting which was made in *NATURE* of February 25, 1939, p. 326, has now been completed. Moreover, in spite of the inevitable difficulties that have arisen out of the conditions under which the later volumes have been produced, the final one has appeared nearly two months in advance of schedule. The work, which covers the literature from 1758 to the end of 1935, is contained in four volumes, the last of which includes a supplementary list of addenda and corrigenda. It contains in all about 227,000 entries, including cross-references, though it is probable that these do not represent more than about 190,000 genera or subgenera treated as distinct by present-day systematists. Of these, the Arthropoda represent more than 70 per cent of the whole, the Insecta alone representing 50 per cent.

In the preparation of the work, the editor, Dr. S. A. Neave, Imperial Institute of Entomology, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, has had the ungrudging assistance, not only of most of the staff of the British Museum (Natural History), but also of numerous other zoologists both in Great Britain and abroad. The work is published for the proprietors by the Zoological Society of London, which has borne the main cost of compilation. Thanks to grants from outside sources, including the Carnegie Corporation of New York, it was found possible to issue the complete work of more than 3,800 pages to original subscribers at the low price of six guineas; but it has now been found necessary to raise this to ten guineas.

Luigi Luciani

PROF. LUIGI LUCIANI, the celebrated Italian physiologist, was born at Ascoli Piceno on November 23, 1840. He received his medical education at Bologna and Naples, and qualified at Bologna in 1868. After acting as assistant to Vella in the Institute of Physiology at Bologna he spent nearly two years in the corresponding institute at Leipzig under Ludwig. On his return to Bologna he became lecturer in experimental pathology and also devoted himself to the study of the physiology of respiration. In 1875 he was appointed professor of physiology at Parma, where he remained for five years. In 1880 he succeeded Giannozzi in the corresponding chair at Sienna, and shortly afterwards became professor of comparative physiology at Florence, where he remained from 1880 until 1892. During this period his most important work, namely, that on the cerebellum and fasting, was carried out. Finally, he occupied the chair of physiology at Rome, which he held until his retirement in 1917. His original work consisted mainly of his studies on the physiology of the cardiovascular system, the cerebral cortex and cerebellum muscular movements and fasting, the last being carried out on Succi, the professional fasting man. He was also interested in phonetics, psychology, and the history of medicine. His most important publications were those on the functional