

was born at Biamble, New South Wales, on September 10, 1876. After attending King's School, Parramatta, he worked on a cattle station in north Queensland and spent much of his spare time studying birds. He amassed a large collection, supplemented by many specimens received from correspondents all over Australia. For long he had planned to write a work on Australian birds, and in 1902 went to England for the purpose. At first he resided near Watford, which was convenient for the British Museum (Natural History) and Lord Rothschild's museum at Tring, where much of his work was done.

As a preliminary to his larger work, he published in the *Emu* during 1908 a "Handlist of the Birds of Australia"; then in 1912 the "Birds of Australia" began to appear, and this was finally completed in 1927 in twelve thick folio volumes. His next work was a check list of the birds of Australia and the Polynesian region, entitled "A Systema Avium Australasianarum", brought out under the auspices of the British Ornithologists' Union. Mathews had long been interested in two small islands lying between Australia and New Zealand, and in 1928 he published an account of the birds entitled "Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands", followed eight years later by a supplement.

In his earlier works he was an extreme 'splitter', and a large number of his races are not now recognized. In genera, too, he went to the same extreme, and this to a great extent was due to his confining his

studies to Australian species only. In recent years, however, he greatly modified his views. He was greatly interested in nomenclature and the study of early writers on Australian birds, and his best work was done in this connexion. Between 1912 and 1927 he edited a magazine of his own, *Austral Avian Record*, which contained much useful information. But by far the most important of his publications was the "Bibliography of the Birds of Australia", which appeared in 1925 as a supplementary volume to "Birds of Australia". This is more than a bibliography, and might be considered the foundation for a history of the study of birds in Australia.

Mathews was a great collector of books and amassed the finest collection of works dealing with Australian birds. This he presented to the Australian Government in 1929, and it is now housed in the National Library in Canberra as the Mathews Ornithological Library. His collection of birds passed into the hands of the late Lord Rothschild and is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Mathews was a keen sportsman, interested in both hunting and shooting, and while engaged in his ornithological studies travelled widely, visiting most of the more important museums both in Europe and the United States. In 1924 he was vice-president of the British Ornithologists' Union and during 1936-38 was chairman of the British Ornithologists' Club. He married Marian, daughter of H. C. White, of Mudgee, New South Wales, who died in 1938, and is survived by a son. N. B. K.

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Zoology at King's College, London:

Dr. J. F. Danielli

DR. DANIELLI who is succeeding Prof. MacKinnon as professor of zoology in King's College, London, commenced research work in 1931 at University College under the direction of Prof. N. K. Adam. He was then working on monolayers of steroids and on cell permeability. In 1933 he went to Princeton University with a Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship and continued his work under the influence of Prof. E. N. Harvey and Prof. C. G. Conklin. He returned to University College, London, under the auspices of Sir Jack Drummond and Prof. A. V. Hill. From University College he went to Cambridge in 1938, with a Beit Memorial Medical Research Fellowship tenable in the Department of Biochemistry. Here his work was extended to the blood capillaries. He became a member of a Ministry of Supply extra-mural chemical defence research team and a fellow of St. John's College in 1942. During his later years in Cambridge he was attached to both the Departments of Zoology and Biochemistry, and his main attention was turned to cytochemistry. In 1946 he went to the laboratory of the Marine Biological Association as physiologist, and then became reader in cell physiology of the University of London at the Chester Beatty Research Institute of the Royal Cancer Hospital, and also honorary lecturer in pharmacology at University College. He plans to continue the programme developed at the Royal Cancer Hospital, and to develop research work in cytology particularly in collaboration with Prof. T. A. Bennet Clark and Prof. J. T. Randall.

Geography at Cambridge:

Mr. J. A. Steers

MR. J. A. STEERS, who, in September, is to succeed Prof. F. Debenham as professor of geography in the University of Cambridge, was one of the first generation of geographers to take the newly constituted Geographical Tripos after the First World War. After a short spell of teaching at Framlingham, Mr. Steers returned to Cambridge to join the staff of the Geographical Department under Philip Lake. His College elected him to a fellowship, and before many years St. Catharine's became the first men's college to offer scholarships in geography. This led to a remarkable concentration of able geographical students in the College, which has resulted in a rapidly lengthening list of St. Catharine's geographers entering university posts—fifteen in the last ten years. In his College, Mr. Steers has served successively as dean, tutor, senior tutor, and president.

The Norfolk coast was the scene of Mr. Steers' early researches, and his frequent visits led to Norfolk replacing his own native Bedfordshire as his favourite county. These activities centred mainly on Scolt Head Island, where for many years parties of Cambridge men mixed the more sober academic pursuits with strenuous bursts of bathing and creek jumping. His taste for coastal problems led him to other parts of Britain, and culminated in two expeditions to the Great Barrier Reefs of Queensland, and one to Jamaica. A succession of papers followed promptly on various aspects of the physiography of coral reefs—the main work of writing up was sometimes accomplished on board the ship while returning to England. During the Second World War his love of the coastline led him to turn his attention to the