

His sudden death, however, has cut short a career of the greatest promise. When news came to Marietta that he was drowned at the head of Kerr Island in the Ohio, just below the dam on the West Virginia side, there was great excitement; several boats started immediately for the scene of the accident and later a large company started for the place in a chartered steamboat. It was the old story of a treacherous hole in the river-bottom, inability to swim, and no one near to help. The remains were taken to Takoma Park, D. C., by Professor David H. Jones, Associate Principal of Marietta Academy. They were laid at rest beside the grave of his mother in the Rock Creek Cemetery near Washington. The Trustees and the Faculty of the College join with the large circle of friends in expressions of deepest sympathy with Dr. Shufeldt and his family. The College hopes by the aid of friends to make 'The Shufeldt Collection' an enduring monument to the brilliant young ornithologist.

Robert W. Shufeldt, Jr., was born on the 7th of June, 1877, at Omaha, Nebraska. He received his scientific training from his father, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, who is well known to the scientific world as a specialist in ornithology. What is the loss of Dr. Shufeldt is the common loss of us all and especially of American science in the years to come.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY WOODWARD HULBERT.

*Marietta College*, July 20, 1892.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. HERMANN BURMEISTER, a Corresponding Member of the A. O. U., died at Buenos Ayres May 1, 1891, in his eighty-sixth year, he having been born at Stralsund, Germany, Jan. 15, 1807. He was educated at Greifswald and Halle, and for a time was professor of zoölogy in the University of Halle, succeeding the ornithologist Nitzsch. He was a prominent actor, siding with the 'Liberals,' in the political troubles of 1849-50. and in consequence was obliged to leave Germany. He traveled for some time in Brazil, and though visiting Europe for short intervals on two or three occasions, spent most of his life in South America. He finally settled in Buenos Ayres, where he founded the well-known National Museum of Natural History, of which he was made Director in 1861, and in 1870 became the head of the faculty of science in the University of Cordoba. His writings cover a wide field, his earlier work relating mainly to entomology, but later he wrote many papers and works pertaining to physical geography and vertebrate palæontology and zoölogy. Some years since he met with an accident which made it necessary for him to resign his position as Director, "and the community, by which his services were highly appreciated, took care that he was properly pensioned. He was buried at the cost of the State, and the President was present at his funeral."

Dr. Burmeister was the editor of Nitzsch's 'Pterolographie,' published in 1840, and was the author of a 'Systematische Uebersichte der Thiere Bra-

siliens,' (Halle, 1856), in five volumes, of which two are devoted to birds. He also published a number of special papers on the birds of Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

READERS of 'The Auk' will deeply sympathize with Dr. R. W. Shufeldt in the loss of his son by death from drowning in the Ohio River, near Marietta, Ohio, July 11, 1892, while on a collecting trip for birds for the Museum of Marietta College. The particulars of the sad event are detailed by Professor H. W. Hulbert of Marietta College, in a letter to 'The Auk' published on a preceding page, who pays a high tribute to the worth and memory of this enthusiastic and promising young naturalist.

THE POTOMAC VALLEY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB of Washington, D. C. was formally organized on February 1, 1892. The purpose of the Club, as expressed in its constitution, is "the study of ornithology in general, and especially the promotion of a better knowledge of the avifauna of the region within twenty miles of the Capitol at Washington." The following officers were elected: President, William Palmer; Vice-President, F. H. Hitchcock; Secretary, E. M. Hasbrouck. The membership of the Club has increased from nine to twenty-three. Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month, with a recess during July and August.

The following papers have been read: By William Palmer, A two days trip on the Island of St. Paul, Bering Sea; Occurrence of *Contopus richardsonii*? in the District of Columbia; Summer Birds of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Cal.; Summer Birds of Hanover County, Va. By F. E. L. Beal, Polygamy in the group Passeres; The Usefulness of Seed-Eating Birds. By T. S. Palmer, Remarks on the Birds of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Cal. By E. J. Brown, the Summer Birds of Cobb's Island, Va. By W. E. Clyde Todd, The Ruddy Duck in Beaver County, Pa.; The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. By E. M. Hasbrouck, Remarks upon Dichromatism; The *Helminthophilæ* of the District of Columbia; rare captures in the District of Columbia for 1892.

TWO ADDITIONAL volumes of the British Museum Catalogue of Birds have recently been published, namely, Volumes XVI and XVII. The former contains the Hummingbirds, by Mr. Osbert Salvin, and the Swifts, Goatsuckers, and their allies, by Mr. Ernst Hartert. Volume XVII contains the Rollers, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers, Motmots and Colies, by Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, and the Hornbills and Trogons, by Mr. W. Ogilvie Grant. These volumes will be noticed at length in a later issue of this Journal.

THE TENTH CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning Tuesday, November 15, 1892. The meetings will be held at the U. S. National Museum. Members intending to present papers are requested to send the titles of the same to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., at least one week prior to the date on which the Congress convenes, in order to facilitate the preparation of a programme of papers to be read before the Congress. A large attendance is anticipated, and papers of special interest will be presented.