
Obituary.

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Dr. Robert H. Pülleine, M.B., Ch.M., died at Myrtle Bank, Adelaide, on June 13th, aged sixty-six. His medical and scientific attainments were high, his reading both in English and German was extensive, and he was in its broadest sense an all-round naturalist of that type, now alas all too few, that helps so much in the intellectual development of comparatively new countries such as Australia. Born in New Zealand, he went as a boy to Fiji, and later came to Adelaide with his family, his father, the late Mr. F. A. Pülleine, being the first secretary of the Adelaide School of Mines. As a cadet at the Public Library of South Australia from 16th February, 1885, to 31st October, 1887, the seeds doubtless may have been sown for his excellent knowledge of zoology and his groundings in ornithology, including the skinning of birds, as the Public Library and Museum then occupied the same building. Having entered on the medical course at the University of Adelaide, he had nearly completed his studies when the Adelaide Hospital trouble of

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1896 made it necessary for the senior students to finish elsewhere, Dr. Pulleine choosing Sydney. The writer himself became a medical student in 1895, and shortly afterwards received his first instructions in skinning birds from Dr. Pulleine, the two of us having bicycled to the Grange and secured *Neophema elegans* and other specimens for this purpose. When Dr. Pulleine returned on holiday from Sydney after obtaining his degree, the writer had not himself decided whether to go to Sydney or Melbourne to complete his course. On Dr. Pulleine's advice he chose the former, being the only member of his year who did so, one of the factors that influenced him being the statement of his friend that the natural history surroundings and birds round Sydney were so much more interesting and varied. Dr. Pulleine studied the birds of the Sydney district and those of Gympie, Queensland, where he first practised. Later he returned to South Australia, and, after further study in Germany, specialised in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. He also became an authority on spiders, especially on trap-door spiders, collected shells, of which several species were named after him, was an excellent field-botanist, had a garden full of interesting and rare plants, amongst which his succulents were probably unrivalled in this State, possessed a scientific library containing a number of rare and valuable books, and was a prominent member of the Royal Society of South Australia, the Royal Geographical Society of Australia (South Australian Branch), of our own Association and of other important medical and scientific bodies. One with interests so diverse and with an education and experience so broad, combined with a generosity that the writer and many others have frequently experienced, can ill be spared. His collection of birds had been presented to the South Australian Museum many years ago, and he had been a member of our Association since 1905.

J.B.C.