

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Cockatoo Parakeet (*Leptolophus auricomis*,
Mathews ; *Calopsitta novæa hollandiæ*, Gould).

To The Editorial Committee of the S.A. Ornithologist.

Gentlemen,

A false idea has been spread abroad regarding this well-known bird, namely that it is unable to raise and lower its crest. A statement to this effect appears in the Rev. W. T. Green's "Parrots in Captivity," Vol. 1, Page 33. Richard Lydekker, F.R.S., in "The Royal Natural History," Vol. IV., Page 110, remarks upon "the feathers of the crest which cannot be depressed," and even Dr. Leach in his admirable work, "An Australian Bird Book," on Page 94 refers to "its immovable crest." In the illustrations the bird's crest is depicted in the first of these books erect, in the second, partially raised, and in the third, flat down on the head. I think I may concede that when perching the bird generally carries its crest erect, but I feel certain that when feeding quietly on the ground the crest is always depressed.

I am, etc.,

M. SYMONDS CLARK.

Knightsbridge, August 26th, 1914.
