

Dr. J. A. Leach, obit. 3/10/1929.

In the passing of Dr. J. A. Leach, ex-President of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, ex-Editor of "The Emu," C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U., Australian ornithologists have lost a veteran worker who has left a record of great service in the study of Australian ornithology. The publication of "An Australian Bird Book," which, in the fourth edition, 1918, had extended the scope of the original work to take in the whole of

Australia, placed within the reach of all a convenient handbook on the birds of Australia. This little work has done more than anything else to make our children "bird-lovers," and conferred an outstanding benefit on young Australians. Dr. Leach filled the presidential chair of the R.A.O.U. during the year 1923, and was for many years Editor, and later acting Editor, of "The Emu." In standing for the degree of Doctor of Science he prepared an exhaustive thesis entitled "The Myology of the Bell-Magpie (*Strepera*)," as well as its position and classification. This valuable paper, with extensive diagrams, was published in 1914 in Vol. XIV, Part 1, of "The Emu," and is the recognized authority on the special subject dealt with. Dr. J. A. Leach's collaboration with the late veteran ornithologist, Mr. A. J. Campbell, who so closely predeceased him, did, I should say, almost nine-tenths of the years of work entailed in the production of the R.A.O.U. Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia (Second Edition), published in 1926. Dr. Leach, a close friend of the writer, was a lovable man. All will agree with me that Dr. Leach yielded unstinted and outstanding service to all lovers of our native birds. He did not himself do much work in the field, his service being rather on the academic side.

E. A.

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