

expedition, and I think the new discoveries which I now communicate to the *Geological Magazine* may urge on the despatch of such expeditions as I propose. If these expeditions be made, how many changes may be produced in actual and general ideas on the age of the South American fossiliferous strata, on the disappearance of the lost southern lands, and on the affinities of extinct faunas so distant in time and space as those of South America and Australia!

MR. JOHN CORDEAUX.

BY the death of Mr. John Cordeaux, ornithology loses, not only one of its most ardent votaries, but one who had pursued, if he did not strike out for himself, a line very different from that taken by most British lovers of birds. For nearly six-and-thirty years, as shown by a long series of contributions, chiefly to *The Zoologist*, he applied himself to the study of the phenomena of bird-migration, at first as exhibited on the coasts of Lincolnshire (in which county he lived) and Yorkshire. This led him in the autumn of 1874 to go to Heligoland for the sake of comparing notes with the now well-known Herr Gätke, whom, it is believed, he was the first British ornithologist to visit; and he soon after wrote for *The Ibis* (1875, pp. 172-188) a notice of the very wonderful collection formed by that naturalist on that island. In 1879 he joined Mr. Harvie-Brown (who had just communicated a remarkable paper to the Natural History Society of Glasgow) in a successful attempt to procure observations on migrating birds from the keepers of lighthouses and lightships on the coasts of England and Scotland; and in the following year, when the results of their inquiry were brought before the British Association at the Swansea meeting, he was named secretary of a committee appointed to continue systematically the scheme which they had shown to be practicable. Of this committee, which (with a slight variation of title) has since been annually reappointed, he has always been the hardworking secretary, and it is not too much to say that nearly all its success is mainly due to him. He not only arranged with the authorities for the distribution of the schedules, instructions, and other information necessary for the observers, but, by his own efforts, raised by subscription a large sum of money to meet the expenses of the inquiry, which proved to be far greater than had originally been anticipated. The time and trouble which all this involved were at first enormous; and, even to the last, the correspondence which he had to carry on was immense, yet his services were as willingly rendered as though he had been handsomely paid for them, instead of giving them gratuitously, and the way in which he contrived to interest the men at the lighthouses and lightships in the undertaking was marvellous. The results of this labour, continued without intermission for nine years, were partly shown by the admirable "Digest of the Observations," made by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, which the committee was able to include in its report presented to the Association at Liverpool in 1896; and, as has been announced, that gentleman is still occupied in working out further details from the mass of materials that has been collected.

Mr. Cordeaux made more than one visit to Heligoland, and is understood to have been instrumental in bringing about the publication of an English translation of Gätke's celebrated work, though never committing himself to the adoption of his friend's views on many points. Indeed, he abstained on principle as much as possible from advocating any theories on the subject of migration, being convinced that much more knowledge had to be acquired from observation before more than a few first principles could be safely accepted. That he was the life and soul of the Migration Committee is beyond all

doubt. His happy tact and sanguine temperament overcame all difficulties, though—especially from the financial point of view—they were at times so formidable as to threaten the abandonment of the work; yet by his care funds were always found to carry it on, eking out the successive and by no means illiberal grants of the British Association. He is said to have been very successful as a lecturer, and he often lectured on some ornithological subject, especially on the migration of birds, in the towns of Yorkshire and other parts of the country.

Forty papers are credited to Mr. Cordeaux in the Royal Society's Catalogue up to 1883, a number which might possibly be doubled now, and in addition to these he was the author of an unassuming but well-written little book, "Birds of the Humber District," published in 1872, a new edition of which it had been his intention to bring out. He died, after a short illness, at his residence, Great Cotes House, in Lincolnshire, on August 1, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, deeply lamented by all who had been associated with him in the work he so indefatigably carried out.

A. N.

NOTES.

WE much regret to record that the serious illness of Prof. R. W. Bunsen, referred to in last week's *NATURE*, has ended fatally. An account of the chief work of this world-renowned chemist appeared nearly twenty years ago in our Series of Science Worthies (vol. xxiii.), and we hope to publish a further appreciation of the deceased investigator next week.

THE funeral of Sir Edward Frankland took place at Reigate on Tuesday. There were present, in addition to the immediate relatives, Sir Frederick Bramwell, Lord Lister, Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir Myles Fenton, Sir Michael Foster, Dr. Ludwig Mond, Dr. Thorpe, and others. The Rev. Prof. Bonney conducted the funeral service. Many wreaths adorned the coffin, including one from the Fellows of the Institute of Chemistry and one from the Chemical Society.

MAJOR RONALD ROSS, the leader of the expedition sent to Sierra Leone by the Liverpool School of Tropical Diseases to investigate the possibility of exterminating the malaria-bearing mosquito, has sent to Liverpool the following cablegram: "Malarial mosquito found. Ask Government to send at once men." Major Ross's observations in India indicated that the malaria parasite is borne by the spotted-winged mosquitoes, and not by the common brindled or grey mosquitoes; and his message announces that he has found that malaria on the West Coast of Africa is produced under the same conditions as in India. There is evidence that the malaria-bearing species only breeds in small isolated collections of water which can be easily dissipated, but the expedition has not yet had time to verify this point.

THE presence of bubonic plague in Portugal has been officially notified to the Local Government Board. Oporto has been declared to be infected, and the other ports of Portugal are considered suspected. Port sanitary authorities in this country have been instructed in the precautions to be observed to prevent the introduction or spread of the disease here.

IT is announced that Sir Edmund Antrobus is desirous of selling Stonehenge, the famous and mysterious monument on Salisbury Plain. Thinking it right that the nation should have the opportunity of purchasing this great relic of antiquity, the owner has offered it to the Government, with about 1300 acres of surrounding land (subject to certain pasturage and sporting rights), for the sum of 125,000/.