

animals. These drawings were sent to England and were seen by Dr. Latham, who made them known to science.

Just over a hundred years ago, John Gould landed in Australia to collect materials for his great work. He spent eighteen months in different parts of the country, discovered many new birds, and perhaps what was more important, made notes on different species in the field, which were afterwards reproduced in his volumes. Mr. Cayley quotes freely from these notes, and they are of much interest, as the status of many of the parrots has changed since Gould's day.

Flocks of certain species do harm to the crops of farmers and fruit growers, but on the other hand, we learn that both the yellow-tailed and red-tailed cockatoos devour quantities of forest pests. Parrots are generally considered arboreal, feeding on fruit and flowers, although quite a number of those in Australia feed on the ground and live on seeds of grasses and other plants. All lay white eggs and nest in holes in trees, with few exceptions. The rock parrots deposit their eggs in fissures or cracks in rocks, the night and owl parrots lay theirs on

the ground, and several of the smaller species form tunnels in termite mounds.

The distribution given is all too brief, and the maps showing the range of each bird might have been clearer.

The great majority of parrots in Australia are resident, some are nomadic, depending on the flowering trees and fruits, and at least three are migratory. The common budgerigar only visits the southern parts of the continent in winter, departing north again in February; while the little blue-wing and swift parakeets are summer visitors to Tasmania. The interesting night parrot appears to be extinct, but it may possibly turn up again like the paradise parakeet, which was lost for many years and then rediscovered. Several of the other smaller species are very rare and suffer from illicit trapping.

Mr. Caley's plates are up to the high standard of his previous works, and in addition there are several other illustrations—reproductions of old drawings. Avicultural notes are given on each species, and Mr. Michin, of the Adelaide Gardens, contributes a chapter on parrots in captivity.

Alfred Brown : South African Naturalist

Gogga Brown :

the Life-Story of Alfred Brown, South Africa's Hermit-Naturalist. Told from his Journal by Prof. M. R. Drennan. Pp. xiii + 100 + 8 plates. (Cape Town : Maskew Miller, Ltd. ; London : John Clark, n.d.). 4s. 6d.

ALFRED BROWN was an Englishman who emigrated to South Africa in 1858. He there settled in the newly established town of Aliwal North, holding various minor offices in it until he retired on a pension, dying in 1920. He was an ardent and very successful collector first of fossils and eventually of stone tools, and for sixty years kept large numbers of lizards and tortoises in the garden behind the small cottage in which he lived. He observed the habits of these animals continuously and recorded his observations in the great diaries which formed the basis of Prof. Drennan's short 'life'.

Brown's early collections of fossils from the rather barren district round Aliwal North, were sent by him to Murchison, the more important specimens, a number of incomplete dinosaur bones, the first ever found in Africa, being described by Huxley. Unfortunately, Brown felt that he had been badly treated by these men, and sent his next consignment of fossil bones to Lartet in

Paris, and another to Vienna. Thus different parts of the same bone may now be found in three separate countries.

Some twenty years later, Seeley visited Brown and borrowed from him specimens which became the types of the Cynodont *Diademodon* and the Bauriomorph *Microgomphodon*. These remained in England and fifteen years later they and other specimens were presented by Brown to the British Museum (Natural History). About this time Dr. R. Broom called on Brown and succeeded in inducing him to allow him to describe further materials, including a great series of Triassic fishes from a locality which Brown would not reveal. When the present writer visited him in 1911, Brown produced still further materials which had not been seen by anyone, again from a secret locality. Finally, in 1920, the whole collection reached the South African Museum. But Brown's very large collection of implements lost all its value because the specimens became separated from their records.

The whole story is a pathetic one, a man of great intelligence and an ardent collector gradually becoming a recluse, a miser so secretive in all his ways that much of the value of his work was lost.

D. M. S. W.