

OBITUARY.

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. V. LEGGE.

ALTHOUGH by far the greater part of Colonel Legge's work in Ornithology was concerned with the birds of Ceylon and Tasmania, and so necessarily falls outside our scope, in his earlier days in the Royal Artillery he was stationed for some time at Shoeburyness, and contributed some interesting studies of Essex bird-life to the *Zoologist* for 1865, 1866 and 1867, as well as to the *Ibis* of 1866. Perhaps the most important fact noted was that no fewer than three pairs of Ravens (*Corvus c. corax*) still bred in tall elms in hedgerows within six miles of Shoeburyness in 1866. These birds maintained a precarious footing in Essex till about twenty-four years later, according to Mr. Miller Christy (*Vict. Hist. of Essex*, I., p. 241), and their survival for so long a period after the Raven had been exterminated over the greater part of England, is a most interesting case. Colonel Legge is best known by his classic work on the *Birds of Ceylon*, published in 1878-1880, which still remains the only complete work on the subject. He died on March 25th, 1918, at his home in Tasmania, in his seventy-eighth year.

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.