

LETTERS.

THE LATE FRANK NORGATE.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—With reference to the obituary notice (*antea*, p. 21), it may be well to point out that it was to the late Mr. Thomas Southwell that Norgate gave his notes on the breeding of the Pochard and Tufted Duck in Norfolk. A reference to the third volume of the *Birds of Norfolk* will show that after the death of Mr. Stevenson in 1888 Mr. Southwell completed the volume, and quoted Norgate's notes on several species. When I was at work on the article on Birds for the *Victoria History of Suffolk* Norgate gave me most valuable assistance by reading over the MS. From 1888 to 1903 we saw a good deal of each other; in the latter year he left Bury and went to live at Anerley. However, we corresponded regularly and used to exchange magazines, those I sent to him being often returned with humorous criticisms. His last contribution seems to have been to the *Zoologist* for 1897 (p. 164) on "Human Bones at Bromehill." Born on the last day of 1842 he was in his 77th year at his death, not in his 75th as stated in the notice. Some of his East Anglian friends doubtless wished that he had been laid to rest in the county of his birth, where so many Norgates lie, but he was buried in a piece of ground belonging to the Church of St. John's, Upper Norwood, which he always attended.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. J. G. TUCK.

INCUBATION DURING THE LAYING PERIOD.

To the Editors of BRITISH BIRDS.

SIRS,—Mr. J. H. Owen's note in the last number (*antea*, p. 23) was of great interest to me, as I have also been making a study of the same subject. My object in doing so was to prove a theory that all birds have to incubate at intervals during the laying period if they wish to synchronize the hatching of the whole clutch. It is, I believe, a demonstrable fact, and one well known to poultry fanciers, that a relatively stale egg will take a longer time to incubate than a perfectly fresh one—hence the necessity of interrupted incubation during the laying period.

COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

WESTGATE-ON-SEA.