

## BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS IN THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

WE have already had to deplore the loss on the field of battle of several ornithologists who had made a special study of British birds. In addition to these we regret to state that other well-known ornithologists have laid down their lives for their country. Although their bird-work was mostly done abroad and thus did not come within the scope of this magazine, nevertheless we feel that a tribute, however slight and brief, to their memories should here be given.

**LORD BRABOURNE.**—Wyndham Wentworth Knatchbull-Hugessen, third Baron Brabourne, was killed at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th, 1915. He was born on September 21st, 1885, and succeeded to the title in 1909. He entered the Grenadier Guards in 1910 and passed into the Special Reserve in 1911. Lord Brabourne had for some years been engaged in the study of South American birds, and at the time war broke out he was making collections of birds in Peru, whence he hurried home to rejoin his regiment. In 1910 he became a member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and in the same year commenced in collaboration with Mr. C. Chubb a work on the *Birds of South America*. In 1912 the first volume of this great undertaking was published, but no further volumes have appeared, and we fear that it will be impossible for Mr. Chubb to continue it alone.

**CAPTAIN THE HON. GERALD LEGGE**, second son of the Earl of Dartmouth, was mortally wounded at Suvla Bay on September 9th, 1915. He was born in 1882 and all his life was a keen naturalist, taking a special interest in wildfowl, which he had studied for a number of years, not only in the field, but also from a scientific point of view. At Patshull, his father's seat in Staffordshire, he reared a great many ducks of different species in a semi-wild state. Mr. J. R. B. Masefield writes as follows: "As an instance of his keenness in studying ducks I may relate that one day when I met him at Patshull he had just arrived from Northumberland, whence he had brought a nest of Teal just hatching out. By telegraphing forward to several stations *en route* he had secured a relay of hot-water bottles by means of which he had succeeded in keeping the ducklings warm. He gave me regular notes on the rarer Staffordshire birds, and especially

the ducks, which he noted at Patshull." Legge was a member of the British Museum expedition under R. B. Woosnam which explored with much success the Ruwenzori in 1906, while in 1909 he again went to Africa with Woosnam to explore the Kalahari Desert. In both expeditions valuable collections of birds were made. In the course of an appreciation in the *Field*, his friend J. G. M(illais) writes thus: "The rising sun, the beauty of a bird's wing, or a lovely flower were things before which he stood hat in hand, just as he held everything that was false or small of no account. . . . Such a man was at once ready to defend his country. He was last seen lying mortally wounded on the ground, and cheering on the men of whom he was so proud. That was Gerald Legge."

MAJOR C. H. T. WHITEHEAD was killed in action in France on September 25th or 26th, 1915. He was thirty-four years of age and was the seventh son of the late Mr. and of Mrs. Whitehead, of Deighton Grove, York. Four of his brothers are serving in the Army and one in the Navy. Major Whitehead served in the South African war. At the time of his death he was attached to the Highland Light Infantry, but his own regiment was the 56th Punjab Rifles, and it was from his excellent bird-work on the north-west frontiers of India that he was widely known to ornithologists. Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker in a letter to us writes as follows:—

"Whitehead fell leading his men in a charge, being shot dead on the very parapet of the enemy's trench, which was taken. In person Whitehead was a singularly charming character, intensely earnest in everything he did, persevering and thorough, and most careful in all his work. He discovered the new Thrush, which I had the pleasure of naming *Oreocincla whiteheadi* after him, and amongst other interesting discoveries he made were the breeding-haunts in the Himalayas of the Chinese Reed-Warbler."

His loss will be keenly felt by ornithologists and especially by those whose work lies in India.

RICHARD BOWEN WOOSNAM.—Second-Lieutenant R. B. Woosnam was killed while gallantly leading his men in an attack on the Turkish trenches in Gallipoli on June 4th, 1915. Woosnam was born on November 17th, 1880. He served throughout the South African campaign, after which he resigned his commission in order to pursue the better his taste for natural history. Woosnam was an experienced and

successful traveller and field-naturalist. He began in 1903 by a collecting trip in Cape Colony. In 1905 he accompanied Colonel A. C. Bailward on an extensive journey through western Persia and Armenia, and there made interesting collections of birds and mammals. In the following year he led with conspicuous success the Ruwenzori natural history expedition, organized by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant. In 1907 he again went to Persia, this time to the Elburz Mountains with Colonel Bailward. In 1909 he returned to Africa to explore the Kalahari Desert with one of his Ruwenzori companions, Gerald Legge, whose name is also in this sad list. In 1910 Woosnam was appointed game-warden in British East Africa, and he only recently returned to England in order to rejoin his old regiment, the Worcesters. He was a silver medallist and corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London and a member of the British Ornithologists' Union. All the collections he made are in the British Museum, and accounts of the birds with his field-notes have appeared in various volumes of the *Ibis* and in the *Transactions of the Zoological Society*.