



AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.
The curator's assistant seems to dote on Indian pelicans.

WHERE SPECIMENS OF MANY RARE BIRDS ARE KEPT.

The Rarest Are Not Publicly Exhibited in Collection of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences—Where They Were Secured.

The Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia has always prided itself on possessing one of the most complete collections of birds in the world. Of late years Washington and New-York have been struggling for supremacy in the ornithological world and the Quaker City scientists have been quietly adding to their collection, in order not to be left behind. As long ago as 1857 Dr. P. L. Sclater pronounced the collection of birds in the Academy of Sciences superior to that of any museum in Europe. Professor Wiltmer Stone, a famous authority on bird life, has just completed his work of cataloguing the collection in the possession of the Academy of Sciences, and about one-third of the specimens are now on exhibition in the museum of the institution. Two-thirds of the collection will remain in airtight and dark cases, where they will be at the disposal of any scientist seeking to add to his knowledge of ornithological subjects. The reason these specimens will not be placed on public exhibition is that they are far too valuable to subject to the deteriorating influence of light and air. It has been found that about forty or fifty years is the duration of the life of specimens placed in cases for public exhibition. Those on exhibition, therefore, will be specimens of which there are duplicates or those that can be replaced without a great amount of trouble. The rarest specimens will not be allowed to see the light of day unless the curator of the museum is asked to show them.

Among the rare specimens is one of the great auk, and one of the eggs of that famous bird. The eggs are even rarer than the birds, for, according to Professor Stone, there are only two in America, and a valuation of from \$500 to \$600 is placed on them by collectors. Another rare bird of which there is a specimen in the collection is the Labrador duck, of which there are not more than forty-two specimens, according to Professor Stone, in the world. The Sandwich Islands have been hunted over for rare birds, and a number of specimens have been brought to the academy of species that will soon be extinct because of the onslaughts on the forests of the islands and the consequent killing off of the birds of the district. One specimen in the possession of the academy is unique, Professor Stone being unable to give it any name, so extremely rare is the species. It is a bird similar in appearance to the common American warbler, but has distinctive features that place it in a class by itself.

Among the pelicans of the collection are some from Florida, where they are becoming daily more scarce because of the demand for their plumage for millinery purposes. So much have the birds decreased in numbers that the United States government has taken a hand in the hunt and has established a pelican island on the east coast of Florida as a permanent reservation for the birds, where they can live free from fear of the hunter and save themselves from extinction because of the greed of the feather collector. At one time the pelican, with his huge bag beneath the beak, in which he stored fish for the young, was to be seen as far north as Sandy Hook. Now it is necessary to

go to Florida to find him. But for the government's thoughtfulness in setting apart an island for his use the pelican would probably soon be extinct.

In all there are about forty-eight thousand birds in the collection, which has been gathered from all parts of the world by various expeditions sent out by the academy since 1812, when the first birds were obtained. Half a century or so ago a great effort was made to place the collection ahead of anything of its kind in the world. Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, president of the academy, authorized Dr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to purchase specimens in hundred lots. It appeared best, however, to buy established collections that happened to be for sale from time to time, and the splendid collec-

tion of Victor Massena, Duc de Rivoli, was bought and transferred to this country. In this collection were 12,500 rare specimens. Smaller collections were bought from time to time, among them the Gould collection of Australian birds and the Boys Indian collection, the latter gathered by Captain Boys, of the British Army, during his several years' residence in India.

Additions to the collection were made by the Du Chaillu expeditions, sent out partly under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences, and the D'Oca collection from Mexico.

"NOT LIKE OTHER GIRLS."

The late Elisha Morgan, of Springfield, Mass., president of the American Writing Paper Trust,

often had a sting in his remarks. One day a petted society youth, a somewhat effeminate young man, passed Mr. Morgan as the latter was standing on a corner talking to a friend. Mr. Morgan nodded a recognition, then he turned to his companion and, indicating the retreating form of the society leader, he said coyly: "Not like other girls."

A READY RETORT.

The burning of Dartmouth Hall, at Hanover, N. H., is causing Dartmouth College graduates to recall the many good times they have had in the old building and the weekly oratorical exercises which were held in the auditorium or chapel. "I shall never forget one of those oratorical events," said a Dartmouth alumnus, "for we had played a trick on the president which he turned very cleverly on us. It was when Samuel C. Bartlett was president of the college, and he used to have charge of the flow of oratory and always occupied a seat on the platform. On this particular day the students had gathered in the chapel with a suspicious promptness and watched with eagerness as the president made his way to the platform. When he reached there he found a little jackass tied to the reading desk, which brayed loudly as President Bartlett approached. The students roared with laughter. The president never smiled, but, stepping to the front of the platform, he said: "Will the brother of this animal, for whom it has just called so loudly, kindly step to the platform and claim his own."

HOW HE CHEATED HIMSELF.

Edward Atkinson, of Boston, the noted economist, was talking about tricksters.

"They who descend to trickery," he said, "have small minds always. That is why they don't succeed. They dupe others now and then, but they dupe themselves just as often.

"That man was, perhaps, a typical trickster who once bought, here in Brookline, twenty-seven loads of flour from the railroad. He had a heavy plank on his wagon, and he kept the plank there during the weighing of each load. Then, when the flour was all weighed and he was setting off for home, he said in great excitement to the friend who was with him:

"Say nothin', Bill; I shaved that feller. I never deducted the plank but once. Keep steady. Say nothin'."

"And Bill indeed had a hard time to convince the foolish old fellow that he had bought from the railroad thirty pounds of plank twenty-six times."

PATTI AS A MUSIC TEACHER.

In Syracuse the other day Adeline Patti told a reporter how she had recently been teaching music to a little American girl.

"This little girl," she said, "is a delight. Her questions and answers are as entertaining as a comedy. The other day I was explaining to her the meaning of the signs *f* and *ff*. "'*F*,' I said, 'means forte. Now, if *f* means forte, what does *ff* mean?'"

"'Eighty,' said the little girl."



ARGUS PHEASANT OF INDIA.
She evidently would like it for her hat.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND.
An African saddleback stork (at left of picture) and a flamingo.