

was found to be as clean as when placed in the case fifteen months previously.

The question naturally arises as to whether it is advisable that air in a museum case shall remain unchanged; this is an aspect of the question I do not profess to have studied, but there is one very apparent advantage. In warm climates great trouble is caused by those museum depredators, moths, and particularly the beetles *Anthrenus* and *Dermestes*; the exhibits have to be constantly handled, and the depredators destroyed. In a case constructed as before suggested, in which no interchange of air takes place, the contained air could be poisoned, and would so remain for a long period.

ON THE SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE PLUMAGE OF
ZOSTEROPS CÆRULESCENS.

By ALFRED J. NORTH, F.L.S.
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In describing *Zosterops westernensis* of Quoy and Gaimard in the "Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,"* Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe makes the following observations:—"An Australian specimen has been described, and it is extraordinary that a bird which seems to be widely distributed on that continent should so much have escaped notice, the only allusion to the species that I can find in Mr. Gould's work being a passage where he mentions that some specimens of *Z. cærulescens* have the 'throat wax-yellow.' It seems to be the *Z. westernensis* (Q. & G.), a species re-instated in the system by Dr. Hartlaub (J. f. O. 1865) p. 20."

With a view of solving the mystery why so common a species should have been overlooked by most writers, I have given this subject my attention for the past two years, by careful observation and the collecting of a number of specimens of *Zosterops* found in the neighbourhood of Sydney. For a liberal supply of these birds every month, from January until the end of August, the thanks of the Trustees are chiefly due to Mr. H. J. Acland, of Greendale, and for a small series of Tasmanian skins to Mr. E. Leefe Atkinson, of Table Cape. Mr. J. A. Thorpe, the Taxidermist, too, has assisted at various times, and from the specimens

* Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus. ix., p. 156 (1884).