

Belgian Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

LONDON COMMITTEE: Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.

Under the Patronage of:

His Grace the Duke of Montrose,
The Most Hon. the Marquis of Salisbury.

His Grace the Archbishop of Armagh,
Lord Primate of all Ireland.

The Rt. Revs. the Lord Bishops of Birmingham, Chelmsford, Glasgow, Meath,
Killaloe, Burnley, Croydon, Hull, Jarrow, Knaresborough, and Thetford.

Mr. P. Deschanel, Chairman of the French Parliament.
Mr L. Barthou, Ex-Premier of the French Cabinet.

Mr. Lamy, Permanent Secretary of the French Academy.
Mr P. Loti, of the French Academy.

The Count Goblet d'Alviella,
Vice-President of the Senate,
Member of the Belgian Cabinet.

Mr H. La Fontaine,
Senator of Belgium.

Mr. E. Vandervelde, M.P.,
Member of the Belgian Cabinet.

N.B. - The BELGIAN Order of St. John is in no way connected with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in ENGLAND.

24th December 1918.

Robert Ridgway, Esq.,
Ornithologist.
Washington.

Dear Sir,

Our Order contemplates erecting a hospital near Brussels in view of attending, with an English-speaking staff, Americans or Britishers, who happen to be ill during their stay in Belgium and who would thus avoid crossing the sea in order to be nursed at home.

Such a hospital does not exist to day and it will be all the more needed as English-speaking people will be much more numerous in Belgium than before the war.

We have already in view some suitable sites quite able to provide a large garden which we contemplate using as an Ornithological Park with access to the public, of course, with charge for admission.

The receipts taken of admissions and sales of eggs and birds, after deduction of the working expenses, will be given up as a contribution for the maintenance of the hospital.

This Park will certainly be of great interest to the people of a large capital like Brussels, deprived of Zoological Garden and, by this means, will induce them to support the hospital itself.

The Park will therefore contribute to the improvement of Ornithological Science, to its diffusion among people of every class, to the protection of birds and will also support a charity worthy of American and British interests.

On these grounds and owing to your special knowledge of the matter, I beg leave, on behalf of the promoters, to ask you to pay us the honor of becoming a patron of our Committee.

The same favor will be asked of other learned scientists from allied and neutral countries as also of those you will be kind enough to inform us as being able to give the scheme useful support namely from the Australian Ornithological Union of which I think you are a member.

If it is possible to know where your valuable works on matters ornithological are now on sale, namely the North America Birds, the Ornithology of Illinois, we should be glad to get them in order to form the nucleus of our Library.

With the kindest of regards,
I remain,

Dear Sir,

Courteously and respectfully yours,

Dr. J. G. Smets-Mondez

P.S. Any sending whatever to Belgium - now and for some months ahead - should be duly registered and forwarded as follows:

Dr. J. G. Smets-Mondez,

hon. secretary Belgian Order of St. John

La Hêtraie

Park of Genval-les-Eaux

(Brabant) Belgium

This is the only way to be quite sure of its safe receipt.