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INDIA.—(*Forged C. E. F. surcharges*).  
A correspondent of the *P. J. of India*  
reports large numbers of forged surcharges  
of the C. E. F. stamps. The type is far  
smaller than in the genuine surcharges,  
and should not deceive any but unobser-  
vant collectors.

SWITZERLAND.—(*Forgeries of old issues*).  
The *S. C. Fortnightly* illustrates used and  
unused specimens of imitations of the  
1849 50 4c. and 5c. Poste Locale. Old Swiss  
stamps have always been favorites with  
the counterfeiter; in fact, one of these  
rascals, Mercier by name, advertises regu-  
larly in some of the less reputable French  
papers, the number of gold medals he has  
obtained for the perfection of his imita-  
tions. He issues a price list wherein  
quotations are given for his gems, and he  
charges three times the ordinary price  
when the counterfeit stamp is on an imita-  
tion letter of the period, with forged dated  
cancellation. The *Fortnightly* concludes:—

"The forgeries we illustrate are un-  
doubtedly dangerous ones, in that they  
are well calculated to deceive the collector  
of limited experience of these old Swiss  
stamps. To show exactly wherein the im-  
itations differ from the genuine stamps is  
not altogether practicable and, for obvious  
reasons, not altogether desirable. Suffice  
it to repeat our warning that old European  
stamps of all sorts and descriptions are to  
be bought with infinite caution, and only  
from persons who have a reputation at  
stake.

"Unfortunately, it is not only the very  
rare stamps that one has to look upon  
with suspicion. 'Little fishes are sweet,'  
thinks the stamp forger, who very well  
knows that an imitation of a fairly com-  
mon stamp will frequently pass muster for  
the simple reason that it is thought too  
common to be 'worth the forger's while'  
to imitate it."

## AUSTRALIAN STAMP SCENES.

### THE EMU.

By A. Lloyd Jones.

The pictures on the stamps of New  
South Wales have always attracted the  
attention of collectors, and that on the  
common 2d. stamp is by no means the  
one which has aroused the least curiosity.  
The bird pictured on this stamp is usually  
considered an ostrich, but although it  
closely resembles an ostrich, it is a bird  
found only in Australia, known to natu-  
ralists as the Emu.

The name Emu, also spelled "emea,"  
and "eneu," is evidently derived from the  
Portuguese word for ostrich, "ema" and  
has in turn been applied to different birds  
of like appearance till it has now finally  
settled upon that one which inhabits  
Australia, though until less than a century  
ago, it was given by most authors to the  
bird now commonly called the cassowary.

The Emu nearly equals the ostrich in bulk,  
its height being between five and six feet.  
The legs of this bird are short and stouter  
in proportion than those of the ostrich.  
Its feathers lie loosely on the body and the  
wings are so small that when close against  
the body they can hardly be distinguished  
from the general plumage. Its color is a  
dull brown mottled with dingy gray.  
The young are striped with black. The  
voice of the emu is a curious, hollow,  
booming or drumming sound produced by  
the peculiar construction of the windpipe.  
A remarkable structure in this species is a  
singular opening in front of the windpipe,  
communicating with a tracheal pouch.  
Various conjectures have been made as to  
its function, the most probable of which  
seems to be that it is an organ of sound  
in the breeding season, at which time it  
has been known to utter a remarkably  
loud booming sound.

In its manners the emu bears a close  
resemblance to the ostrich. However it is  
the only Ratite bird that takes naturally  
to water. Its food consists of fruits, roots  
and herbage. Although of great strength  
it is shy and peaceful, and unless hard  
pressed, trusts to its speed for safety, for  
the length of its legs and muscularity of  
its thighs enables it to run with such  
swiftness that it is not easily overtaken or  
brought within gunshot. The skin of a  
single emu contains six or seven quarts of  
a bright and clear oil, on which account it  
is eagerly sought after. The Emu is said  
to afford excellent coursing, but dogs will  
seldom attack it, both on account of some  
peculiar odor in its flesh which they dis-  
like, and because the injuries inflicted  
upon them by striking out with its feet  
are very severe. The settlers even assert  
that the Emu will break the small bone of  
a man's leg by this sort of a kick, to avoid  
which, the well-trained dogs run up  
abreast, and make a sudden spring at its  
neck, whereby it is quickly dispatched.  
When the natives take an emu they break  
its wings, a curious custom of no percep-  
tible utility. Its flesh has been compared  
to coarse beef, which it resembles in both  
appearance and taste. There is but little  
fit for culinary use upon any part of the  
Emu except the hind quarters. The male  
performs the principal part of the incu-  
bation. The eggs are six or seven in  
number, of a dark green color, and are  
much esteemed by the natives as food.

The Emu was found to inhabit the plains  
and open forest country of Australia  
immediately after the colonization of New  
South Wales in 1788. It was very common  
in former days, but it has been so hunted  
down that not an example remains at  
large in the districts that have been fully  
settled. Indeed its decrease has been so  
alarmingly rapid that Dr. Bennett, who  
has had much personal experience with  
this fine bird, fears ere many years the  
Emu will be numbered with the Dido, the  
great Auk, the Nestor, and other extinct  
species.