

POPULAR vs. SCIENTIFIC ORNITHOLOGY.

By A. G. Kingston.

As a sequel to my note on page 44 the following correspondence in succeeding issues of *The Auk* is worth reproducing :

Mr. Wm. Brewster, writing in the October number, says :

" In an article which appeared in the July number of *The Auk* I
 " described at some length a peculiar process of regurgitation employed
 " by the Flicker in feeding its young, believing and indeed remarking
 " at the time that the habit was unknown or at least unrecorded. It
 " seems, however, that it had been previously observed by Mrs. Olive
 " Thorne Miller, who published an account of it in 1890 in the *Atlantic*
 " *Monthly*, the article being afterwards (in 1892) republished in a col-
 " lection of essays entitled ' Little Brothers of the Air.'

" It is a pity that writers like Mrs. Miller, gifted with rare powers
 " of observation and blessed with abundant opportunities for exercising
 " them—cannot be induced to record at least the more important of
 " their discoveries in some accredited scientific journal, instead of
 " scattering them broadcast over the pages of popular magazines or
 " newspapers, or ambushing them in books with titles such as that just
 " quoted."

And Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, in the January number, replies :

" Mr. Brewster's gentle admonition in *The Auk* of October last
 " seems to call for an explanation of my position. The reasons I turn
 " more readily to a literary than to a scientific channel of expression
 " are several, not to speak of the fact that I am naturally of literary
 " rather than scientific proclivities. There is first my great desire to
 " bring into the lives of others the delights to be found in the study of
 " nature, which necessitates the using of an unscientific publication and
 " a title that shall attract, even though it may, in a measure, ambush
 " my subject.

" Again, never having studied scientific ornithology, and having no
 " time at present, if I had the wish to do so, and moreover, having an
 " intense love of live birds, and an almost Buddhistic horror of having
 " them killed, I must admit of feeling the least bit out of my element