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R. L. Blaine, Mgr.

this State, and he is this week communicating with all County Superintendents of Education in an endeavor to secure their co-operation in advancing nature study in our schools. This work is being conducted as part of the extension service of the University.

Our native birds are able to cope with their natural enemies, but stand in need of protection from foes introduced by man, such as the English sparrow and domestic cat, and especially from man himself, principally in the form of the pot-hunter and the small boy, proud possessor of rifle or sling-shot, or perhaps with nest-robbing proclivities.

There are sufficient laws already upon the books to secure such protection, but these are not enforced in many localities. Just as in the present case of prohibition, the people as a whole must be behind the law and approve its justice before it may be enforced. The Federal Migratory Bird Law, for example, recognizes that our common and very useful song birds are not the property of any one state or people, but of the entire nation, and imposes penalties for their destruction. How many communities in South Carolina enforce this law? How many, in fact, even know of its very existence?

Birds are of inestimable service to mankind as destroyers of noxious insects and weed seeds. These pests are their natural feed and will be kept in check if only the birds are encouraged and protected a little instead of meeting persecution. The loss to agriculture in the United States from insect depredations alone runs into the millions of dollars annually. This question then affects the farmer directly, and the city tax-payer but slightly less, though it is difficult for the general public to take such matters at all seriously. Let us hope that the people of the Palmetto State will respond while there are yet birds to assist and save.

The National Association wisely saw that the proper place to conduct such educational work was primarily in the graded schools, though all high school students are urged to assist and affiliate with clubs. Children take naturally to subjects dealing with outdoors—with plants and animals. Nature study now forms a large part of the weekly program of the majority of American schools, and no other department of instruction succeeds as well in stimulating pupils to a work which is all play.

The classes identify the many kinds of birds and study their habits, watching especially their nest-building and rearing of the young; they construct nesting boxes, winter feeding stations, and bird baths. Before long the destructive instincts of the genus smallboy Americana are transformed into constructive activities. He becomes a more broadly educated and tolerant citizen, and the State is the gainer thereby both in man power and bird power.

The Association operates through Junior Audubon Clubs, which it establishes and assists in the schools of the country. Teachers in rural schools usually welcome the opportunity for service of this nature, and in every school in each town and city of the State there should be at least one teacher who will be sufficiently interested to form one of these clubs. To June 1, 1922, there were 72,252 Junior Audubon Clubs in the schools of the United States and Canada, with a total membership of 1,893,315.

Each pupil wishing to join such a club brings ten cents to the teacher, who sends the collected fund to the state agent. Twenty-five or more pupils form a club, which may receive an appropriate name of their own choosing. The state agent then forwards to the teacher for each child enrolled a membership button (did you ever see a boy or girl who didn't like to wear a pretty button?) showing the red-headed woodpecker, attractively colored, the emblem chosen for the present year. Each child also receives six study leaflets of as many birds. These leaflets supply the teacher with material for six lessons, and include a colored picture of the bird, an outline to be colored by the pupil, and a lesson for study and recitation. In addition, each teacher forming such a club receives gratis a year's subscription to the Association's excellent illustrated magazine, "Bird Lore." The cost of this equipment greatly exceeds the ten cent fee per child, but is made possible by Association funds available for this use, which as before mentioned amount to \$30,000 for the current year. Professor Corrington wants to see the children of South Carolina receive their share of this national appropriation.

It is impossible at the present time to communicate directly with every teacher in the State, but it is hoped that the co-operation of the County Superintendents, of the Press, and of interested parents will bring their attention to this matter. Any teacher interested in the formation of a Junior Audubon Club in her room or school is urged to communicate with the state agent, who will forward literature further explaining the purposes and methods of the Association. If a sample copy of the study leaflets is desired, enclose five cents in stamps. The agent is also able to supply other equipment, such as charts, books, etc.

Professor Corrington intends reaching directly as many parts of the State as possible in a series of talks on birds. Schools interested in securing such a lecture, designed primarily for graded school children, should communicate, stating whether or not they have a projection lantern available for the display of colored lantern slides. All expenses incidental to such talks are borne by the National Association.

What is a Baby?

A two-guinea prize for "The best definition of a baby" was once offered by London Tid-Bits. The following is a selection from some of the best definitions submitted:

The bachelor's horror, the mother's treasure, and the despotic tyrant of the most republic household.

The morning caller, noonday crawler, midnight brawler.

The latest addition of humanity, of which every couple think they possess the finest copy.

A native of all countries who speaks the language of none.

About twenty-two inches of coo and wriggle, writhe and scream, filled with suction and testing apparatus for milk, and automatic alarm to regulate supply.

A thing we are expected to kiss, and look as if we enjoyed it.

A mite of humanity that will cry no harder if a pin is stuck into him than he will if the cat won't let him pull her tail.

It's a sweet and tiny treasure.

A torment and a tease,

It's an autocat, an anarchist,

Two awful things to please.

It's a rest and peace disturber,

With little laughing ways.

It's a wailing human night alarm,

And terror of your days.

That which makes home happier, love stronger, patience greater, hands busier, nights longer, days shorter, purses lighter, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, the future brighter.

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WATER IN PLENTY.

Rome Celebrated for the Number of Its Fountains.

Among the specialties of old and modern Rome travelers greatly admire the pure cool sweet water that comes to the city through magnificent aqueducts.

There is plenty of water to provide for the wants of the 800,000 people and to supply the several hundred fountains which embellish the squares and gardens of Rome.

Tourists on their arrival are greeted by the imposing "Fontana" near the station, which faces the Via Nazionale. Even if they are in a hurry to reach their hotel, they stop to admire the beautiful four bronze groups representing the Naiads.

They may turn then to the right or to the left, they may choose to go up town or down town, to remain at the center or go to the outskirts of Rome, there will be always a fountain waiting for them.

Even the colossal statues watching the Quirinal palace, representing Alexander the Great taming the Bucephalus said to be the works of Phidias and Praxiteles, have been richly endowed with running and murmuring water.

The majority of the working people prefer to live near the fountain of their district. Even "Little Jerusalem" has a garden and its fountain, and the poorest of the community has at his disposal a quiet spot where he can find fresh air and the inspiring murmur of water.

Energetic men, who prefer the noisy falls to the gentle brooks, can settle near the "Fontanone" on the

Gianicolo hill, where the fountain is an artificial fall, and water runs with such a remarkable violence that it is used as motive force for a paper factory and several mills.

But beautiful things have to be hunted for. The lovely "Turtle Fountain" is placed in a corner of old Rome and tourists have to reach it through entanglements of many kinds and after a long pilgrimage through narrow streets.

Tourists know that, throwing a penny in the "Trevi's Fountain," they will see Rome again. Keen observers can see in the picture the bottom of the fountain just covered with coins by a party of visitors.

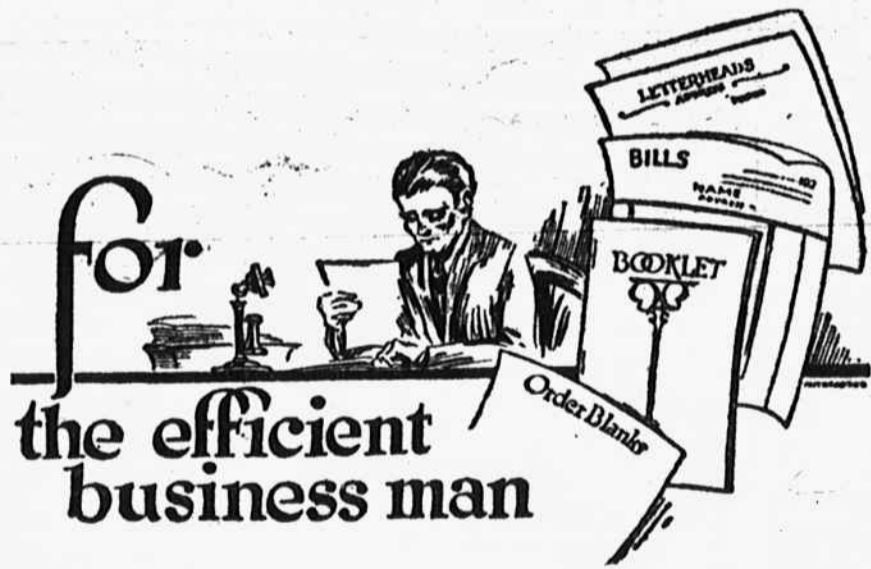
An obelisk that belonged to the temple of Isis, and very likely never saw water in its early days, now is facing the Pantheon surrounded by several springs of pure water. It certainly inspires compassion for its poor brethren left on the desolate sands of Egypt.

Plazza Navona has three fountains. The central one is decorated with complicated groups of Bernini, representing the most important rivers of the world, the Nile, the Ganges, the Danube. Those at the two sides have impressive statues, and each of them has a symbolical meaning.

So old Tiber is playing a respectable role in the life of modern Rome. It took centuries to bring the 14 different kinds of water to the city. The fountains represent the work of generations.

Miss Constance Curry, of St. Paul, Minn., was foreman of a jury which heard fifty witnesses and returned sixty-seven indictments—all in six hours.

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