

INSECTS v. MAN.

Professor Thomson, writing in the Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture in Great Britain, says:—

“When we think of the legions of plant-bugs (*Rhynchota*), the hosts of hungry larvæ, such as caterpillars, leather-jackets, wireworms, the minute Diptera like the frit-fly, the vegetarian beetles like cockchafers and weevils, besides saw-flies and scale-insects, and the frankly destructive tribe of locusts, we realise that their increase is a continual menace to the kingdom of man, which, after all, depends as yet on green plants of the field. If the cloud of injurious insects should thicken for a few years the consequences would be disastrous beyond telling. . . . Fortunately for men, insects are often against insects—ladybird beetles against green-flies and ichneumons against caterpillars, and so on; spiders, frogs, toads, lizards, and other animals do their bit; but, on the whole, what matters most is that there should be an abundance of insectivorous birds, for they form the most important of all checks to the multiplication of injurious insects. . . . It is absolutely certain that every reduction of birds that feed on injurious insects means a loss to agriculture.”

FOR FISH AND BIRDS.

For fish and birds I make this plea,
May they be here long after me;
May those who follow hear the call
Of old Bobwhite in spring and fall;
And may they share the joy that's mine
When there's a trout upon the line.
I found the world a wondrous place,
A cold wind blowing in my face
Has brought the wild ducks in from sea;
God grant the day shall never be
When youth upon November's shore
Shall see the mallards come no more!
I found the world a garden spot.
God grant the desolating shot
And barbed hook shall not destroy
Some future generations' joy!
Too barren were the earth for words
If gone were all the fish and birds.
Fancy an age that sees no more
The mallards winging in to shore;
Fancy a youth with all its dreams
That finds no fish within the streams.
Our world with life is wondrous fair,
God grant we do not strip it bare!

—Edgar A. Guest.