

Years ago Sable Island, Nova Scotia, was overrun by rats. Cats were imported, became plentiful and got the rats under control, then began on the rabbits. Foxes were introduced to fight the cats. After getting rid of the cats the foxes attacked birds and their eggs. Then an appeal was made to the government to exterminate the foxes. Thus any importation may lead to a long chain of unexpected consequences. The Minah, introduced into Fiji to destroy insects, has itself become a pest. The Starling, introduced into Australia, New Zealand, and Africa, has changed its habits and is accused of damaging grapes and other crops.

Lantana is an introduced plant in the Hawaiian Islands. The Chinese Turtle-dove and the Indian Mynah were also imported, the latter for the purpose of fighting the army worms that are so destructive to sugar cane, in which it has proved highly efficient. Both birds, however, feed upon lantana seeds and distribute them, and thus have caused its rapid spread, so insects have been introduced to fight the lantana. What will be introduced later to fight the insects that have been imported to fight the lantana?

"Thus the process of introduction goes pyramiding, with no man able to foretell the eventual results."

These and numerous other instances of similar nature illustrate the danger of unnecessarily disturbing Nature's adjustment, a danger not generally sufficiently realised.

SEED DISTRIBUTION.

An interesting observation on this matter was conducted by Mr. L. W. McCaskill, of Dunedin, who last winter fed waxeyes in his garden from the middle of May until early in October. Beneath the food receptacle the soil was prepared as a seed-bed in a strip 6 feet long by 6 inches wide. On the 8th April, 1931, the following seedlings were removed from the strip and planted out:—

- 85 *Pittosporum tenuifolium* (Kohuhu) and *eugenioides* (Tarata).
- 18 *Coprosma lucida* (Karamu).
- 19 Small-leaved *Coprosma*.
- 10 *Carpodetus serratus* (Putaputaweta).
- 3 *Nothopanax Colensoi* (Orihau).
- 5 *Pseudopanax Crassifolium* (Lancewood Horoeke).
- 4 *Melicytus ramiflorus* (Mahoe).