

THROUGH NATURALISTS' EYES.

H. W. Tamperley, writer of "English Scenes and Birds," writes in reviewing "Wild Exmoor through the Year," by E. W. Hendry: 1930:—

"At their best the great nature-writers have never been content with natural history alone; they have not been satisfied with anything short of exact observation carried as far as each could carry it, but they have been compelled by something within themselves to go beyond the cold facts of observation. The facts are warm with life and are not strange to beauty when they have been seen and expressed through the imagination of a Jeffries, a Hudson, an Edward Thomas, or a Masingham. It is through them that we learn how real nature is, through them that we learn how to release our senses so that we, too, may enjoy her in our own ways. By discovering one bird, one flower, or one landscape through their eyes, we find ourselves discovering many through our own; and, more wonderful still, we begin to discover much that is new in ourselves."

He quotes this paragraph from the book: "Beauty in birds—and, indeed, in all nature, allures us; but it is not for this alone that we seek them. Rather, their charm is a pane, dimmed in part, but yet spangled with brightness, through which shines the vision of that perfect beauty for which finer spirits have ever sought, and not entirely in vain."

GOOD LITTLE BAD BIRDS.

There's a little bit of good in every bad little bird, even the sparrow and the starling. During a great many weeks I have been closely observing the feathered folk in my garden and can speak with authority. A wren was seen to feed its young 36 times in an hour, and the food she brought them consisted of aphides which had been sucking the juice out of my rose and citrus trees, and caterpillars which had been masticating the young shoots of a highly-prized wattle. Two starlings paid 30 and 32 visits to their respective nests in 59 minutes, with the larvae of click-beetles, rose-chafers and other beetles that do immense damage to plants. A record was established by a sparrow which made 254 trips to its nest in 3 hours 2 minutes with pests ranging from the mites which attack strawberries to the caterpillars of the privet-hedge moth. Without birds the greater part of vegetation would be immediately destroyed and successful agriculture would be an impossibility.

—"Tee Essbie," in *"Smith's Weekly."*