

of this grim fascinating coast. . . . Though nothing of the author is allowed to intrude on the narrative, he has lived and endured with these men." So says Storm Jameson in the Foreword to this wonderful book of present-day fisher life. It is sufficient testimony that the preceding account of the impression made on "Marney Lunn" by the sight of the oiled sea-birds is not likely to have been exaggerated.

Marney, the fisherman, is described as a man of 25 years of age—a direct descendant of the old Viking raiders of centuries ago—one of a race of men "full of swift humour, of hardihood, stubborn and fierce in holding what they possess, and brave beyond description, both as fishermen and in the life-boat service.

Though now only 25 years of age, he had served for ten years before the mast in the Merchant Service during the War.

Can we regard his outburst of fury over the victims of the mis-use of oil-fuel as the drivellings of a weak, ignorant, and sentimental man?

Rather let us use this wonderful description as an incentive to ensure that nothing that persuasion and legislation can do shall be left undone to prevent this infamous abuse of the luxury of "oil-fuel."—*Rita A. Curtis.*

COLLECTORS' PERMITS.

It cannot be said that the present system whereby permits are issued by the Minister is at all satisfactory to those of the public who desire that as few as possible of our native birds should be killed. These permits are issued officially by the Minister of Internal Affairs, but Ministers come and go and must in such cases as this be guided solely by their subordinates. Acclimatisation Societies are advised when a permit is issued in their particular district, but rangers are not notified and no check whatever appears to be ever made as to whether a collector exceeds his permit or not. Permits are usually given for three months for certain specified birds, and generally for alleged scientific reasons. Considering that thousands of bird skins have been collected in the past, how much knowledge has been gained thereby? ; if so little in the past how much is likely to be gained by these destructive means in the future? The Native Bird Protection Society has suggested various ways of overcoming the present secret system such as that they should be furnished