

which bears the fatal plumes, and leave their bodies to rot in the waters of the swamp.

The helpless young die of slow starvation in their nests, save a few which, driven frantic by hunger, manage to scramble from the platforms to a more merciful death in the water below.

Our illustrations show that this statement is not in any way exaggerated. They are actual photographs taken by Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley, C.M.Z.S., in the swamps on the Murray River. What is shown here as taking place in Australia has gone on in North America and Eastern Asia until there are practically none of the birds left. Hundreds of thousands of egrets are being killed each year in the northern parts of South America. Soon there will be none left there.

These plumes are not always white. The millinery trade dyes them in all shades, and frequently represents them as imitations. There is no imitation made that looks in the least like the real plumes. Milliners will also say that the

plumes are collected when dropped by moulting birds. This is absolutely untrue. Every plume that is displayed on a woman's head costs the lives of an adult bird, and of its helpless young.

Every woman, who purchases or wears one of these plumes, is as directly responsible for the tragedy depicted below as the gunner who fires the shot.

Can feathers obtained in such a way make any woman fairer?

Can true womanhood sanction such barbarous cruelty?

STARVING EGRET NESTLINGS.



THE DEAD MOTHER.

