

make the oodies of birds objects of sacred regard to most boys so that they shall not wish to deprive them of life.

In every city a considerable number of birds meet accidental death every year, especially during the seasons of migrations. Many of these are picked up by the children while fresh and fit to handle. These unfortunate birds will become the source of most of our material. In any corps of teachers we would expect to find at least one with sufficient knowledge of taxidermy to prepare the skins suitably for preservation and study. Some of the older boys will gladly learn to do this work, and a few will become quite efficient, so that the labor will not only be taken off the hands of the teacher but will become of educational value to the pupils.

The deserted nests should be freely taken for study. After studying, in winter, the nests of last season, most pupils will be early on watch to see the new nests built. This will lead them to observe the more touching actions of the birds. At all times the teacher should be on the watch for opportunities to make direct appeal to the moral nature, but it should be done unobtrusively.

4. *Organize pupils into bird-protecting societies.* By this means unite all pupils, who are sufficiently awakened, in an effort to protect the birds and their nests, to provide nesting places for those species that come near human habitations, and to exert a restraining and educating influence on the thoughtless and vicious. By this means the few children who never enter the public schools could be watched and possibly influenced.

In an attempt to carry out the plan outlined above some difficulties and dangers must be met. Considerable knowledge of birds is necessary to the one who directs the undertaking. Details of method in the school room would occupy pages and would not be in place here. It is sufficient for the present to state that the writer knows where this plan is being tried with encouraging progress.

C. D. McLouth.

Muskegon, Mich., Dec. 16, 1893.

BIRD NOTES.

THE notes published in a recent issue of *Science* on "Birds Which Sing on the Nest" recalls an interesting instance of this kind that came to my notice last summer. It shows that the black-billed cuckoo is not always as quiet and retiring as we generally consider him. A pair of these birds built their nest in my friend's door-yard, so close to the house that it afforded a good opportunity to observe them. This pair were unusually loquacious, and throughout the period of incubation the bird on the nest was often heard holding a conversation with its mate lurking in the trees about the premises. When one bird flew to its perch on a certain tree, preparatory to flying to the nest, there was likely to be considerable chatter before it approached nearer. It is interesting to note that while some birds are quiet when incubating, as if to escape observation, their young often make considerable noise while yet in the nest. The flicker is a case in point. To merely hammer on the tree in which the nest is located is often enough to set the whole family going. I have also heard young bluebirds calling "*we-a-ry*" from their nest in a hollow stub. And, as for the young crow, his "*gobble, gobble, gobble*," when being fed, is a well-known sound in the woods in spring, and often betrays the nest to the young bird's-nester.

WILLARD N. CLUTE.

Binghamton, N. Y., Dec. 13, 1893.

POSTAGE ON NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS.

In your issue of Nov. 17, with reference to a ruling that natural history specimens cannot be transmitted through the mails as "samples" it is suggested that the various scientific bodies of the United States should use their influence to induce the governments of certain enumerated countries to consent to such material passing by sample post. It is sought to throw the blame upon the countries in question, whereas the trouble arises solely from the fact that the United States have not yet advanced far enough to have a *parcel post* as is in operation among these other countries. There is no difficulty in transmitting specimens from Canada to the most remote coun-

SOFTLY STEALS THE LIGHT OF DAY
when filtered through windows covered with
CRYSTOGRAPHS,
a substitute for Stained Glass that is inexpensive,
beautiful, and easily applied.

20c. per square foot. Samples and catalogue, 10c.
CRYSTOGRAPH CO.,
316 North Broad St., Philadelphia.

BRENTANO'S,

Publishers, Importers, Booksellers.

We make a specialty of technical works in all branches of science, and in all languages.

Subscriptions taken for all American and foreign scientific periodicals.

Our Paris and London branches enable us to import at shortest notice and lowest prices. **REPORTS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES, MONOGRAPHS, GOVERNMENT REPORTS, etc.** - Correspondence solicited.

All books reviewed in *SCIENCE* can be ordered from us.

SEND FOR A SAMPLE COPY OF BOOK CHAT. A Monthly Index of the Periodical Literature of the World. \$1.00 per year.

BRENTANO'S, Union Square, New York.
Chicago, Washington, London, Paris.

SCIENCE CLUBBING RATES.

10% DISCOUNT.

We will allow the above discount to any subscriber to *Science* who will send us an order for periodicals exceeding \$10, counting each at its full price.

N. D. C. HODGES, 874 Broadway, N. Y.

PISO'S CURE FOR
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use
in time. Sold by druggists.
CONSUMPTION

ABOUT
MAGIC LANTERNS
ASK US
WE MAKE THEM.
J. B. COLT & CO.
16 BEEKMAN ST. 189 LASALLE ST.
NEW YORK CHICAGO, ILL.

**BUILDING
BOOKS.**
**DRAWING
INSTRUMENTS.**

1893 Catalogue
of Books on Building,
Painting and Decorating,
also Catalogue of Draw-
ing Instruments and Ma-
terials, sent free on appli-
cation to

Wm. T. Comstock,
23 Warren St., New York.

TEN BOOKS FOR PRICE OF ONE
SEND FOR A CATALOGUE OF
THE HUMBOLDT LIBRARY
OF SCIENCE.

Containing the works of the foremost scientific
writers of the age.—The Great Classics of Modern
Thought.—Strong meat for them that are of full age.
Single numbers 15 cents. Double numbers 30 cents.
Address:—THE HUMBOLDT PUBLISHING CO.,
19 Astor Place, New York.

Every reader of "Science" should sub-
scribe for the

AMERICAN ARCHITECT, THE OLDEST AND BEST

Architectural publication in the country.
Interesting articles on architecture, San-
itation, Archaeology, Decoration, etc., by the
ablest writers. *Richly illustrated.* Issued
weekly. Send stamp for specimen copy to
the publishers,

Ticknor & Co., 211 Tremont St., Boston.

1869. THE 1893. Manufacturer and Builder.

Published Monthly. A handsomely illustrated me-
chanical journal, edited by DR. WILLIAM H. WAHL.
Every number consists of 48 large quarto pages and
cover, filled with useful information on all subjects
of a practical nature. Specimen copy free. For
sale by all newsdealers. Agents wanted every-
where. Address

HENRI GERARD,
P. O. Box 1001. 83 Nassau St., N. Y.

Pennsylvania Bedford Springs Mineral Water

For Liver, Kidney and Biliary Troubles.
For Rheumatism, Gout and Gravel.
For Dropsy, Bright's Disease, Diabetes.
For Hemorrhoids, Etc.

It has been used medicinally and prescribed by
physicians for nearly one hundred years.

DIRECTIONS:—Take one or two glasses about a
half-hour before each meal.

Case One Dozen Half-Gallon Bottles, \$4.50.

Case Fifty Quarts (Aerated), \$7.50.

Bedford Mineral Springs Co., Bedford, Pa.
Philadelphia Office, 1004 Walnut St.