

The clay extends about 10 miles west of Arnprior and about 6 miles to the northwest. Beyond these limits certain patches in the upland underlain by crystalline limestone are capable of cultivation.

Brick and tile are made from the upper part of the marine clay in the banks of Dochert Brook just outside the town limits. The tile are extensively used for underdraining the clay lands in the neighborhood and are also shipped to distant points for this purpose.

This is an example of supplying geographic needs by using the natural resources at hand.

Outcrops of limestone both of Archean and Paleozoic are abundant in this vicinity. The former is a banded grey and white marble which was used for the interior of the senate and commons chambers in the house of Parliament at Ottawa destroyed by fire a few years ago.

(To be continued).

### NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

A CORRECTION. In a list of amphibians and reptiles of the Ottawa, Ontario, district, published in the September, 1918, number of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, *Pseudacris triseriata* should be *Pseudacris feriarum*.

CLYDE L. PATCH.

THE NESTING OF THE BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO.—In answer to W. E. Saunder's query as to the nesting locality of the Black-crowned Night Heron in western (southern) Ontario, I think it well to record some evidence that I obtained in 1909 at Detroit, Mich. In the first week of May of that year I was presented with a female bird that had been killed by a Mr. Meredith, of the New York Coal Co., in the preserves of the Toronto Shooting Club on the Indian reservation, Walpole Island, St. Clair Flats. Mr. Meredith stated that they were very common and nested on the ground in such numbers that he could have gathered a bushel of eggs with ease. This species usually nests in trees often in company with Great Blue Herons, but ground nesting has often been recorded for the species. Without doubt this was and may still be one of the important nesting colonies of this heron in the section. Herons feed at great distances from their rookeries and it is not improbable that the London specimen hails from this one.

P. A. TAVERNER.

A BIRD CAUGHT IN A TREE.—Last summer while walking on the north side of Watson lake, British Columbia, I heard a woodpecker give a startled or pained cry, and, on approaching, found it caught by the neck in the crotch of a tree, and clinging vigorously to the tree at a point above its head. Watson lake is on the somewhat arid Fraser plateau of the interior of southern British Columbia. The country is monotonous, being rather flat but slightly rolling, with interspersed jack pines, poplars and but few

other trees, with small lakes and meadows. Many of the lakes are saline.

The bird, so far as I am able to judge, was some species of sap sucker.

I took hold of the bird and with some difficulty unclasped his feet from the tree, at the expense of a slight prick from one of his talons. Lifting the bird I was surprised to find that his head was not held tightly in the crotch, but was simply loose in it—the bird being apparently too greatly frightened to let go with his feet. In fact, had he done so, a fall of his body might have either wedged his neck in the crotch or broken his neck.

After carrying the bird some distance, while thinking of his disposal, I concluded that I did not care to skin him in order to make a museum specimen. I released him, and to my surprise, instead of falling or flying a short distance and gathering himself together, he flew strongly out of sight.

HARLAN I. SMITH.

BIRD MIGRATION.—Just what power birds possess in shaping their migration flights and what directs the course they pursue is not definitely known. It has been attributed to their instincts. They never fail to reach their ultimate destination. In a very interesting article which appeared some time ago in the *St. Louis Republic*, the writer, a scientist, discussing the subject of bird migration, considered the idea of birds flying in the rarified atmosphere three miles above the earth's surface, and being guided by the topography of the country at night when flights are mostly made, as being somewhat erroneous. He was of the opinion that on their long flights birds are guided by the stars, and he supported his theory by citing as evidence the fact that "when the stars were obscured by clouds the flocks become bewildered and seek the ground." Birds possess the sense of perception and orientation in a much greater degree than man and under like conditions, as a