

THE STARLING.

SIR,—Referring to the correspondence published on page 134 of your journal for May, 1891, on the subject of the Starling as a desirable bird to have introduced into this country, I have again satisfaction in sending you herewith a cutting from a recent issue of a London, Eng., paper, which contains an extract from the Report of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland on the same subject.

Mr. Gilmour observes :—"The result of the investigation confirms me in the opinion I have long held—that rooks in the enormous quantities in which we have them in counties such as Fife do an immense amount of damage, and I would urge those who have the control of rookeries to see that the numbers of their inmates are kept within reasonable limits." The starling comes out of the ordeal with a creditable record. The inquiry shows that about three-fourths of this bird's food is insect—largely of the injurious class—and one-fifth grain, while there was no trace of any other crop being touched. Summarising the results of the whole inquiry, Professor McAlpine says :—"If this estimate is correct, as it certainly appears to be, there can be little hesitation regarding the starling. He is a bird rather to be fostered than destroyed ; he is a benefactor rather than a foe to the farmer. Of the pigeon it may be said that he is an unmitigated scoundrel ; of the rook that he is a cunning rogue ; but of the starling we can say with truth that he is our natural friend, by habit and by instinct."

I have not observed that the matter has been discussed at all at any of your meetings. In view of what Mr. Gilmour says in his report concerning this bird, I would suppose it to be well worthy of the attention of our Association.

Annapolis, N. S.

E. D. ARNAUD.

IRRIGATION.

SIR,—I might say, in answer to Mr. H. Picket's inquiry, *re* irrigation, that I have irrigated an eight-acre apple orchard for years, and have found it of great advantage almost every year, and especially a summer like the one a year ago. The fruit is much larger, and the trees will make a good growth of wood, even when they are heavily loaded with fruit. A glance at the foliage would convince any person, during a dry summer, of its benefits. My mode of applying is quite simple. The orchard is on a mountain side ; three springs rise at the top, and by ditches I convey the water to wherever wanted. I watered twice during the dry spell in the early part of this season, and my young trees have kept growing right along. Trees planted one year ago have made over two feet of wood this season.

One other subject I would like to mention, which I have been watching carefully since I noticed Mr. Caston mentioned it, and that is crutch rot of the