

The Criterion, in a beautiful cover design, comes filled with delightful contributions. The varied charm and excellence of the articles contained each month in *The Criterion*, are such as to make it almost indispensable to those who are eager to leave the beaten track in magazine literature.

The Saturday Evening Post Xmas number is really most deserving of credit. How the publishers manage to issue such an excellent weekly periodical at one dollar a year, is a wonder. We advise our readers to secure a copy of this splendid Xmas number.

The Scientific American has added of late a most interesting Natural History department to its pages. This adds to its already great value to studious readers for besides mere technical details there is much of interest in its pages each week.

The Commonwealth, published monthly at Ottawa is a valuable help to all who are anxious to keep themselves posted on the current events of the day, especially with regard to our own Dominion and to the Empire at large.

The Canadian Housekeeper is rapidly growing in attractiveness and its table of contents each month contains much of interest.

Next to an actual outing with rod and gun we would prescribe, for the man who would like to go, but cannot, a year's subscription to *Forest and Stream*. Its different departments, are even better edited than ever before, which is saying a good deal.



Correspondence.

Chickadees and Nuthatches.

PROF. MACOUN concludes a letter, received lately as follows:—
 "In the August number you speak of Chickadees and mention some facts about the Hudsonian species that raise a question in my mind. The Chickadees and Nuthatches are residents in my opinion, and instead of going south, I would say they retire into the deeper woods and swamps for the winter. Let me know what you think of this idea."

I am inclined to defer to the opinion of so high an authority as Prof. Macoun, whose knowledge of the life histories of birds has been enlarged by observation in every part of Canada. My experience is limited to a small area, chiefly to the neighborhood of Charlottetown which is not an ideal locality for the study of birds, I have formed the opinion that the Chickadees and Nuthatches are migratory from the fact that I have seen the Blackcapped Chickadee here in winter only, excepting two pairs that I saw last summer; and I have seen the Hudsonian in Spring and Fall only. Unless they retire into the deeper woods Winter or Summer, as Prof. Macoun believes, they must be migratory. I have seen so few of the White-breasted Nuthatches that I can form no opinion as to their being residents, but the Red-breasted Nuthatches are seen or have been seen by me in Spring and Fall. I have no data to determine whether they retire to the depths of the forests in Winter or Summer.

JOHN MACSWAIN.

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