

advocated the protection of fish in every possible way, as well as of assistance to those engaged in artificial production. In Canada this subject was of very great importance. It was now some years ago since artificial culture was introduced by himself, with the recognition of the Government, and now they stood second to no other country with regard to it. The number of Salmon they turned out annually was not exceeded by any other country in the world. During the last two years from thirty-five to forty millions of Salmonidae had been turned into the waters of Canada through the artificial process, and, though there were no doubt sceptics and others who were inimical to the science of fish culture, he thought that could only arise from ignorance of the benefits to be derived from it. At first sight it seemed extraordinary that fish could be produced by artificial means; but it was a most simple process when understood. Fish were so prolific, that man with a little ingenuity could produce from them far more than nature could herself, because it was a well known fact that large quantities of the eggs of the fish family were destroyed by other species. This was the ordained law; it was intended that fish should live on fish, because if all the eggs of fish were permitted to hatch out, there would be no room in the waters for them. Consequently, nature had provided wisely that fish should live on one another, and this being the case, large numbers of ova must be consumed. Under artificial culture, however, where the egg was protected from its enemies, a larger percentage could be brought to maturity than by the natural process. Hence, if it could be shown that 75 per cent. of the eggs could produce living fish, the system ought to be encouraged by all intelligent people. Sir James Maitland had gone into the matter in a most lucid and instructive manner, and there was no doubt that when the paper was disseminated it would do a vast amount of good. The only difficulty that he saw was, that it did not appear to go hand in hand with the ideas of some scientific gentlemen, who maintained that protection was not necessary to some of our fish. He contended, however, that if an intelligent country considered fish culture of service at all, it should also adopt every possible mode of protecting the fish. It would be no use for a pisciculturist to trouble himself to reproduce fish in great numbers if the intelligence and legislation of the country did not protect that which had been produced, and

if every one were allowed to fish without any control. It seemed to him, therefore, that it behoved all who were interested in this matter to join in every possible measure to enhance the production of fish, either by natural or artificial means, and also to protect the fish afterwards. Nearly every civilized country possessed laws for the purpose of protecting fish; and when some gentlemen came forward and said that fish could not be exterminated, the consequence must be that all these protective laws were a mistake, and that every one should be allowed to kill and eat as he pleased. He maintained, on the other hand, that it was the duty of the legislature of every intelligent country to suppress intemperance of all kinds, not only in the matter of liquors, but in killing fish; and to pass judicious laws for the benefit of mankind. If any law were more judicious than another, it was that the waters should be protected from the inordinate destruction of man, in order that fish might be produced in larger numbers, both as a luxury for the rich and for the benefit of the poor. He felt that he was treading on somewhat delicate ground in giving expression to these sentiments, but as this was the first opportunity he had had, he felt it his duty to express publicly the strong conviction which he entertained on this subject.

Professor Huxley begged leave to second the vote of thanks which had been so well moved by his friend Mr. Wilnot. Unfortunately, he had not had an opportunity of seeing Sir James Maitland's establishment at Howietown, but he had frequently been favoured by reading and hearing what he had done, and thus had the means of knowing not only the nature of his operations, but what was to his mind the singularly precise and accurate scientific spirit which he had brought to his work, and it was the secret of the very remarkable success he has obtained. In this matter, as in all biological questions, the secret of success lay in attention to minute details, and that was really the moral of the paper. You must, in the first place, be able to comprehend precisely—which very few people did—the exceeding complexity of natural conditions, and then you must know how to carry into practice all the precautions necessary to meet the variation in those conditions. He could not recommend anyone who was endeavouring to acquaint himself with natural history to take up a more useful and valuable study than that of the manner in