

inexhaustible, irreparable damage has already been wrought. Eager for quick profits, the great lumber syndicates of that continent still continue the work of destruction; yet, even there, the necessity for some thought for the future has been recognized, and millions of acres have been set apart as forest reservations—that is, even in this comparatively new country, it has come to be a recognized fact, as it is in the Old World, that if the wounds inflicted on the forest through lack of forethought are to be healed, the cure must be worked by the state rather than by rich private landholders."

Dr. Baur adds, that in addition to lumber, fuel, and other staple products, the forests produce vast quantities of berries, fruits, flowers, mushrooms, mosses, basket-material, and materials for decoration, the value of which cannot be accurately computed, although it certainly amounts to millions of marks annually, and hundreds of poor families in Germany, who would otherwise be destitute, depend upon these products for a livelihood. No government, says Dr. Baur, in conclusion, can administer a forest as it may administer a factory, where it writes over the door, "No admittance except upon business." To do this would be to destroy the value of the forests as a possession of the people. And in this country one needs to add, the public at large as well as the government must be taught to realize that, while the forests should be utilized by all they should be injured by none, for they are the property, not of this generation only, but of generations yet to be born.

But a practical example is always more effective than any amount of preaching, and therefore we have already taken occasion to commend the experiment now in progress in Biltmore, the estate of George W. Vanderbilt, in North Carolina, as one

which must prove of undoubted value to the future of this country. The Biltmore Forest proper embraces some 5,000 acres of woodland, and the primary object of the management here is to improve the conditions of a forest lying on ridges and slopes which have been grazed and fired. A large part of it, when the operations began, was in as wretched and unpromising a condition as neglect and bad management could make it. The attempt to make it pay has therefore been made subordinate to the idea of improvement; that is, the scheme of work was devised in the first place for increasing the value and prosperity of the forest itself, and, therefore, in many cases the operations may not return more than the expenditure involved, and in some instances the returns may even fall short of that amount. Nevertheless, the expectation is that the work will be profitable, and if this is accomplished its value as an object-lesson will be greatly enhanced.

Two years ago Gifford Pinchot, the forester in charge, gave an account of his treatment of this forest, and the results of the first year's work. We understand that since that time he has encountered no unforeseen discouragements, and his faith in the outcome is strengthened. Perhaps the most important result gained so far has been the demonstration that the expense of protecting the young growth in woodland operations is not as serious as Americans generally suppose. It makes a great difference where a tract of woodland has been cut over whether a desolation or a thrifty forest of young trees is left behind; and Mr. Pinchot estimates that he can secure this vigorous young forest at an expense of not more than two or three per cent. of the total cost of removing the old timber. It seems to be entirely a question of training the woodchoppers, and, if this is true, the fact ought to be more widely known.