

winter and after their breeding time. In many of the German states and other parts of Europe bird encouragement by means of nest boxes is undertaken by the State, Hungary being one of the foremost in this respect, at the instigation of Otto Hermann. The value of encouragement in increasing the number of birds is further illustrated by the use made of these means when they are employed. On and near Baron Berlepsch's estate, 90% of 2,000 nest boxes in one wood were occupied and nearly all of 500 and 2,100 in other localities. Of 9,300 boxes hung up by the Government of the State of Hesse 70 to 80% were occupied during the first year, and in 1907 all had occupants.

It will be seen, therefore, that this question of bird protection and encouragement is one in which all lovers of Nature and of our forests, and especially those who are dependent upon forests and agriculture for their subsistence, as we are all indirectly, should be deeply concerned. Our native birds are a resource of inestimable value, practical and æsthetic.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH.

If the conservation of natural resources is for the benefit of man and of the future generations, it naturally follows that for such benefits, as may accrue from this policy of conservation, to be utilized and enjoyed to their fullest extent, man himself must be conserved. In other words, the public health must be an object of conservation. It is useless to colonize if there is not taken of the people. Of what use are these resources if there is not a healthy nation to enjoy them? I may be accused of wandering beyond the appointed limit in my treatment of this subject and asked how the question of public health comes within the domain of the naturalist. This question could certainly not be asked in any of those countries where such diseases as malaria, yellow fever, sleeping sickness and other insect-borne diseases are prevalent. Fifty thousand deaths from yellow fever was the price paid by the French in cutting a portion of the Panama Canal; the annual mortality in the Indian peninsula from malaria is over a million human beings. The methods adopted for the prevention of these devastating diseases are based upon entomological knowledge. As Lord Robson recently said in London: "It is the man of science who is to decide the fate of the tropics, not the soldier or the statesman with his programmes and perorations, but the quiet entomologist. He is the man of science who of all others strikes the popular imagination the least and gets less of popular prestige; but he has begun a fascinating campaign for the sanitary conquest of those enormous tracts of the earth, and before long he will have added their intensely fertile soil almost a free gift to the productive