

rival Museum may offer easier facilities for instruction, and then the long-continued want of push and management will prove unfavourable to its prosperity.—C.

THE MIGRATORY QUAIL.

This bird which has been introduced into Canada and the United States during the past few years is the "*Coturnix Communis*" of Europe, a species much smaller than our "*Virginianus*" or Bob White. Unlike the latter it is capable of long and sustained flight, migrating annually from its winter home in Africa, crossing the Mediterranean Sea in its course and dispersing to its breeding places throughout Europe, from whence it again returns on the approach of winter. This bird resembles our Western Quail "*Ortyx Virginianus*" very much but it is about one third smaller and the throat of the male is marked with dark brown or black from the bill downwards.

The nest is simply a depression in the ground lined with a little grass, and is usually situated in a meadow or field. The eggs 12 to 15 in number are of a pale greenish colour, blotched profusely with brown and are about the size of those of the American Robin. The female while incubating sits very close on the nest, the clatter of a mowing machine being sometimes not sufficient to cause her to leave and numerous cases have been recorded where the bird was decapitated by one of these machines rather than leave the nest.

The young birds leave the nest as soon as hatched and mature very rapidly, affording good shooting by September.

As the climate in some of the northern portions of the Dominion is too severe in winter for "*Virginianus*" it has been hoped that the introduction of the Migratory species would be the means of providing our sportsmen with Quail Shooting, as it seems only reasonable that these birds will migrate here as well as in Europe. During the past two years numerous birds have been liberated at St. Stephen,

N.B., Quebec City, Lachine, and other localities. Some young birds were captured at St. John during the same season those had been liberated at St. Stephen and were evidently the young of the latter as none had been liberated nearer. Several nests were also found this season at Lachine where the birds had been introduced in the spring, so there is no doubt of their breeding readily; the most important point is in regard to their returning the following season as in Europe. We believe the experiment has not yet been sufficiently tested in Canada to determine this, although it is reported some of these birds have been seen in the vicinity of Quebec, where they had been liberated the preceding season. The fact of their returning once ascertained without doubt, we have many localities affording suitable covers which would in a few years become valuable shooting grounds. Special legislation for their protection would however be required until they became sufficiently numerous, and generally distributed. Let us hope the introduction will be a success and that in a few years we will be able to number these pretty Quail with our game birds.—WALLACE.

CANADIAN LOBSTER FISHERIES.

In the September number of this Magazine, we spoke of the thousands of Lobsters taken annually from the St. Lawrence Gulf waters of Canada for canning. When the article was written, we had no idea that lobsters were fished out along the Bay Chaleur. We anticipated the first decrease from Prince Edward Island where we are informed the catch is very large during the season. Lobster packers will have to be careful not to overdo this crustacean fishery, as the animals are differently constructed from fish, and have not the power or facility of wandering like the latter. It just comes to this, that the places where bobsters were formerly abundant cannot be so now, and will not pay because the packers, in many instances made no determined restrictions in regard to the capture of the