

hologist, the Rev. F. O. Morris, says in his very interesting account of the sparrow. "I have watched pairs of sparrows repeatedly feeding their young, and have found that they bring food to the nest once in ten minutes during at least six hours of the 24, and that each time from two to six caterpillars are brought—every naturalist will know this to be under the mark. Now, suppose that the 3,500 sparrows destroyed by an association for killing sparrows were to have been all the next spring, each pair to have built a nest, and reared successive broods of young during three months, we have, at the rate of 252,000 per day, the enormous multitude of 21,168,000 larvæ prevented from destroying the products of the land, and from increasing their numbers from 50 to 500 fold!" (see 2nd ed. of first edition, p. 279).

DISCOVERY OF A FOREST OF NUTMEG TREES.—Intelligence has been received by the Dutch Government that Dr. Burnstein, while undertaking a scientific expedition for account of the Colonial Government of Netherlands, India, to the Molucca Islands, and New Guinea, has made a discovery in the Island of Batjan, which may lead to important results, and cannot fail to prove of the greatest interest to all grocers and merchants engaged in the spice trade. In his ascent of the chain of mountains known by the name of the Sabella range—which, it appears, has never been hitherto visited, or at least, scientifically examined by any other European previously—the learned doctor discovered, at an elevation of from 2,600 to 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, a very extensive forest of nutmeg trees, laden with fruit of unusual size and excellent quality—in fact, far superior to any hitherto seen in the European markets. In consequence of the favorable nature of Dr. Burnstein's official communication, reporting that this nutmeg tree forest extends over a very large tract of country, orders have been sent out from Holland to the Governor General to obtain a few piculs of this produce as a sample, and to send it to Holland, where its value will be practically tested by the price it fetches in the usual spice sales of the Netherlands Trading Company.—*The Grocer.*

TO DESTROY RATS IN BARN AND RICK.—Put hogs' lard in a bottle plunged in water of temperature of 150° Fahrenheit; introduce into it half an ounce of phosphorus for every pound of lard, then add a pint of proof spirit or whiskey; cork the bottle firmly after its contents have been to 150°, taking it out of the water and agitating till the phosphorus becomes uniformly diffused, making a milky looking fluid. The spirit may be poured off on the fire and cooling; and you have then a fatty compound, which, after being warmed gently, may be incorporated with a mixture of wheat flour and sugar, flavored with oil of rhodium or oil of

anisee, &c.; and the dough, on being made into pellets, should be laid at the rat holes; being luminous in the dark, and agreeable both to their palates and noses, it is readily eaten and proves certainly fatal. The rats issue from their holes and seek for water to quench their burning thirst, and they commonly die near the water.—*Dr. Uer.*

Mediterranean Winds.

The physical history of the Mediterranean cannot be complete without some notice of the winds, which move this great mass of inland waters. We do not find here, nor could we expect their existence, the constant or strictly periodical atmospheric currents, which sweep over the wider oceans of the globe. In a landlocked basin, thus irregular in outline, studded with mountain isles and girt round in great part by mountain chains, local causes modify or predominate over those general conditions to which the atmosphere is subjected by the rotation of the earth, and its annual revolution round the sun. To other influences on the winds of this sea must be added that of the great African desert, stretching for 2,000 miles in a direction parallel to its southern shore, and in parts touching upon it—an enormous waste of bare sand or rock, vehemently reflecting the rays of a southern sun, and acting as a furnace upon the atmosphere above it. In effect of these and other circumstances, the winds of the Mediterranean, though to a certain extent regular and periodical, yet abound in local characters and local names; and we might readily enumerate more than a dozen, pertaining to different coasts or gulfs—as the *Birazes* of the south-east coast of Spain; the *Vent de Biz*, or *Mistral*, of the southern French coast; the *Raffiche* of Corsica, and other mountainous islands; the *Gregale* of Sardinia and Malta; the *Siffinto* and *Bora* of the Adriatic; the *Tramontana* generally over the Levant; and the *Levanters* and *Sirocco* of the whole Mediterranean. Of these several winds, the *Sirocco*, or south easterly wind, is by far the most remarkable; not merely from its frequency and wide prevalence, but yet more from its physical properties, and peculiar effects on the animal frame. These effects, mainly manifested on the nervous and muscular powers, are now become too familiar to the traveller to need being dwelt upon in detail. Every one who has felt this wind as it occurs at Malta or Palermo will remember that prostration both of body and mind, which is its instant and continued effect—an effect certainly not owing to temperature alone, since winds of greater heat may blow from other quarters without producing the like results. Various circumstances make it probable that the atmospheric electricity is concerned in these phenomena; but we need minute and prolonged observations, like those of Peltier and Quetelet, to satisfy the demands for