

ories had also been established for the study of questions regarding the composition and characteristics of timber and the adapting of them to various uses.

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NOTES.

The Ottawa Humane Society held an exhibition during March at the Carnegie Library of over a thousand bird houses made by school children. Prizes were given to the exhibitor having the largest number of houses and the one exhibiting the best bird house. Several hundred bird houses were entered. There were many kinds, from little wren cottages of one room to large martin apartment houses big enough for twenty families. The houses were offered for sale and the proceeds, over \$75.00, were given to the Red Cross. The boys of forty years ago robbed birds' nests, sometimes to make egg collections. Such exhibitions and competitions as this will do much not only to cure boys of robbing nests and to replace the collecting of eggs by the more valuable observation and study of birds, but also to attract and increase a bird population of great value to our food supply. The efforts of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, which resulted in placing bird houses at the Experimental Farm and in Rockcliffe Park, doubtless had an influence towards this present interest in bird conservation.

The reclamation of swamps is one of the most important problems of the present time. Many of the best lands are still in swamp form, and the sanitation produced if this land were reclaimed would more than pay for the work necessary, by the increased healthfulness of the country. The draining of the swamps is one of the best means of destroying the breeding places of the mosquito, and the extermination of the mosquito is one of the great issues of the day. It was this extermination that made the Panama Canal possible, and has rendered Havana a justly favored health resort.

Miss M. Young of the Mines Branch recently gave a demonstration of pottery making in relation to Mr. J. Keele's work on Canadian clays at the Red Cross meeting of the Women's Branch of the Civil Service, Ottawa. Miss Young has been using designs from prehistoric Canadian Indian pottery in the Museum of the Geological Survey, to develop art pottery distinct from that of the old world or the orient and appropriately Canadian. Some of the best English ware had its birth in the private studio. There is an open field here in Canada for the commercially interested and for the lover of beauty.