

Dr. Adams has not as yet published any full account of these experiments because they are incomplete, in fact they can now be said to be only beginning. A second machine is being built so that the work which is necessarily very slow, may be carried forward more rapidly. The best account of Dr. Adams's discovery is that in the *Scientific American* of April 23rd, 1898.

ORNITHOLOGY.

Edited by W. T. MACOUN.

A SWALLOW ROOST.—About a mile west of London, on what are called the Cove Flats, there are fifteen or twenty rows of willows, very thick-set, about 75 yards long and 15 feet high—evidently the relics of an ancient nursery, plainly showing what kind of tree was the most difficult to sell.

Passing these on the evening of August 4th of this year, I was attracted by the large number of Barn Swallows circling near it, which, as the night drew on, became more and more numerous, until I judged there were about 5,000 birds,—almost all Barn Swallows—in the flock. They flew at random until about 8 o'clock, only a few alighting in the roost before that time, but at 8.04 my note-book records them "falling like leaves," and by 8.05 half were settled. Their manner of descent was both interesting and beautiful, especially of those from the upper strata, for they were flying at all elevations from those just skimming the ground, to those so far up that they could with difficulty be seen, and these latter, in descending at an angle of only 20 degrees from the perpendicular, performed the most beautiful aerial evolutions it has been my fortune to witness. Setting their wings for the drop, they would waver from side to side as they came, much as a leaf wavers, but of course with many times greater speed. A few Purple Martins could be heard, and a few Bank Swallows; once or twice I thought I could detect the Cliff Swallow's note, and next morning I found