

Mr. Long was now emboldened, "since proof is at hand," to relate his observation, made so many years before, of how he saw a woodcock put its broken leg in splints.

These are only samples of the deplorable kind of 'natural history' writing that is now so rapidly coming into vogue, of which Mr. Walton's 'A Hermit's Wild Friends' and so much of Mr. Long's writings form striking examples. An active imagination, a slight knowledge of the subject considered, a clever knack at writing, a few pictures, make up the necessary capital for any amount of natural history romancing, and from the infliction of which upon the public publishers and editors seem to interpose no relief, either through ignorance or the consideration that such yarns meet with ready sale.—J. A. A.

Fisher's 'Birds of Laysan.'—In a paper of some forty pages, illustrated with ten plates, Mr. Walter K. Fisher has given a very interesting account of his ornithological work in the Laysan and Leeward Islands of the Hawaiian Group,¹ which he visited in the summer of 1902, on the expedition of the 'Albatross' to Hawaiian waters for the purpose of deep-sea explorations. Although the cruise lasted from March to August, there seems to have been very little opportunity for on-shore work. The 'Albatross' reached Laysan on May 16 and remained there till the 23d, during which period Mr. Fisher, with Mr. J. O. Snyder, was detailed "to make observations on the bird life of the island and collect such specimens as seemed desirable." Later brief stops were made at French Frigate Shoals, Necker and Bird Islands, but a landing was made only at Necker. In 'The Auk' for October, 1903 (pp. 384-397), Mr. Fisher gave an illustrated account of the forms of bird life peculiar to Laysan, and has contributed to the present number of this journal (pp. 8-20) a paper on the Laysan Albatross.

In the present official report some ten pages are devoted to the itinerary of the trip, including a general account, with illustrations, of the islands visited, and the more striking features of their bird life; this is followed by a systematic list of the 27 species observed, giving detailed accounts of their manner of life on these remote islands. The paper is illustrated with a colored plate of the Necker Island Tern (*Procelsterna saxatilis* Fisher) discovered on this trip, and 52 half-tones made up into nine plates. It is thus an important contribution to the history of island bird life, and especially to that of Laysan and the other islands visited.—J. A. A.

Jones's 'The Birds of Ohio.'²—The first twenty-two pages of this

¹ Birds of Laysan and the Leeward Islands, Hawaiian Group. By Walter K. Fisher. U. S. Fish Commission Bulletin for 1903, pp. 1-39, pll. i-x. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903.

² The Birds of Ohio. A Revised Catalogue. By Lynds Jones, M. Sc., Oberlin College. Ohio State Academy of Science, Special Papers No. 6. 8vo, pp. 141, with map. Oct. 15, 1903.