overbalance almost unanimous testimony, based on many years of experience on the other side of the proposition. Mr. Brooks gives considerable space to general discussion of Economic Ornithology and the Protection of Useful Birds. Treatment of birds by systematic groups however makes up the bulk of the report.— W. L. M.

Bird Pests in War Time.[1] — Recent publications of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries show that war has brought home the necessity of controlling crop destroying pests, birds as well as mammals. Thus sparrows are coupled with rats and rooks with rabbits. The formation of rat and sparrow clubs is advised and the details of organization, and amounts of bounties they may pay are specified. For sparrows the rates, in each case for a dozen, are: one penny for eggs, two pence for young, and three pence for adults. Various methods of combating sparrows and rooks are advised, those involving the destruction of eggs and young being most favored. The sparrow is definitely classed as "small vermin" for which under certain restrictions poisons may be legally laid. To conserve lead the use of ammunition for destroying pests is permitted only under license. — W. L. M.

Field Study of the Food of Nestlings. — The 1915 volume of the Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science which has just come to hand (June 25, 1917) includes an article on 'The Food of Nestling Birds.'[2] This paper contains detailed records of the number of feedings of broods of the Brown Thrasher, Robin (10 nests), Wood Pewee (2 nests) and Kingbird. The general nature of the food also is shown.

So far as this data goes, it is good, but it does not have the value implied by the authors in their somewhat inaccurate remarks upon another method of studying the food of nestlings. "It is contended," say they, "that the stomach contents afford the only accurate and reliable method of study of the food of birds. We believe that this method is not applicable to the food of nestling birds for two reasons: first, the food is soft and not readily identifiable; and the second and more important reason is that the food is digested very rapidly. The stomach contents do not serve as a criterion of the *quantity* of food that is eaten in the course of a day" (p. 232).

The remark in the last sentence is true; we must depend upon field observations to a large extent for ideas upon the quantity of food consumed. It must not be inferred however, that stomach examination is useless in this respect; on the contrary, it has served as the basis for a number of valuable estimates.

The declarations of Messrs. Enders and Scott, relating to the identification of the food of nestlings by stomach examination are wide of the mark

[1] Leaflet No. 84, 1916, and Bulletins 2 and 4 of Series A, 1917.

[2] Enders, H. E., and Scott, Will, pp. 323–337.