

full consideration is given to bird enemies. Wetmore's account¹ of the subject is quoted almost in full and the statement made that "The most efficient enemies of the change are to be found among the native birds."—W. L. M.

Protection of Military Carrier-Pigeons.—An interesting article² by Professor Henri Blanc, informs us that the Military and Interior Departments of the Swiss government in 1915 demanded that a warfare be carried on throughout Switzerland against birds of prey capable of destroying Carrier Pigeons in flight with messages. In following this order some of the cantons offered bounties of as much as four francs per bird. From Sept. 11 to Dec. 13, 1915, Professor Blanc states, 86 hawks were presented for identification at the museum of which he is curator. Among these were 11 *Cerchneis tinnunculus* and 17 *Buteo vulgaris* which are deemed especially useful species. Examination of the stomachs of some of these birds revealed only small rodents in those of the former species and large grasshoppers and small rodents in those of the latter.

Examination of the stomachs of *Accipiter nisus*, *Astur palumbarius* and *Falco peregrinus* yielded only remains of small birds, and in one case of a chicken. "On the basis of these autopsies," the author says, "one must conclude that the rapacious birds killed in the canton of Vaud in 1915 have not done the assumed damage to the carrier pigeons of the army." The total number of birds of prey killed in Switzerland in 1915 was 806, of which 506 were *Accipiter nisus*, 159 *Astur palumbarius* and 35 *Falco peregrinus*. This is a very high percentage (more than 80) of destructive bird hawks, and shows greater success in restricting slaughter to these species than has been attained in similar campaigns in the United States.

A recent issue of the Official Bulletin³ informs us that the United States army also is losing some of the carrier pigeons in training, but from another cause. The Bulletin says "Any pigeon in the air may be a carrier pigeon flying from a loft under government supervision. Its destruction may be a serious loss to the American Army. All persons therefore, are urged to refrain from the shooting of pigeons and to discourage the practice." The birds bear bands with the legend "U. S. A.—18" and persons coming into possession of any birds so marked are requested to report the fact to the Chief Signal Officer, Land Division, Washington, D. C.—W. L. M.

Birds Probably not Distributors of Hog Cholera.—The following is quoted from the Annual Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1917 (p. 48). "The belief that birds play an important part in the spread of hog cholera led to some

¹ Bull. 326, U. S. Dept. Agr., 1916, pp. 9, 10, 21, 31, 32.

² Destruction des Oiseaux rapaces diurnes dans le canton de Vaud et en Suisse pendant l'annee 1915. Bull. Soc. Vaud. Sci. Nat., 51, 1917, pp. 315-319.

³ Washington, D. C. Feb. 5, 1918, p. 8.