

RECENT LITERATURE.

Lanier's 'A. B. Frost the American Sportsman's Artist.'—No sportsman's "den" in recent years has been considered quite complete without one or more of Frost's shooting pictures, and probably no illustrator of the popular magazines of the nineties became so close to the readers as did A. B. Frost. It will therefore be a satisfaction to his host of friends, both those who knew him personally and those who knew him only through his work, that a tribute to the man and artist, such as Mr. Lanier has produced, should be made available to all.

Mr. Lanier points out the attitude of art critics of considering sporting art as the "poor relation to Art" proper, and of referring to it as "art for sport's sake," and then goes on to show the important place that has been accorded it in other countries and the lack of appreciation in America. His handsomely gotten up book¹ with its numerous delightful reproductions of the artist's work is not only a biography of Frost but contains a most interesting résumé of shooting and fishing and general outdoor life in Philadelphia, the "city of sporting pleasures," from 1850 to 1890. Frost's drawings, he says, "cover thirty or forty years of what is, for the sportsman, a vanished America. They represent dozens of scenes close to cities and seaside resorts which have since stretched out and engulfed the former haunts of quail and grouse and shore-birds. The motor car speeded up the change, bringing a horde of gunners, who had no characteristic of the sportsman except the desire to shoot something, into choice spots once safely remote from the crowd. We have now reached the age of great private preserves, licenses to shoot and fish, commercial game farms, operating under state game breeder's licenses and open to hunters on payment of specified fees, ordinary farmers who must be paid for the right to hunt over their property—and with it all, far less chance to get a day's sport than when we travelled seven miles an hour behind a horse instead of forty in an automobile. That is progress. It must be accepted as a fact like any other "Car of Juggernaut." As true a picture as we have seen anywhere! And it is no wonder that the old time sportsman feels like abandoning his pursuit entirely! The main text of the book is replete with extracts from Frost's letters to his friends describing trips to the south and west, while the author's sympathetic account of his life and work gives us an intimate picture of the man.

The illustrations, some sixty-five in number, represent the best of the artist's sporting pictures beautifully reproduced, and including the twelve that made up his famous series of "Shooting Pictures." There is also a reproduction of the entire text of a humorous account of "The Great

¹ A. B. Frost | the | American Sportsman's | Artist | By Henry Wyshan Lanier | Illustrated | New York | The Derrydale Press. 1933. Pp. i-xvi + 1-164 + many plates on unnumbered pages. Size 9 x 12 ins. Price \$17.50. The Derrydale Press, 127 East 34th St., New York City.

Pigeon Shoot on Christmas Day 1875" written in long hand by Frost and interspersed with amusing pen sketches, as well as two full page portraits of Frost by his wife and by Thomas Eakins.

Mr. Lanier has produced a beautiful and most readable book which should find a place in every sportsman's library, as well as in that of every lover of nature and outdoor life.—W. S.

Madon's 'Les Rapaces d'Europe.'¹—This report brings into one volume the bulk of existing knowledge of the food habits of both the nocturnal and the diurnal raptors of Europe, and is a compilation of published and unpublished data from the works of economic ornithologists throughout continental Europe and the British Isles. The summarized data from analyses of the contents of no fewer than 10,000 stomachs and 65,600 pellets have entered into its text and tables. To say the least, the bringing together of these scattered data from a host of different sources, recorded in many languages, has been a task of considerable proportions.

From these summarized data the author concludes that only the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) and the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) of the nocturnal raptors merit complete protection. The European Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) and the Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*) are classed as destructive, while for the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), the European Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*), and the Lap Owl (*Scotiaptex lapponica*) toleration is recommended, especially in the more sparsely populated regions where they exert considerable pressure on the migratory lemming. The Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*) is considered more or less indifferent economically, while the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) and the European Scops Owl (*Otus scops*) are thought to be of value occasionally. Of the diurnal birds of prey, the Vultures and the large Eagles are placed in a class by themselves as deserving protection because of their rarity. The Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), the Short-toed Eagle (*Circus gallicus*), and the Western Red-legged Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) are considered useful, and the Hen-Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) indifferent. The Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*), the Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), and the Merlin (*Falco columbarius aesalon*), along with the Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), are left more or less on the border line. Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraaëtus fasciatus*), the Booted Eagle (*Hieraaëtus pennatus*), the Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), both Kites (*Milvus milvus* and *Milvus migrans*), the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeëtus albicilla*), the Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and the Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*) are "outlawed" as being too destructive to be tolerated. These conclusions, of course, are strictly those of the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of other European investigators whose data he uses.

¹ Les Rapaces d'Europe, leur régime, leurs relations avec l'Agriculture et la Chasse. P. Madon. Chez l'Auteur, 5, Avenue Vauban, Toulon, France. 292 pages. 1933. Price 35 francs.