

no conception of the damage they cause alike to the native vegetation and the native birds. We need not be surprised at the opossum flourishing apace in New Zealand bush. Almost all the trees and shrubs are of a much more succulent and nutritious nature than is the vegetation of its native country—Australia. Should these animals be permitted to increase for commercial purposes the result will be the certain depletion alike of the native bush and the native birds. Let anyone interested in the welfare of both procure one or two opossums and keep them in captivity for a season. They will very soon convince the experimentalist that they are very partial to small birds' eggs. Let him introduce a blackbird's or a thrush's nest containing eggs, and observe the result. There have lately been many erroneous statements published on the harmlessness of opossums to our beautiful native bush and unique birds."

TREE GUARDED BY DOG.

On Kapiti Sanctuary near the caretaker's residence a lone kotukutuku or konini bearing tree stands, one of the last if not the last of many such valuable bird food trees which once prospered on the island. Camped near this tree is a dog trained to touch no birds, but to bring death to goats and opossums.

A TRAPPER'S STORY.

Hon. Secretary: "How are you getting along with your trapping?"

Trapper: "All right—got eight this morning—my word! Don't they give the trees what—oh?—They just can eat and cut the leaves off. They ringbark saplings, and tear off bark and play the very deuce."

Hon. Secretary: "Yes, it's a bad look out for our birds and forests where they are."

WEASELS, STOATS, ETC.

In respect of extermination leading immediately to extinction, the present condition of the New Zealand fauna is one that must grieve to the utmost every ornithologist who cares for more than the stuffed skin of a bird on a shelf. In the fauna of that region the class aves holds the highest rank, and though its mightiest members had passed away before the settlement of white men, what was left of its avifauna had features of interest unsurpassed by any