

number in the same area, more than ten times over, and are glad of it.

There are conditions where birds and animals sometimes become a nuisance by being over numerous; this is the case in some places in Utah with rabbits, squirrels, etc., and sparrows and perhaps other birds. At such times the equilibrium ought to be preserved by a reduction of the excess. Still, people can go too far, thinking they see as a reason for wholesale destruction of birds and animals a damage that as a matter of fact would be largely augmented if those birds and animals were removed and the insect pests which are harder to fight were to be without this agency to aid in keeping them in check. The bird and insect question has several phases, and it is not advisable to take an extreme view as to either of them.

HEALTH IN FLOWERS.

In these days of bacteria, microbes, bacilli and other agencies for destroying human health and life, it is refreshing to have a suggestion come once in a while that although we are given to understand that nature has piled up a vast array of foes to hearty longevity, she also has supplied a host of friends, if we would cultivate their acquaintance in a practical way. People are learning that much of the good or ill they experience comes from what food they eat and how and when they eat it; also from the care they give their bodies in cleanliness, exercise, and contact with nature's great invigorators, pure air and sunlight. Once in a while we get a warning that house plants in a sick room are inadvisable because they take up the ozone which the patient should have; and this is met by the response that disease germs also are taken up by clean and well kept plants, which thus become a benefit, and in due order supply, in the blooming season, that very ozone which is the great purifier of the atmosphere.

Upon this question of the healthfulness of plants, a recent issue of the Hospital Review has considerable to say. It urges that the attractiveness of well cared-for plants is not the only good thing about them, and goes on to say that it has been clearly established by thorough experiments that many species of microbes and disease germs are easily destroyed by the various odors of flowers. It gives a partial list, in which it is stated that the odor of cloves has been known to destroy these minute creatures in 35 minutes; cinnamon will kill some species in 12 minutes; thyme in 35. In 45 minutes common wild verbena is found effective, while the odor of some geranium flowers has destroyed various forms of microbes in 50 minutes. The essence of cinnamon is said to destroy the typhoid fever microbe in 12 minutes, and is recorded as the most effective of all odors as an antiseptic. It is now believed that flowers which are found in Egyptian mummies were placed there more for their antiseptic properties than as mere ornaments or elements in sentimental work.

These being demonstrated facts, as claimed, there ought not to be much

excuse hereabouts for being without a good supply of clean, well kept, thorough-working and beautiful microbe destroyers. An army of such aids to health as flowers is of incomparably greater satisfaction than being dozed with drugs and antiseptics with or without. The claim of this virtue for flowers also might be a hint to some observing minds to determine whether there is a difference in the degree of health enjoyed by those who are surrounded by flowers and those who are not, other conditions being about the same.

THE SPRAYING LAW.

In response to several requests, we give a summary of the State law creating a board of horticulture—the spraying law, as it is commonly called. The act creates a board of horticulture consisting of a president appointed by the Governor and paid by the State and of a county inspector from each county, appointed and paid by the counties. The salary of inspectors is fixed at \$3 per day for the time actually engaged, and that of deputy inspectors is placed at \$2.50 per day. Persons who are not practical horticulturists are not eligible to hold the office of county tree inspector. An annual convention of the board of horticulture may be called by the president, who is required to direct, instruct and compel the inspectors to carry out the provisions of the law. The county inspectors must annually inspect each orchard, vineyard and nursery in their respective counties if the county commission so order, and must report to the commissioners and the president of the board of horticulture.

The law requires that prior to the 15th of April of each year every orchard and vineyard shall be thoroughly cleaned of dead leaves and debris, which shall be burned; and every owner, occupant or person in charge of an orchard, vineyard or nursery is required to disinfect all fruit trees, bushes or vines that are infested with fruit destroying insects, etc. This disinfection is to be done by spraying; but no spraying is to be done while the trees are in bloom. The county inspector is to give notice when the spraying is to be performed; and every person failing to comply or who interferes with the inspector is made guilty of a misdemeanor. Those who engage in the spraying business for hire must secure a certificate of authorization from the county commissioners.

We have been asked as to how often the spraying of trees is required each season. Whoever will carefully read the law will find that the county inspector can serve notice for only one, unless by investigation later on he finds the trees or bushes to be infested; then he can give another notice, and so on. The expression that he is to state the "time or times when it is proper to disinfect the trees" cannot be construed to mean that he can require to one notice more spraying than one, since that would make the law unconstitutional on the very point that the former law was held to be invalid. The statute and not the inspector orders the spraying, and then only of infested trees. The inspector

may designate a dozen times when it is "proper" to spray, and if the disinfecting is done on any one of them, the law is fulfilled. It is quite clear that the requirement of some county inspectors of a series of sprayings throughout the season is an assumption of legislative authority beyond their legitimate powers, and hence notices to that effect are of no worth. With a general notice for spraying, and designating a time or times when it is proper to observe that, his jurisdiction to direct the performance ceases until he discovers that an orchard is infested; then it may be that he is authorized to issue another notice to spray.

THE PLANT AND ITS BLOOM.

In a meeting in this city the other day, where a select company had assembled for instruction, a speaker who has passed the three-score-and-ten mark and has had many experiences in Europe, America and in the Isles of the Pacific used as an illustration of a point which he wished to impress upon his younger hearers a beautiful flower that had been cut and placed in a glass of water, and which attracted favorable attention from the company. Said he, in substance: "The fragrance and loveliness of that flower receive more attention for a little while today than they did when it was on the plant among the mass of its associates in the flower bed. Its brightness and beauty are singled out for notice now, partly because it is separate from others of its kind, and partly because of the fact that, unconsciously perhaps with many, we realize the bloom is about to fade and wither away. Sweet and lovely as it is, we recognize that its end is come—no more is it connected with the source whence it obtained its fragrance and its worth. It has been cut from the parent stem; it is dying, or dead. But the plant from which it was taken lives, to produce more flowers as beautiful, and which, if they are allowed to remain on it, will develop the seed that propagates more of its kind, and thus may go on increasing forever. Here we may realize that the brightest flower is not greater than the plant that gives it existence. Do not think that the showy bloom which is cut off and dying contains all the worth. The real prize is the plant which produced it. The flower loses by being cut from its source of life—but to the plant there is no loss; in due time it brings more flowers to supply the place of those that are taken away, and fade, and die without accomplishing the full measure of perfection that naturally would have attended them if no separation had taken place."

The principle illustrated by the speaker finds application in all the walks of life. Many, very many people set their store on the beauty of the cut flower, and when it withers away are without its source; but the wiser ones who set their store on the plant that continues to produce and to increase, have neither fears nor occasion for disappointment—the flowers continue to bud and bloom for them. The Latter-day Saints may look on frequent illustrations of this principle in their experience as a Church organi-