

or for any specimens that may be required at the station. To him we are also indebted for the loan of various useful literature. The spawning season of the flatfishes continues to be well defined both as regards season and depth of water. The first eggs were collected on 21st July, and between that date and 21st August, 2,545,000 sole and brill eggs were collected. A few sole-larvæ were retained in the tanks up to the tenth day, by which time the eyes had become prominent and the pectoral fins were formed, but no trace of a commencement of the metamorphosis into the flatfish was found. A little more knowledge has been gained of the spawning of several of our most valuable food-fishes, but until these observations have been confirmed and brought to a definite conclusion it would be inadvisable to include them or the drawings in this year's report.

*General.*—The stock of books on pisciculture and kindred subjects in the library has been considerably augmented during the year. Annual reports from various marine stations come to hand regularly, and the addition of these and other pamphlets, &c., makes the library one of the most valuable and necessary adjuncts to the station. The whole of the buildings and plant have been maintained in excellent repair. The interior of the cottage has been painted and papered throughout, and slight interior alterations have been made. New piston-rings have been fitted to the pump engine. The old pond-valves had become wormeaten, and new ones have been fitted. Two new cog-wheels have been fitted to the slip-winch. The dinghy and launch have been regularly slipped, scrubbed, and painted. The centreboard has been taken out of the launch and a new outer keel fitted, and eight new ribs have been put in, and she is now in perfect condition and proving most useful.

The alterations to the present ponds by subdivision and deepening were commenced on 1st March. Close upon 100 yards of concrete will be required for this work. About 30 yards have already been put in, and it is expected that the whole of our time will be taken up with this work for the next two or three months. When completed these alterations will permit of a much more varied stock being kept with little or no increased annual expenditure. The smaller ponds should prove suitable for rearing-experiments, or they could be roofed over in the event of very severe cold weather should it be found necessary to protect any introduced stock.

The report of the experiments with regard to the retardation of the development of the eggs of the herring has come to hand, and, although it has been found possible to retard them for from fifty to fifty-five days, the numbers that have been hatched out at the end of that period were very small, and I would not recommend that any attempt be made to bring them out until more favourable results can be shown. I do not consider that it would be possible to transport the adult herring alive to the Dominion.

Owing to the alteration of her route, the fish-tanks and cooling-apparatus have been removed from the s.s. "Karamea," and are at present stored in London, and in the event of further shipments of any kind being made it would be necessary to fit them up on board some other vessel coming direct to Port Chalmers.

Very little outside labour has been employed throughout the year, and the general working-expenses have been kept as low as possible.

I have, &c.,

T. ANDERTON. .