

estimated 11 birds. Since then other observers have reported larger numbers on the Como foreshore.

WHALE QUOTAS ANNOUNCED

The Director of the Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industry, has advised that the 1962 quotas for the humpback whaling season have been set by the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Adermann.

The Cheynes Beach Whaling Company, at Albany, has been allotted 100 humpback units, while the Nor'-West Whaling Company, at Carnarvon, has a quota of 450. The numbers allotted this year are similar to the initial quotas announced last year when the Cheynes Beach Company was allotted 105 and the Nor'-West Whaling Company 450.

BOTULISM - NO MASS MORTALITIES

In spite of the particularly dry conditions obtaining since last July, comparatively few cases of botulism in waterfowl were reported to the Department last summer. The conditions which favour the growth of the particular bacterium which generates the toxin are very poorly understood. The absence of mass mortalities this year might, or might not, have been occasioned by the earlier drying out of waters at a time when temperatures were higher. Dr N.F. Stanley, Professor of Microbiology at the University of Western Australia, and an authority on virus diseases, says that the type of botulism which affects birds is not harmful to humans. On the other hand, fish have been recorded as having been poisoned by strains of botulism which would affect humans, and if any great mortality of fish is noted in the Swan River, Head Office should be advised immediately so that the information can be passed to Professor Stanley, who is desirous of studying the question fully. Samples of the dead fish should be taken provided they are not grossly putrefied.