

FEATHERED PET ON WATCH

Canary Has Constituted Itself Guardian of New York Man's In-fant Treasure.

Bringing home a canary in a cage, a Yonkers man gave it to his wife as a birthday present and the songster was established in the lady's boudoir, not far from a crib in which the household baby took daily naps.

The tot immediately became interested in his new neighbor and the bird would fly against the bars of his brass prison in efforts to get nearer the child. But the pair got better acquainted when the baby was held up to the cage and had its fingers thrust inside the bars. On such occasions the canary would hop on the baby's hand and gently peck at the tiny, dimpled digits.

CAT MUST NOT BE STRUCK

Other Method of Punishment is Recommended by an Authority on the Subject.

It isn't a very nice task to punish a cat. You're fond of her, but there are times when she must be chastised. This is how to do it, according to Louis Wain, the great authority on the fascinating feline.

In the first place, don't actually strike the cat. A blow merely numbs it. And when the spine, which is its most sensitive part, is struck—particularly if the cat is old—it is likely to spring at the striker.

When pussy does anything wrong, frighten the wrongdoer by striking a stick in the ground. A cat is most sensitive to sounds, and will connect this new noise with what it has done. It feels more intensely than most animals; hence its supposed savagery in cases. Cats are highly electrical, and it is very good to have one perch on one's shoulder or knees.

Forcing Growth of Plants.

Plants have a mind of their own on the subject of winter sleep, and gardeners have tried various methods of waking them up prematurely, to furnish blossoms at a time when they are scarce and costly. Mere greenhouse heat and moisture failing to yield the desired results, they have successfully tried warm baths and ether vapors, to shorten the hibernant period of bulbs. From Germany comes a description of the latest plan, devised by a man named Weber.

Marked Difference in Skins.

An importing firm recently received a shipment of tiger cat skins from Paraguay and the Argentine Republic and placed alongside a lot of North American wildcat skins the difference in color and markings was very noticeable. Both animals are of about the same size, but the South American cat is covered with round black spots much like those of the leopard, but smaller in size. These spots contrast strongly with the surrounding fur, which is of a grayish white color, very different from the reddish color of the North American wildcat. The fur of the South American wildcat is not so thick as that of his North American cousin, but the skins are said to dress well and make good robes and rugs.—Fur News.

Sincerity.

Roscoe, aged three, had been taken, to Sunday school, for the first time, by his brother Richard, two years his senior. It was customary for the entire class to kneel at the beginning of the recitation period each Sunday and repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison, slowly and solemnly, with pauses. Roscoe had been thoroughly drilled in the prayer, so that no trouble was anticipated on that score.

On the particular Sunday of Roscoe's first and only visit, the prayer had reached the clause, "Give us this day our daily bread," when, during the pause which followed, little Roscoe, to the distress of Richard and the consternation of the class, added in a shrill treble, "And a little gravy!"—Judge.

Lesson From the Past.

Sir Isaac Newton had discovered the law of gravitation. "Now," he said, "I'd like to have a suit case brought before the supreme court as soon as possible, to find out whether or not it's constitutional." For he knew the aviators would insist that it exercised an unreasonable restraint upon their trade.

DESERVED TO MAKE A SALE

Book Agent at Least Showed That He Had the Valuable Quality of Perseverance.

The book agent who walked into Peter Steffen's office looked like an ingenious fellow, but Steffen, glancing up in a hurry, spied his trade in a minute and muttered to himself:

"Confound that boy. Now, how did that fellow get in?"

"Aloud, he said: 'You're wasting your time here. I won't buy anything today.'"

"If you'll only let me show you—"

"No," shouted Steffen.

"It won't take a minute—"

"But, really, my dear sir, this is something out of the common—"

"No use. I can't read," said Steffen.

"But your family, sir, would you deprive them—"

"I would," said Steffen. "If I had any, I'm an orphan."

"Well, you might want something to throw at the cat," suggested the book agent.

"Do you think," demanded Steffen, "that I would demean my cat by throwing your miserable publication at her?"

The book agent was only dashed a second.

"What about me," he asked, insinuatingly. "Don't you want something to throw at me the next time I come?"

MANNERS WAIT ON LEISURE

Modern Day Discourtesy Seemingly the Result of the Universal "Rush."

The young lady who described a burglar the other day as a "perfect gentleman," wasn't very far wrong. For burglars are among the few persons who can afford the time to be perfect gentlemen.

Gentle manners have had their highest development in periods when time was of smallest importance. The elaborate code of the French courts was the substance of ease. It was bred with the care which only leisure can provide. The gallantry of the ante-bellum South was as famous as the ante-bellum hospitality. The one cost nothing of time as the other cost nothing in effort.

While people have been struggling and bumping and shoving in "L" and subway trains in New York, the people who rode in the cross-town horse cars—relics of an earlier decade—have been practicing a politeness which, by contrast with the boorishness so painfully evident elsewhere, was touching and exquisite. The patrons of the horse cars were those with time to spare.

The rush of modern American life is not an excuse for bad manners. But it is an explanation. We cannot preach economy of time without forcing economies in other things—and among these are thoughtfulness and consideration.

Mistake Cost \$200,000.

The temporary loss of an important paper once cost this country nearly \$200,000,000. This was in connection with the famous Alabama incident in the American Civil war.

The vessel was quietly constructed at Birkenhead, and launched on May 15, 1862. Then, and not till then, suspicion of its true character was aroused, and a case was prepared for the law officers' opinion. But the messenger entrusted with the papers put them in the wrong letter box. Two days passed before the mistake was learned, and when orders were telegraphed to stop the vessel the Alabama had steamed from the Mersey on a voyage of destruction for which we had to pay something more than the price of a telegram.—London Chronicle.

Much Like Modern Audiences.

The tricks of theater audiences have been remarkably similar in all ages. Alciphron, who wrote of the later A. C. comedy, shows that the clique who know the town, and also "young men of the town" who took a malicious delight in hissing a play off the stage. Theophrastus, who died in 288 B. C., sketches among his "characters" the man of superior taste, whose pride it was to hiss when everybody else applauded, and to clap when the rest were silent; and the annoying person who would hum or whistle an accompaniment to every tune that pleased him. And Aristotel himself refers to operators who brought out provisions during the dull parts of the performance.—London Chronicle.

Fill Mines With Sand.

The owners of many mines in Europe and Australia fill the abandoned workings with sand, so that the mines may become once more a part of the solid crust of the earth. Old, worked-out mines are often a menace to buildings or communities above them, and protection by timbering, which is the American method, affords security for no great length of time. Sand filling has been practiced in the mines of western Australia for the last fourteen years. W. H. Storms, writing in the Engineering and Mining Journal, says that the cost in Australia is about 20 cents for each ton of ore extracted.

A Legal Mind.

"No use whispering soft nothings to that girl—she's a law student." "She's very happy. How does being a law student affect her case?" "Well, she's quick to detect the incompetent, the irrelevant, and the immaterial."

Does Seem Odd.

"Napoleon was a remarkable man." "Yes; he was a remarkable man. But why should he wear seven suits of clothes at Waterloo?" "Seven suits!" "I have seen that many in various museums."

Guest Room Blate.

One of the greatest conveniences which a hostess can devise for her guests is a clearly written card set on the bedroom writing table detailing the hours of meals, the times of incoming and outgoing posts, the principal trains and other useful information.

It was someone's clever idea to provide a small china slate in each room, on which might be written instructions for the housemaid. It is often difficult to find her during the day in order to ask for the hot bottle, the glass of warm milk, the necessary help when dressing for dinner, or other needs that may be required, and to ring for her often is not desirable.

The Upper Class.

"Aviation is quite an aristocratic sort of sport, isn't it?" "Certainly, since all who pursue it may properly be described as belonging to the upper class."

KEEPS HENS AT THEIR WORK

Simple Contrivance Used by Westarr Man Cures Them of Desire to "Set."

Owners of hens are frequently greatly annoyed by the persistent desire of their fowls to set, in season and out, on eggs, stones or other objects to hand. But a western man has evolved a plan to circumvent the hen in this respect.

The cure consists of a cheap watch with a loud and clear tick, inclosed in a case that is white and shaped like an egg. When one of the hens belonging to this westerner manifests a desire to set out of season he gently places the bogus egg under her sheltering breast. The "egg" ticks cheerfully away, and soon the hen begins to evince signs of uneasiness and stirs the noisy egg around with her bill, thinking, no doubt, that it is already time for it to hatch. She becomes more and more uneasy as the noise continues, and soon jumps off the nest and runs about a while to cool off. Soon, however, she returns to her self-imposed task. Matters get worse and worse; she wiggles about and cackles, ruffles her feathers and generally shows distress. Finally, with a wild squawk, she abandons the nest for half a dozen of these noisy eggs, and he claims that they pay for themselves again and again during the year by holding the hens to their business of laying and preventing them from wasting the golden hours in useless incubating.

SOMETHING NOT IN DEMAND

One Accomplishment That Employers of Cashiers Make No Great Effort to Foster.

Having graduated from a business college with honors the young man thought himself competent to tackle any problem in banking that could be learned without actual experience, but the old clerk knew better.

"Can you make an erasure so neatly that it would take an expert to tell where it had been done?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," said the young man with conscious pride.

"Well, for heaven's sake don't tell your prospective employer so or you will be looking for a job this time next year," the old clerk said.

"Employers are afraid of too much skill in that direction. It gives such enormous opportunities for fraud that they will fight shy of hiring you."

"I found that out in my young days. I also was an expert with the ink eraser and proudly proclaimed my accomplishment. Finally, when I found myself toiling the starvation mark I ceased to boast, and have held a good situation ever since."

Birds Flock to Their Death.

An old sportsman of Normandy declares that round the lighthouse of Barfleur last November there were picked up in the course of four nights 10,000 birds of all sorts, including 1,800 woodcock. The lighthouse on the Pointe de Penmarc'h, in Brittany, has a revolving light of 30,000,000 candle power. Visiting this on November 10 last year, and again on the 12th, an observer saw tens of thousands of birds whirling round, and it seemed to him that the light shot out a perfect hail of electric sparks among the migrants. Next morning he was present while the dead bodies were being collected. They are dispatched every day to Paris by train, and the "catch," he was told, often comprised 2,000 to 4,000 victims; one morning alone there had been more than 600 woodcock in the "bag."

Instinct Was There.

Mr. Isaacs had had a busy day, what with lending money at 90 per cent, and discounting bills at 50, and he was annoyed on returning home to find the apple of his eye howling, the house down. That child would not be quiet, not even when his fond papa took him in his arms. Then the parent tried walking up and down the room, singing songs, but after having sung every song from "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" to "Hey Diddle Diddle," he thought of giving it up. However, he tried one more song. It was "Sing a Song of Sixpence." Hardly had he started when there was an instant hush and a tiny voice cried out: "Make it two shillings, fader; I'll be ableep in thirty seconds!"—London Answers.

Regulus a Roman Hero.

Regulus is counted as one of the great heroes of the old Roman empire. He was in command of an army that made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Carthage in Africa. The Carthaginians killed many of the Romans and took the rest prisoners. Among the captives was Regulus, the commander.

Now it happened that the Romans held several Carthaginians in captivity as well, so the leaders in Carthage offered to give Regulus his freedom if Rome would free their generals. The Romans were willing, but Regulus, the one for whom the trade was being made, counseled otherwise. He advised his people to hold fast to the Carthaginians and let Carthage do its worst to him, because the Carthaginian captives Rome held, Regulus said, were worth more than he was. He died a brave man's death.

Cat Fond of Eggs.

The owner of a clever cat writes to Our Dumb Animals that the pet, "a great fat, lazy, good natured fellow," has a fondness for eggs. Sir Tom was detected in the kitchen recently on a table watching an unopened bag of eggs. "Stepping back noiselessly," writes the owner, "we saw him cautiously tear the bag with his teeth and claws, stopping every little bit to listen. Finally the opening was large enough for him to get out an egg by gentle little pats. He held the egg in his mouth, jumped to the floor, rolled his prize about gently until he got it into position, and then bumped it against the table leg until it broke. Then he enjoyed his feast." The writer wonders where Tom got the taste, as he is and his ancestors for generations back were city bred.

Nature's Wise Provisions.

Many Scandinavians have a decidedly different anatomical construction from less hyperborean people. In these hardy northern men the layer of fat under the skin, panniculus adiposus, is somewhat seal-like and blubbery, something like in those cold sea animals, the whale, seal and walrus. Also the blood vessels in this fat are somewhat overdeveloped as in sea mammals. All this comes about from exposure to the severities of disease and climate. It is no unusual thing for Norwegians and Swedes to stay in icy cold water for hours hunting sea weed without suffering sickness or discomfort.

Unique Features in Bull Fight.

At El Toleo plaza bulls from six of the leading ganaderias of the republic fought in a benefit for the white cross, and a unique feature was introduced in that there were prizes offered for the bravest bull of the afternoon and for the best type of fighting bull shown. A prize of \$1,000 was hung up for the bravest bull and a committee of aficionados chosen which sat as a sort of jury and rendered a decision.—Mexican Herald.

His Last Resort.

A young man who sought death jumped off a high bridge and was saved. He threw himself off a cliff and was picked up uninjured. He shot himself and got well; hung himself and was cut down in time; tried gas just as the company shut off the supply; took poison and took too much. "Well, well," he muttered, "there's one sure way left. I'll go and get a job in some big factory."

South American Shrub Has Properties That Put Sugar Completely In the Shade.

It has been suggested that what may turn out to be the great sugar producing plant of the future is a dwarfish shrub found in South America. Its botanical name is Eupatorium rebandum, and it is said, the results of careful experiments indicate that it yields a sugar from twenty to thirty times as sweet as ordinary cane or beet sugar. One advantage claimed for the sugar derived from this plant is that it occupies, in proportion to its sweetening powers, less than one-twentieth of the bulk of ordinary cane sugar.

The world today uses more than twice the amount of sugar that it did a quarter of a century ago. The people of the United States consume a great deal more sugar, in one form or another, than those of any other nation. It is surprising to learn that in Europe sugar was used at first only at feasts and for medicinal purposes. At the close of the seventeenth century the sugar industry in France was a monopoly controlled by the apothecaries. Its introduction as an article of table use was vigorously opposed, eminent authorities declaring it "a poison." Boyle and other scientists of his day averred that sugar induced congestion of the lungs, apoplexy, diseases of the stomach and even consumption. By far the sweetest substance known at this time is the coal tar product called saccharine. It is two hundred times the sweetness of cane sugar.

DISPELLED DREAM OF WEALTH

Danish Woman Finally Convinced as to the Value of Note Peculiarly Marked.

The woman handed her friend a \$5 bill. "See the number of small fives engraved on it!" she asked. "When I was in Denmark a few years ago such a bill as that caused me a great deal of amusement, and I had to surrender one before I could prove myself clear of a false belief regarding my finances. An aunt whom I was visiting saw in my purse one day a number of these bills, and she asked to examine one, as it was so different from any of the Danish money. She studied it attentively a few minutes, and then asked me how much it was. I told her it was \$5, and, to my surprise, I saw she did not believe me. 'If it is only that amount,' she said, 'why has it so many little figures on it?' I tried to explain, but I made little impression on her. Later I heard she had told our relatives that I was 'worth thousands and thousands of dollars' and was trying to conceal the fact from the family lest they should expect some things of me that they would not otherwise. When I heard that I was visiting in another part of the country and could not very well defend myself, so I hit on the expedient of sending my aunt a present of a \$5 bill. When she went to have it changed into the money of the country she was at last convinced, though at the price of having her dream of wealth rudely shattered."

QUEER CASE OF SMUGGLING

Stolen Partridge Eggs Brought Into Vienna by Means of a Dummy Baby.

A singular case of smuggling by means of a dummy baby was brought to light by the city customs officials at the North-western station recently. Partridge eggs have for long past been extensively stolen from preserved estates in Hungary, smuggled into Vienna and sold to poultry dealers, who hatched the eggs in incubators, brought up the birds by hand, and sold them below the prices asked by more honest dealers. A special lookout for smugglers has resulted in the arrest of two peasant women.

Arriving in Vienna in the national Slavonian costume, each of them carried a baby, tied according to the invariable national custom, to a cushion, and so closely "packed" that only the face was visible. The women were noticed to be a little agitated as they passed the customs, and they were followed home. It was then discovered that while one baby was a living child, the other was a dummy. It consisted of a wax head, partly hidden by a shawl and a cap, while the cushion was filled with more than 500 partridge eggs.—Vienna Correspondence London Daily Mail.

CURES WROUGHT BY CHINESE

Ministrations of Physicians Have Good Effect, Though the Cause May Be Obscure.

"Chinese physicians are popular with women in our city," said a doctor from California. "Their method of diagnosis is very simple. A woman tells a Chinese doctor where she has a pain and he feels her pulse—nothing more. Then he tells her for how many thousand years his race has understood the human body and mind. This makes a great impression upon the woman patient and she goes forth with great faith in the learned Chinese and the medicine he has given her, which is usually harmless enough, but not to be found among the remedies approved by materia medica.

"However, the Chinese doctors are clever, and they do effect some cures in spite of their medicine. Lay it, perhaps, to the mental effect—the subtle influence of an alien personality combined with an awe of learning outtracing the oldest in America by so many hundreds of centuries."

Humor of Artemus Ward.

Some years ago the real scream in cabination was Artemus Ward. Our fathers were wont to read the witticisms of this great humorist and laugh till the tears ran down their cheeks. As an example of how funny Artemus could be when he tried, take this extract from his letter on Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, alleged to have been written in Richmond:

"Jeff. Davis is not popular here. She is regarded as a southern sympathizer, & yet I'm told he was kind to his parents. She ran away from 'em many years ago and has never bin back. This was showin' 'em a good deal of consideration when we reflect what his conduct has been. Her captiv in female apparel confuses me in regard to his sex, & you see I speak of him as her and as frequent as otherwise, & I guess he feels so himself."—Kansas City Star.

Not the Same Thing.

This overheard conversation appeals to the weary one as nearly epigrammatic. The young people on the seat ahead of us in the homeward-bound car the other night talked it out so loud that we couldn't help hearing it and jotting down a few notes on it.

"So," said the girl, "he said he knew me when I was a little girl!" "He didn't say anything of the sort," contradicted the man. "You said he did."

"I didn't." "Why? Then what did you say?" "Why! He said he knew you when he was a boy."

"That put such a wet blanket on the conversation that we were unable to read our sporting extra uninterrupted for the next several blocks.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Individuality.

No process is so fatal as that which would cast all men in one mold. Every human being is intended to have a character of his own, to be what no other is, to do what no other can do. Our common nature is to be unfolded in unbounded diversities. It is rich enough for infinite manifestations. It is to wear innumerable forms of beauty and glory. Every human being has a work to carry on within, duties to perform abroad, influences to exert, which are peculiarly his, and which no conscience but his own can teach.—Channing.

How to Be Prominent.

"Why aren't you a suffragist?" "I think I can get more publicity by opposing the movement," replied the prominent lady courteously.