

THE PARROT IN TRADE.

An Educated Bird Used by a Collector to Have Pertinent Things About Had Debits.

"No use to dun 'em! No use to dun 'em! They're deadbeats!" These words uttered in shrill piercing tones, attracted a crowd in the vicinity of Lincoln park.

After several times repeating its complimentary protests, the bird finally subsided and its master ascended the steps to the vestibule, from which he soon emerged with some bank notes in his hand.

"It's an original scheme of my own," explained the young man a little later, "and I'll explain the scheme if you keep it mum. Some time ago I was connected with an agency that employed uniformed collectors and yellow wagons, the object being to intimidate the debtor, who would pay a just bill rather than be disgraced by having self-advertised debt collectors calling upon him every day."

"After a time legal proceedings were taken by a disgraced debtor who had been persistently annoyed, and the wagons and uniforms were promptly suppressed. But are deadbeats to escape paying their just dues on that account? I thought not, and recently devised the plan I am now carrying into execution."

A CASE OF FRAUD.

War Department Discovers a Way in Which Soldiers Secure Their Discharge.

The war department has just unearthed a case of fraud that it is suspected has many parallels. An application for the discharge of her son was received by a Pennsylvania representative from an old lady 84 years of age, living in Adrain, Pa.

Tremendous Rainfalls.

A recent remarkable rainfall of 31.76 inches in 24 hours, which occurred in northern Ceylon, leads a correspondent of Nature to recall other records of heavy rains. The greatest annual rainfall known occurs, it is said, in the Khasia hills in India.

All Arranged.

Mr. Wigby—See here, my love, there is some mistake. The baggage delivery man has left seven trunks on our front porch. Mrs. Wigby (who has just returned from the mountains)—Imbecile! Don't you understand? He's coming back after dark for the extra five.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Congressman Botkin's Statement

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 1, 1899. Dr. S. B. Hartman, Columbus, O.

MY DEAR DOCTOR:—It gives me pleasure to certify to the excellent curative qualities of your medicines:



Hon. J. D. BOTKIN, Congressman-at-Large from Kansas.

Pe-ru-na and Man-a-lin. I have been afflicted, more or less, for a quarter of a century with catarrh of the stomach and constipation; a residence in Washington has increased these troubles.

A few bottles of your medicines have given me almost complete relief, and I am sure that a continuation of their use will effect a permanent cure.

Pe-ru-na is surely a wonderful remedy for catarrhal affections.

J. D. BOTKIN.



TRIALS OF THEIR OWN.

Housekeepers Have Them Just as Well, and as Many of Them, as Their Husbands.

None of them had been married very long and their interest in the mysteries of housekeeping had not died out.

"What is the most awful thing which ever happened to you since you kept house?" asked the dark-eyed girl. The group sighed as one woman.

"I think," spoke up the prettiest one, "that the time I most wanted to crawl under the rug and just die in loneliness was at my first card party. Five tables had been served with ice cream when it gave out. There were eight tables!"

"Why, I never knew that!" cried her husband, who was on the outskirts of the bevy.

"Of course not!" she flashed. "You happened to be at the second table and when I saw you placidly putting away the ice cream while your guests down the room were starving—I came near disliking you!"

"What did you do?" asked the other women.

"Oh," she said, "I just told them brutally that the ice cream had given out and they couldn't have any. What else could I do? I felt as though red-hot needles were sticking into me when I did it, too."

"Tom brought a man home to dinner one night," reminiscently said the bookworm of the crowd. "Of course it was on a day when the cook had left and there wasn't a thing to eat, but I believed in doing my duty as a wife, so I smiled and smiled and got hold of a beefsteak by threatening to massacre the butcher's boy, who wanted to deliver it at the flat above, where it had been ordered, but I was desperate. Well, I put that steak in the broiler and held it over the coals—we didn't have a gas stove. It was slow work, so I picked up the evening paper and began reading it. As I read I turned the broiler over and over constantly,



IT WAS SLOW WORK.

for I remembered mother saying when you broil meat it must be done on both sides. I was in the middle of the most interesting article when I noticed I was choking to death. My dears, that kitchen was smoking like a steam engine, and the steak—well, the charred bits were just kind of rattling around in the broiler. I gave Tom and the man breakfast bacon!"

"Have you ever gone down in a bath robe, with your hair like a wild Indian's, to answer the postman's ring, and discovered it was your wealthy maiden aunt or your dearest enemy come to call on you?" asked the blond.

"Or complained to the janitor about the noise your neighbor's children were making in the court, only to be told the howling little savages were your own darlings?" supplemented the mother of three.

"Or had three people 'just drop in to dinner' when your meal was prepared for two—with small appetites?" "Or," said the prettiest one in a lowered voice and a glance at her husband, "have your mother-in-law come to see you when you had forgotten to dust the piano and the pie crust would have been just the thing to make nice, durable rubber boots?"

There was a sympathetic silence. "Anyhow," sighed the one who had started the discussion, "it's better than boarding!"

And everyone looked more cheerful.—Chicago Daily News.

Borax for Dairy Products.

By being boiled milk will usually keep good for nearly 12 hours, if it is placed in a cool jar or cellar which is well ventilated; but the peculiar taste it imparts to tea is a drawback to this means of preserving it. It will be found a good plan to add half a teaspoonful of powdered borax to each quart of milk, stirring it well, so that the borax may dissolve quickly; this should be done as soon as the milk is brought from the dairy. Butter should be well washed in borax and water, and kept in a basin of cold water, to which borax has been added. Cooking butter which has a rank taste may be made sweet by this means, but plenty of borax should be used, and the butter must be well worked with butter spoons.

Mouth and Tooth Wash.

An excellent wash for the mouth and teeth and also for the hair is made by dissolving two ounces (about four even table-spoonfuls) of borax in three pints of boiling water; while still warm add to this a teaspoonful of spirits of camphor. Bottle and keep on the washstand; when ready for use, add equal amount of warm water.

THE FINISHING TOUCH.

A Word About Beauty's Tinting and the Application of Powder to the Skin.

There are hardly two women out of ten who properly apply the different lotions and cosmetics to their skins. As a rule the finishing touches are left entirely to the last, when they should be begun with the dressing.

The proper time to commence to apply the powder and little touch of color to the skin is just after the hair has been dressed. The tinting should be done first and then the powder should be put on with lavish hand. The cor-



FINISHING THE TOILETTE.

set cover and silk skirt are the last garments to put on, so that the neck and arms can have full benefit of the treatment. After this is done put on the skirt and waist of your gown, and after all is ready brush the powder from your face until there is just enough to keep away the shine which is so tormenting to the complexion. The powder should be left upon the neck and arms for comfort's sake and for the sake of the gown, as it absorbs perspiration, and thus the dress material is kept dry and fresh.

This is the only method used by professional beauties, and is the one which will be prescribed by any masseuse beauty artist. If the treatment is left until your whole toilette is complete, never lasts as long, and your gown is apt to be spoiled.

BRAINS OF CHILDREN.

Scientific Experiments Made to See How Much They May Be Exercised Safely.

How much happier the lives of the thousands of children entering school would be if only women—mothers and teachers—better understood the nature and limitation of their brain cells, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. Such knowledge is to be had, as very important experiments and deductions have recently been made by scientific investigators; but it always takes an unreasonable length of time for such knowledge to become general.

After 25,000 tests by the best educators in America, it has been absolutely demonstrated, for instance, that the length of time that a child six years of age can concentrate its mind does not exceed seven minutes; and that all efforts to confine its attention upon one subject beyond this limit are worse than useless. This power of concentration increases slowly; at the age of eight a child's attention may be easily held ten minutes. At the age of 12 his mind should not be riveted upon one subject longer than 17 minutes. It is, therefore, a great mistake to keep a child of this age—say at the piano, more than 15 minutes; after a change of occupation, another quarter of an hour's practice will be of incalculably more benefit than the attempt to continue work after brain and nerves have become fatigued.

Indeed, most of the inattention and restlessness of children may be explained upon the physical basis. A boy's brain, for example, undergoes a certain shrinkage at the age of 14 or 15. It actually weighs less than at the age of 12 and 13. This fact explains the carelessness, laziness and general unreasonableness of boys of this age. Statistics show that a large proportion of boys leave school at about this time. It is altogether probable that if parents and teachers realized that the proverbial lawlessness of boys of 14 merely evidenced a temporary condition of brain cells, more of them would be patiently guided through the period, to take up their studies a year or two later with renewed interest.

The same tests have conclusively proved that the brain of a child is always most active between 8:30 and 11:30 in the morning. All lessons, therefore, requiring the exercise of their reasoning power—such as arithmetic and grammar, should be at this hour. It has been further deduced that the average child, unhampered by grades and systems, may have easily mastered his arithmetic by the time he is 12 years old.

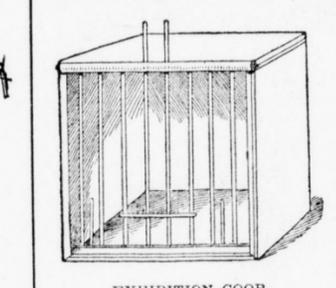
Scientists have also discovered that if the brain centers governing the motor nerves remain undeveloped until the age of 16, there is no chance whatever of any later development; which fact is a powerful argument in favor of manual training in the public schools. The majority of children are so active that they develop their own brains and nerves to a certain extent along these lines. Where they fail to do so, we get the tramped and the sloven. It is a physical impossibility to acquire skill and dexterity in any art unless the foundation has been laid in the formation of brain cells and the training of the motor nerves before the age of 16.



THE FINISHING TOUCH.

It Is Roomy Enough for the Birds to Appear to Advantage and to Be Comfortable.

We have several requests for directions for building coops for exhibiting fowls at fairs and shows, and give above an illustration of such a coop. The illustration explains itself so well that but little by way of explanation is necessary. This coop is 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 24 inches deep—but these dimensions are by no means obligatory, as coops are built of various sizes, to suit the taste and purpose of the builder. We would urge, however, that exhibitors who supply their own coops make them roomy



EXHIBITION COOP.

enough for the birds to be comfortable in; nothing is so certain to make the birds appear at a disadvantage as too close quarters. We would make a frame of 1 1/2-inch stuff—the ends, back and top being covered with stout serviceable duck, the floor being of half-inch matched boards, and the front being made of half-inch rods set into top and bottom of frame 2 1/2 inches apart, excepting that the two or three center rods are set into a sliding bed piece at bottom, and pass up through the top frame, giving access to the interior. The bed piece of the gate should slide upon the rods on each side. Short rods are set in the front, upon which to suspend cups for food and water. A curtain for the front, to be let down at night, and in day time be rolled up as in the illustration, adds to the neatness of the structure; and ornamental brass-headed tacks to secure the duck ends, etc., improves the appearance. The rods in front look best if round, although eight square rods are very neat. Many owners of private coops keep them neatly painted.—Farm Poultry.

THE DUCK BUSINESS.

It Is Profitable When Conducted with Judgment and in the Proper Locality.

There is an unfounded prejudice against ducks and geese in the minds of many farmers. The usual excuse is that they have a habit of puddling in every bit of water they find until they make a mudhole there. Hogs have a similar habit but no one objects to them on that account because the hogs are kept in their places. Mud is not necessary to the happiness of either ducks or hogs. In fact both are better if kept where they cannot make mud.

Ducks should be kept out of the dooryard and they have no place in the barnyard or about the watering troughs of any kind. They are so easily shut out of any place that it is not a hard matter to keep them from getting into mischief. They cannot crawl through a small hole in a fence and if the fence is three feet high they will never get over it. Ducks will drink more water than other kinds of poultry, but they do not need it for any other purpose. If they are given their water in a trough over which slats are nailed to prevent them from getting into the water they will not make any more mud than other fowls. Whether kept for eggs or hatched to be sold when ten or twelve weeks old, they are more profitable than chickens and much more comfortable to handle, as they are domestic in their habits, easily tamed and always ready to eat almost anything that is given them and turn it to good use by growing heavier all the time.—Farmers' Voice.

AMONG THE POULTRY.

Ten weeks from shell to market is the time allotted a chick. Geese cannot be raised to an advantage without grass and water. Cull out the poor layers and give the prolific hens more room to work. Scaled sweet milk and cooked rice will stop diarrhoea in chickens. Avoid giving sloppy food when in this condition.

A breed of fowls kept for the eggs alone should be that one which can be kept with the least expense for food or support.

Early maturity is an item with poultry, especially chickens and turkeys when raising them for market.—Prairie Farmer.

Why Some Farmers Fail. Do farmers in general appreciate the need of preparing the soil for a crop in time? They do theoretically, but practically farmers are disposed to display that lack of exacting promptness that characterizes the successful business man. This is more frequently the line of demarcation between success and failure in farming than is realized. Farmers are usually always at work, out being employed at the thing most needing attention is what requires full understanding of "on time."—Dakota Field and Farm.

Activity of Vesuvius.

Much anxiety has been caused in Naples by the renewed activity of Mount Vesuvius. An overwhelming danger of this description produces universal terror. As a matter of fact there is little likelihood that Mt. Vesuvius will do any serious damage. On the other hand thousands die daily from stomach and digestive disorders, who might have survived had they resorted to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It is the greatest of known tonics for stomach and digestive organs. It cures kidney, liver and blood disorders.

A Doubting Thomas.

"Sound," said the pedagogue, "is something that a person can hear, but can neither see nor feel." "Oh, I don't know!" exclaimed the boy at the foot of the class. "I think I can prove that you are off in your theory." "Very well, Thomas," retorted the man of learning, "go ahead and prove it, then." "Only yesterday you gave me a sound thrashing," said Thomas; "I suppose the other pupils saw it, and don't you ever think for a minute that I didn't feel it."—Chicago Evening News.

Go South This Winter.

For the present winter season the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company has improved its already nearly perfect through service of Pullman Vestibuled Sleeping Cars and elegant day coaches from Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis and Chicago, to Mobile, New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Thomasville, Ga., Pensacola, Jacksonville, Tampa, Palm Beach and other points in Florida. Perfect connection will be made with steamer lines for Cuba, Porto Rico, Nassau and West Indian ports. Tourist and Home-Seekers excursion tickets on sale at low rates. Write C. P. Atmore, General Passenger Agent, Louisville, Ky., for particulars.

The Usual Way.

More people make a fuss over mushrooms and less people like them than any other alleged delicacy.—Washington Democrat.

If you want to be cured of a cough use Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

In giving ear to flattery we not only fool ourselves, but fool the flatterer as well.—Town Topics.

You may be sure Neuralgia will be cured by St. Jacobs Oil.

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Would-be Writer—What do you consider the most important qualification for a beginner in literature?

Old Hand—A small appetite.—Tit-Bits.

Not every boy who has his picture taken holding a fiddle can play.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.

You will be disabled by Rheumatism. Use St. Jacobs Oil and cure it.

The first proof of a man's incapacity for anything is his endeavor to fix the stigma of failure upon others.—Haydon.

THREE HAPPY WOMEN.

Each Relieved of Periodic Pain and Backache. A Trio of Fervent Letters.

Before using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, my health was gradually being undermined. I suffered untold agony from painful menstruation, backache, pain on top of my head and ovarian trouble. I concluded to try Mrs. Pinkham's Compound, and found that it was all any woman needs who suffers with painful monthly periods. It entirely cured me.—Mrs. GEORGE WASS, 923 Bank St., Cincinnati, O.

For years I had suffered with painful menstruation every month. At the beginning of it was impossible for me to stand up for five minutes, I felt so miserable. One day a of Mrs. Pinkham's was thrown into my I sat right down and read it. I then got E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and can heartily say that to-day I feel like my monthly suffering is a thing of the always praise the Vegetable Compound done for me.—Mrs. MARGARET ANDERSON, Lewiston, Me.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has cured me of painful menstruation and backache. The pain in my back was dreadful, and the agony I suffered during menstruation nearly drove me wild. Now this is all over, thanks to Mrs. Pinkham's medicine and advice.—Mrs. CARRIE V. WILLIAMS, South Mills, N. C.

The great volume of testimony proves conclusively that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a safe, sure and almost infallible remedy in cases of irregularity, suppressed, excessive or painful monthly periods.

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Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; A Woman's Remedy for Woman's ills

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