

ANECDOTES OF ANIMALS

THE HORSE WAS WISE

FIRE department horses are marvels of intelligence; but a man in a western city owns a handsome gray that he claims is as smart as any horse alive.

This gray is stabled with several other horses belonging to the company of which the gray's owner is the manager. To avoid the necessity of hiring a man to go to the stable at four o'clock every morning to feed the horses, an ingenious device was arranged that served the purpose admirably—until the arrival of the gray horse.

This device consisted of an alarm-clock and a heavy weight so adjusted that, when the alarm—set to go off at four o'clock—started, the weight would drop and pull a wire that opened the trap-door above the mangers, whereupon the feed would come tumbling down to the horses.

Shortly after the coming of the gray, it was noticed that all the horses became very hungry long before noon each day. This could not be accounted for until some one was put on watch to see what produced such a state of affairs. The watcher soon learned.

After the horses were fed at night and had eaten all that was given them, the gray reached up and, taking the wire in his mouth, pulled it. Down into the mangers came the feed that was intended to fall at four o'clock. It was, of course, promptly eaten by all the horses.

MONKEY TACTICS IN BATTLE

AESOP'S ape, it will be remembered, wept on passing through a human graveyard, overcome with sorrow for his dead ancestors; and all monkeys show by their mimicry, that they are willing enough to be more like us than they are.

A facetious old naturalist once said that the easiest way to capture apes was for the hunter to pretend to shave himself; then to wash his face, to fill the basin with a sort of bird lime, and to leave it for the apes to blind themselves. If the story is to be believed, the imitative craze is even more fatal in another way; for, if you shoot a monkey or a band with a poisoned arrow, its neighbor, jealous of so unusual a decoration, will snatch the arrow

from it and stab itself, only to have it torn away to a third, until in succession the whole troop have committed suicide. This legend is a favorite among the Chinese.

In rocky ground monkeys roll down stones upon their enemies; and when making a raid, as on an orchard which they believe to be guarded, the attack is conducted on an organized plan, sentries are posted and scouts are thrown out, gradually to feel their way forward to make sure that the coast is clear, while the main body remains in concealment until notified that the road is open.

From the fact that the sentries stay posted throughout the raid, getting for themselves no share of the plunder, it has been assumed that there must be some sort of division of the proceeds afterward. Man, again, has been differentiated from all other creatures as being a tool-using animal; but more than one kind of monkey takes a stone in its hand to break the nuts that are too hard to be cracked with the teeth.

A CYCLING MOUSE

A YOUNG man of Philadelphia, leaving town one summer, left his bicycle suspended from the joists in the basement of his home by means of ropes, in order to remove the weight of the machine from the tires. On his return he went into the basement, and was greatly surprised to see the front wheel of the machine rapidly revolving. He stared spellbound at it for some minutes, unable to discover any cause for the motion. But, as his eyes became accustomed to the dim light, he observed a small dark object remaining always at the highest point of the wheel, and at last made it out to be a mouse, running on the outside of the tire. The weight of the animal caused the wheel to turn, and the mouse was forced to travel continually upward to avoid being thrown it knew not where. When the wheel had been stopped and the little creature lay exhausted on the floor, the young man looked at the cyclometer and found that it had registered eighteen miles. This occurrence was amply substantiated by witnesses. The cyclometer had been set at zero when he left the city, and the bicycle had not been tampered with during the summer.



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