## A QUEER PARROT.

**The Old Lady Had Reason For Surprise When the Bird Spoke.**

A young ventriloquist, being out of an engagement, decided to pay his widowed mother a visit for a few weeks. On arriving he found she was not at home. A few days after his arrival she appeared, bringing with her a parrot and cage which had been given her by a relative. The bird not being able to talk, mother and son spent many tedious hours trying to instruct the parrot. After several futile efforts they gave the job up in despair.

Then a happy idea occurred to the son. Bringing his ventriloquial powers into requisition, gently at first, he made it appear to his mother that the bird had really begun to talk. The mother not knowing the nature of his avocation, he was successful in deceiving her. He had an engagement to fulfill which necessitated his departure.

Coming back after the termination of his contract, he was heartily received by his mother and made very welcome. Soon after his arrival home he commenced and carried on a conversation, as before, with the parrot. Noticing the look of consternation on the countenance of his mother, he inquired what was the matter. Imagine his surprise when she replied:

"Why, the parrot died while you were away, and I had it stuffed and put back in the cage."—Pearson's Weekly.

## FLY FISHING FOR TROUT.

**Why an Angler Considers It the "Best of All Sports."**

I am inclined to believe that fly fishing has its chief and most easily defined excuse in the existence of a certain fish—Salvelinus fontinalis, the speckled trout. Here, indeed, is something tangible, a thing which may be taken in the hand—first catch your fish—and looked upon. No one seeing a freshly caught brook trout would say that it was other than a thing of beauty. Its delicate, varicolored resplendency is not equaled by any living thing.

The tarpon, the "silver king" of southern waters; the Atlantic and Pacific salmons, the ouananiche, or land locked salmon, and the grayling comprise practically all the other fishes, excepting the various forms of brook trout, which may be said to possess both beauty of form and coloration. It cannot be denied that these fish are justifiably praised, but it is generally conceded that the red spotted brook trout has nothing to fear from their competition. Of the western rainbows, cutthroats and steel heads the rainbow is the eastern brook trout's nearest competitor, and that is praise enough for the rainbow.

So here is one good reason at least why fly fishing for trout is considered by many the best of all sports.—Samuel G. Camp in Recreation.

### Pathos and Humor.

The study of the art of putting things is to be recommended to every one who meditates a plunge into print. Even the writing of a death notice involves a certain amount of genius if the author wishes to keep clear and well defined the fragile line which lies between the serious and the funny.

That this is true is shown by certain quotations from a Leipzig paper given in Bishop John F. Hurst's "Life and Literature in the Fatherland." Here are a few sentences extracted from these obituary notices:

"Today death tore away from us for the third time our only child."

"Last night at 5:30 the Lord took to himself during a visit to the grandparents our little daughter Antoine of teething."

The last speaks better than it knew:

"Here died Marie Wiegel, who was mother and seamstress of children two."

### It Told the Truth.

A countryman on a visit to Glasgow while walking along Argyll street reading the signboards and the tickets in the shop windows said to his companion: "Hoo can a' thae ham shops be the best and cheapest? Every yin o' them says that, and the same wi' the clothes shops tae. They are jist a lot o' leears."

They continued along the street until, coming opposite a plumber's shop with a big bill in the window with the words "Cast Iron Sinks" printed in large letters on it, he exclaimed: "Well, Jock, here's yin that tells the truth at ony rate. But any danged fool kens that cast iron wad sink."

### Lightning Change

The three-year-old boy on the side seat in the street car turned suddenly to look out of the window, thereby wiping his muddy shoes on the light colored trousers of the middle aged man sitting next to him.

"Madam," exploded the man, "is this your nasty little"—

Here the boy's pretty mother turned her head and looked at him.

—"angel boy?" he finished with a gasp.—Chicago Tribune.

### Where the Shoe Pinched.

Young Girl (glancing at her pedal extremities)—Oh, dear! My feet are so awfully big! Practical Auntie—But you stand on them all right, don't you? Young Girl—Oh, yes, but so do other folks too.—New York Tribune.

### Needless Trouble.

"Did you wash the fish?" a Springfield woman asked her new servant. "Shure, an' phwat's th' use of washin' anything that's always lived in th' water?" asked the girl."—Kansas City Star.

The more talents the more they will be developed.—Chinese Proverb.

## A SMALL BLIND TUBE

### The Vermiform Appendix and Its Probable Function.

### PROBLEM OF APPENDICITIS.

**The Causes of the Disease and the Methods of Fighting It—The Way the Operation of Removal Is Performed—Disease as Old as Mankind.**

Appendicitis is not a disease of modern times, though its nature and methods of treatment are the result of careful observation by one of our well known modern surgeons while engaged in postmortem work.

It may be safe to say that appendicitis is as old as mankind, for in studying very old histories wherein are given the diagnoses of the physicians we read of cases of inflammation of the bowels, intestinal disorders and like ailments the symptoms of which prove that they must have been appendicitis.

Appendicitis is inflammation of the vermiform appendix, a small blind tube, averaging two and a half inches in length and a quarter of an inch in diameter, attached to the coecum at its inner and posterior part. It is made of a very sensitive mucous membrane containing several glands.

The appendix is part of the digestive tract, its function, it is believed, being to lubricate that part of the intestines, though as yet there is no absolute proof of this. Careful study of a child from whom the colon has been removed until he reaches the age of manhood has revealed no irregularities of any nature.

The causes of this disease may be grouped under four heads—stenosis, which means closing up; impaction, the entrance of foreign bodies, not necessarily seeds; exposure and injury. In fighting this disease nature takes three methods of disposing of the toxic materials—discharging them into the peritoneal cavity, sending them into the bowels and discharging them through an external wound. In the first, if the discharge be not too rapid while the peritoneum is taking them up, nature again makes an effort to ward off the threatened danger by walling the poisonous matters in, thus localizing them and so aiding the physician or surgeon in his work. If, however, the discharge be sudden, as is the case when the mass bursts, the whole of the peritoneum becomes involved, which is called septic peritonitis, and this is generally fatal.

After the diagnosis has revealed the disease the doctor decides whether the case be one for medicine or external treatment or for separation. In the latter case the greatest of care is demanded, as sometimes an immediate operation is necessary, while at other times it must be delayed, often for hours, until the condition of the patient has been brought to that point at which the surgeon can feel it is safe to go ahead.

The operation determined upon, the most careful arrangements to secure perfect antisepsis are made, and the patient is placed in a full state of anaesthesia.

The operating surgeon then draws an imaginary line from the navel to the anterior superior spine of the right hip bone, dividing that line into three parts. Under the inner side of the middle third the appendix in normal cases will be found, though in rare cases it has been found on the left side and in extremely rare cases otherwise displaced.

Having satisfied himself of the exact spot under which it will be found, an incision from two to five inches long is made in the skin. (Some of the best surgeons pride themselves on the smallness of their incisions in this operation.) The fatty tissues are then cut through, the small blood vessels are secured, and then the muscular walls of the abdomen are separated, bringing into view the peritoneum. This is a serous secretive lining composed of two layers. On cutting through this the edges of both layers are clamped so as to enable the surgeon to reunite them when the operation shall have been completed.

The intestines are now visible, and the affected section is very tenderly drawn through the opening, where the nature and extent of the infection are made known. Hot towels moistened with salt water are kept applied to the intestine while it is exposed. The word "tenderly" characterizes the whole of this operation, as the surgeon must be more than careful to prevent any rupture of the appendix, for should this happen while he is operating the pus would be quickly taken up by the peritoneum and other mucous membranes, and the resulting complications would make the outcome very uncertain.

The mesentery, a large vessel adjoining the appendix, is next ligated, and then the colon is tied off, after which the diseased organ is cut away. The stump is pushed back into the intestine and the ligature is tightly drawn this to prevent the forming of a pouch.

The removal safely accomplished, the intestine is replaced, the edges of the peritoneum are carefully approximated and the muscular walls, fatty tissue and skin are brought together by subcutaneous and cutaneous sutures.

In the majority of cases, no complications ensuing, the patient is ready for discharge in two weeks.—James M Smyth, M. D., in New York World.

There is a proper dignity and proportion to be observed in the performance of every act of life.—Aurelius.

### Vulture and Rattler.

An odd battle between a California vulture and a rattlesnake was witnessed in the Cocopah mountains of Lower California. It was in the early morning. The big bird had seized the snake behind the head and was struggling upward with its writhing, deadly burden. The snake's captor appeared aware that its victim was dangerous. The burden was heavy, as the reptile was nearly five feet long.

The grip of the bird on the snake's body was not of the best. The snake seemed to be squirming from its captor's talons, at least sufficiently to enable it to strike. Its triangular head was seen to recoil and dart at the mass of feathers.

It did this once or twice, and then with a shriek the vulture dropped its prey. The bird was probably 500 feet or so above the observers. The astonished men were then treated to a spectacle seldom seen. Few birds but a vulture could accomplish such a feat.

The instant the snake escaped from the bird's clutches it dropped earthward like a shot, and like a shot the bird dropped after it, catching it in midair with a grip that caused death. At any rate, the snake ceased to wriggle, and the vulture soared away to a mountain peak to devour its hard earned meal.

### The Distinguished Guest.

Captain Raabe was a man whose name had weight in the French cavalry. He was a tall man, belonging to the middle aged trooper type. With military qualities of the highest kind, he had a singular bearing, a savage sort of misanthropy and a cynical tongue, which stood in the way of promotion. When he was in the Sixth lancers, on garrison duty at Commercy, one of his comrades brought his father to dine with him at the officers' mess, a man of humble position and unpretentiously dressed. Captain Raabe, considering that this guest had not been fitly received, gave expression to his opinion, saying that if the executioner of Commercy had come in evening dress he would have had a better reception. The officers demurring, he made no rejoinder, but shortly afterward came to mess with a guest whose dress was irreproachable. Every one lavished attentions on the unknown. When dinner was over Captain Raabe, raising his glass, proposed the health of "the executioner of Commercy."

### A Clever Acrobat.

A diverting anecdote is told in "Annals of the Liverpool Stage" of an unrehearsed episode that occurred at the Hop, a cheap but popular place of entertainment. A troupe of acrobats were engaged, and one of their number gave a "single turn" in which he displayed his skill as a champion weight lifter. Somebody, however, on mischief bent, changed one of the fifty-six pound weights for one made of cardboard. The strong man's vision was impaired by the loss of one eye, but in this instance not unfortunately so. He took the first and second weights, and after having manipulated them he took the third, the one made of cardboard. Realizing in an instant what had been done, he as quickly decided to turn it to his own advantage by throwing three "flip-flaps" while holding the dummy weight. He was greeted with a perfect round of applause, and the audience declared it to be the greatest feat they had ever witnessed.

### Not Built That Way.

For the first time the old lady was about to make a railway journey, and when she arrived at the station she did not know what to do.

"Young man," she said to a porter, who looked about as old as Methuselah, "can you tell me where I can get my ticket?"

"Why, mum," he replied, "you get it at the boking office through the pigeonhole."

Being very stout, she looked at the hole in amazement, and then she burst out in a rage:

"Go away with you, you old idiot! How can I get through there? I ain't no blessed pigeon!"—London Answers.

### An Arrangement Approved.

"So they have reduced the number of trains that stop at your station?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Crossiots. "There are only two a day at present—one to take us to town in the morning and one to bring us back at night."

"It must be a great disappointment."

"Not at all. When we get a servant now she's obliged to stay at least one day."—Exchange

### Hard to Choose.

"Why can't she make a choice between her suitors?"

"Well, one of them is a press agent. His language is very attractive. But the other is a traveling salesman, and he treats her as if she were a big buyer."—Kansas City Journal.

### Badly Expressed.

Mabel—I don't believe you really meant it when you said you were anxious to hear me sing. Sam—Oh, I assure you I did! You see, I had never heard you sing before.—London Pick-Me-Up.

### A Good Example.

Father (in a lecturing mood)—You never heard of a man getting into trouble by following a good example. Son (incorrigible)—Yes, sir, I have—the counterfeiter.—Boston Transcript.

### Perambulation.

"I should think Mr. Beetem's debts would keep him walking the floor."

"They don't. But they keep a lot of bill collectors walking the streets."—Washington Star.