

## A BIRD CHARMER TALKS.

### HOW HE MANAGES TO CATCH THE FEATHERED SONGSTERS.

#### Smearing Limbs of Trees With Bird Lime—Trapping Birds With a Cage—Raising Mocking Birds.

"Come in," said the bird man to a Washington Star reporter, as the latter passed his door a few days ago; "I want to show you a genuine bird charmer."

The reporter entered. Inside the store sitting on a box before the stove a tall, muscular individual was stretched out. He was dressed in a full corduroy suit and a wide brimmed white hat on the sombrero order adorned his head. This was the bird charmer. He looked more like an elephant trainer.

"Yes, I catch birds," said the bird charmer in reply to the reporter's inquiry, "but my specialty is mocking birds, although I catch anything that flies. But mocking birds are my stand by, and the little fellows earn me a good living. How do I catch them? It takes two replies for me to answer that question, for I employ as many means—liming them and trapping them. The first named method is simple and very efficacious.

"Bird lime is a sticky substance and holds on tightly to anything that touches it. How is it made? Oh, I can't tell you. If I did every boy in Washington would be stuck on sparrows," and the bird charmer laughed at his wit. "As I was saying this bird lime is very adhesive and when a bird touches it he enters the bonds of slavery. When I start out to use bird lime I generally select a place where the birds are thickest. Taking my lime pot in one hand and a long flat stick in the other I smear the limbs with the lime and do the same thing to T-shaped perches which stick in the ground. A light sprinkle of grain about the perches completes the work. The birds soon return and those which are not caught in the trees fly down to the perches to examine more critically the food placed about them. The result is apparent. I then gather in the birds and move on to another spot.

"To trap them is entirely different. A cage is used with two wing attachments, one on either side made of twine. These wings are so arranged with the help of a spring that their normal position is close to the cage. When ready for use the wings are pulled away from the cage proper and held in that position by a sectional perch. These perches are so sensitive that the minute a bird lights upon them he falls and the wings close, shutting the bird in. The bird is not hurt, but his pulse goes up to 1000 he's so scared. I forgot to mention that we use a decoy bird—that is, a tame bird. He is in the cage proper and his song draws the others. That is the way we catch birds, but the best mocking birds are hand raised—that is, they are taken from their nests when three weeks old and fed by hand. They are hardy little fellows and rather enjoy being orphaned.

"Great attention has to be paid to the food of these youngsters, for improper food and irregularity of meals breed sickness. Hard-boiled egg and potato is a very good food and spiders and little insects also do them a great deal of good. Of course when the bird grows older prepared mocking bird food should be given it. A great many people prefer hand-raised nestlings to young trapped birds. You can readily understand the reason for this. Hand-raised birds become attached to you and soon learn tricks. The hardest part about the sale of mocking birds is the shipping of them. Every year I ship hundreds of them to this city, but the result is not very satisfactory. The express companies are not very particular about the care they give the little fellows, and they neglect in many instances to give them water and the poor little fellows die."

"The great fault about mocking birds," put in the bird fancier, who was standing near by, "is that it is difficult to distinguish the male from the female."

Why, that's easy enough," added the bird charmer, "but a great many people do not know how to distinguish the difference and unprincipled dealers often impose upon them. The way to tell the sex of a mocking bird is by its wing. To examine the wing of a mocking bird, the bird must be caught firmly in the left hand and the wings extended to their fullest extent to the right; looking at the wing at the upper side, the white covering will be observed to be the longest of the feathers nearest tip of the wing, and the extent of the white coloring will greatly diminish on the feathers nearest the body. If the white markings are splashed with black and do not extend exactly across the feathers the bird is a female. The female bird does not sing at all, but merely utters a harsh, sharp cry. It takes about three weeks for a mocking bird to attain its full size. There is just one thing more I want to say about the mocking bird, and that is that I consider him the finest feathered songster in the world. He commences to sing as early as eight weeks old, and his voice increases in volume and compass with age. He is a perfect mimic and can imitate anything from a buzz saw to a humming bird."

Giving Poultry a Gamey Flavor. A farmer of East Bradford informs us that a good way to give poultry a gamey and wild taste is to cut up sage, thyme, parsley, potherbs and celery into very fine particles and put it in with bran and coarse cornmeal mixed up with warm water, and the flavor that it gives the fowls is really delicious. Try it and you will find that it will succeed always.—Westchester (Col.) Record.

Prepared Chalk for the Teeth. Says a druggist: "In the care of the teeth as well as other things the simplest thing is the best. Buy a little prepared chalk such as women use on their faces and a large and soft brush. Dampen the brush, dip it in the chalk and use twice a day, rinsing afterward. If this is followed out for a week it will whiten the worst teeth and harden the gums."—Chicago Tribune.

## NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

### Chenille is once more in high favor.

The Soudanese women wear no shoes. Nearly all the women in Corea can read.

Sultana silks make pretty evening gowns.

Queen Victoria's daughters are all good cooks.

Bracelets of heavy designs are growing in favor.

Beauty is a very fine thing to have, but style is vastly better.

Queen Elizabeth started the style of wearing silk stockings.

A great deal of embroidery is used to decorate winter gowns.

All the favor fans bear the monogram of the recipient in silver.

The favorite shades in gloves are gray, tan, mode and pearl.

Undressed kid gloves are now seldom worn with elaborate toilets.

The new "sac" gloves, as they are, allow the hand to pass freely in.

Marie Antoinette instituted the custom of wearing feathers in the hair.

Gold serpents do duty as necklaces, bangles, girdles, and even as wedding rings.

The School Board of Nottingham, England, has three women among its members.

The golden-rod's rise in public favor is followed by a craze for yellow colors in dress goods.

It is a very pretty finish to fancy blippers to use small gold or silver buckles on the vamp.

Plaid silk coat scarfs are the "newest," and not so trying to the complexion as plain colors.

Industries in the west of Ireland consist mainly of lace making and embroidery for women.

The average Wellesley College girl weighs but 119½ pounds and is but five feet two inches tall.

A New York woman tried to have her husband arrested because he would not take her to the theatre.

At the recent marriage of a Middlebury, Vt., widow the bride was given away by her daughter.

The Queen of Italy received a birthday present from her husband the other day a superb ruby ring.

Tight-fitting coats, like little newmarkets, with long capes, are very neat on girls with trim forms.

An old lady fell in New York, the other day, and hat pins were driven into her head, killing her instantly.

Gloves, skirts, stockings and caps are now made of the finest silk for infants and children as well as adults.

A peculiar fact with reference to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is, that, unlike sarsaparilla and other blood medicines, which are said to be good for the blood in March, April and May, the "Discovery" works equally well all the year round, and in all cases of blood-taints or humors, no matter what their name or nature.

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"Golden Medical Discovery" is a concentrated vegetable extract, put up in large bottles; contains no alcohol to inebriate, no syrup or sugar to derange digestion; is pleasant to the taste, and equally good for adults or children.

The "Discovery" cures all Skin, Scalp and Scrofulous affections, as Eczema, Tetter, Salt-rheum, Fever-sores, White Swellings, Hip-joint disease and kindred ailments.

Children always Enjoy It.

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of pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda is almost as palatable as milk. Children enjoy it rather than other fish oils. A MARVELLOUS FLESH PRODUCER it is indeed, and the little lads and lassies who take cold easily, may be fortified against a cough that might prove serious, by taking Scott's Emulsion after their meals during the winter season. Beware of substitutions and imitations.

## Large Fee for Medical Attendance.

Probably the largest fee for medical or surgical attendance ever paid in New York was the sum of \$100,000 to Dr. Willard Parker, about fifteen years ago, for an operation in a wealthy family resident near New York. The case was one of goitre, a rare affliction in the United States, at least among native Americans, although far from uncommon in France and Switzerland. From the side of the face and the neck hung a large fleshy sack, hideously disfiguring and making life a burden to the heir of several millions. He carried the outgrowth in a black silken bag, which hid it from view, but did not render less conspicuous the fact of its presence. The young man appealed to the surgeons of highest reputation in France and London; but they made an examination and concluded that an operation would result fatally. Then he turned to the well-known American surgeon, who consented. It is said to have been a most arduous task of surgery. But the patient lived, and without the deformity. Under the circumstances the fee does not appear to have been too large.

But if New York leading physicians and surgeons receive large fees from the rich, they more than make up for this good fortune by free attendance on the poor, not only at medical institutions but also at the houses of patients.—Chicago Herald.

Little Use for Flying Machines. Flying machines are among the neat possibilities—an enthusiast might almost say probabilities. Man may yet harness himself into a light, tough framework of aluminium, and, compelling the electric current completely to his will, mount the ether like a lark or cleave the clouds like an eagle. But the world has as little practical use for flying machines as it has for the North Pole. Scientists would be deeply interested in them; the rich might conceivably use them as luxurious play-things; adventurous cranks would play mad pranks with them, not "before high heaven," but in high heaven; and the managers of the agricultural fairs and Fourth of July entertainments would hail them with joy as the legitimate heirs to that old favorite, the balloon ascension. But the spectacle of a perfect flying machine tomorrow curving its graceful spiral above the New York Exchange need not shake by a ripple the watery instability of the most drowsical railroad stock in that hydropathic centre. The mass of mankind will live and move forever upon earth's surface. The power that binds solid substances to that surface will never be defied or evaded to any beyond the most limited extent.—North American Review.

Picture Framing. Picture framing seems to have followed the upward and onward movement of all present art work, and has now attained to the dignity of an art itself. This is as it should be. How often paintings and engravings are ruined by injudicious framing every one who has taken the trouble to investigate knows very well. One of the first things to be considered in the selection of a frame is the subject of a picture.

For studies of peasant life, "The Angelus," for instance, elaborately carved and heavily molded framing is unsuitable and overpowers the picture itself. One of the most attractive frames for a Breton peasant group had roughly carved farming implements on an antique oak frame; there was no varnish nor careful smoothing of the carver's work, and thus the frame possessed the artistic charm that surrounds Venetian glass; where every piece comes directly from the hand of the designer, and can no more be duplicated than a sunset or a frost landscape on a window pane. Another, a Dutch interior, "The Burgomaster's Family," had a curious frame of pale red and blue tiles surrounded by a carved molding of time-polished and darkened oak.—Boston Traveler.

Everybody a Skin Breather. A scientific gentleman of Buenos Ayres, M. Cobes, has discovered that all living animals breathe through their skins as well as through their lungs. Hypodermic injections of oxygen into their skin are taken up by the capillaries of the system in the same manner as when oxygen is breathed through the lungs. The practical part of the discovery is that M. Cobes thinks the hypodermic respiration will become of great use in lung diseases.

Plate Glass Casting Table. The casting table of a plate glass factory is about twenty feet long, fifteen feet wide and seven inches thick. Strips of iron on each side afford a bearing for the rollers and determine the thickness of the plate to be cast. The molten glass is poured on the table and the roller passing from end to end spreads the glass to a uniform thickness. The glass, after cooling rapidly, is transferred to the annealing oven, where it remains several days. When taken out it is very rough and uneven, and in that state is used for skylights and other purposes where strength is desired rather than transparency. The greater part of the glass, however, is ground, smoothed and polished.—Chicago News.

Do you wish to know how to have no steam, and not half the usual work on wash-day? Ask your grocer for a bar of *Dobbin's Electric Soap* and the directions will tell you how. Be sure to get no imitation. There are lots of them.

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