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CARING FOR PARROTS.

Expert Tells of Best Food and Conditions for the Bird.
Women who are fond of parrots for pets should bear in mind the fact that to keep them well birds from tropical countries must be protected from drafts and sudden changes of temperature, and under no consideration should they be left out over night, even in summer.

Miss Virginia Pope who for twenty years has made a study of birds, their care and treatment, says that there is greater mortality among parrots for this reason than any other.
Women, who through carelessness or thoughtlessness have left their birds hanging out in the dew overnight, have found to their sorrow that if the birds were not dead by morning they were down with bronchial pneumonia, a disease that they are subject to.

There are certain do's and don'ts which Miss Pope suggests, which, if followed, will go a long way to keep a bird in this sort in good health and plumage.
Much care should be exercised in their feeding and a most important rule to follow is to give the bird plenty of water.

This is entirely contrary to the advice of many bird fanciers, but Miss Pope by personal experience, has found that it is most necessary there should be one cup for seed and another for water, the latter to be changed twice a day. Some persons there are who will say that the bird will do it given water but Miss Pope says that they will die without it.

Crackers which have been dipped and moistened in condensed milk should be given them every morning. Condensed milk has been found to be better than sweet milk for this reason that it is less likely to turn sour and to affect the digestive organs.

The milk should be thinned with hot water first, about one-half teaspoonful of water to one-half cup of milk. Toasted bread or sweet cake can be substituted for crackers if desired.

The seed cup should contain sunflower seed mixed with hemp, about one-fourth of the hemp to three-fourths of the sunflower.

Parrots will not take a bath at least it is said that not once in a hundred years do they bathe.

This is a natural characteristic, as in their own warm countries the heavy dew at night serve the purpose. But as some sort of bath is necessary it is best to spray them twice a week with an atomizer.

A spray bath is not disagreeable to the bird on the contrary they appear very grateful and will spread their wings and show every evidence of enjoyment during the process.

The Curse of Fannels.
At the age of 6 I found myself in fells—removed to a town possessing a bleak climate and many woolen manufactures. It was the custom of the parents to have my fannels made direct from the factory, a regulation which I found like a Laplander, and the invention of Lucifer.

Out of this fannel was cut a garment, a continuous, all-embracing garment, of neuter gender in which every child in that town might have been observed flaming Mephistophelian like after the morning bath. A pattern was given to our mother. The hair shirt—lamb when I read! By definition the hair shirt must have possessed geographical limits of attack, but my fannels left no pore unenticled, untortured they beated the flesh until scarlet fever paled into a mere pleasantry, and they soured the milk of amiability within me forever.

WELCOMING AMERICAN TARS.

Rousing Reception by People of Cape Town to Our Sailors.
There was nothing half-hearted about the rousing reception given the sailors of the United States navy when the south Atlantic squadron recently touched at Cape Town. Lieut. E. B. Manwaring of the Atlanta has written some interesting letters telling of their experiences. When the squadron arrived at Cape Town every boat for miles around was chartered for the occasion to give us a hearty welcome all day long. American colors, the town is all draped with our flags and the newspapers devote a page a day to us. Cabs have been assigned each ship and the name of the ship painted on the outside. We are lying alongside dock and cranes are suspended. Monday evening Arizona was played by Fowler at the Good Hope Theatre, in honor of the squadron. Tuesday evening tea was served at our disposal for The New Harmond Wednesday afternoon a garden party was given for us by the American residents at the Mount Nelson. Thursday there was a reception on the flagship by the squadron.

Started on the two weeks' trip to the diamond mines Lieut. Manwaring writes another letter from Kimberley. He says: "Having the time of our lives. The admiral and seventeen officers as guests of the De Beers company left Cape Town Saturday evening by special train and arrived here Monday noon. Since then we have spent every minute at balls, garden parties, banquets and looking over the diamond mines. The entire hotel is reserved for us each having a suite of rooms. Automobiles are at our disposal every minute as well as the train each officer having a water car. We go to Johannesburg as the guests of Lord Milner. This trip will cost the De Beers company about at least \$50,000.

In still another letter he says that the train consists of two locomotives, a baggage car, wine car and three coaches and that from all he can find out the worst of South Africa has been purchased for the benefit of the American officers. He says: "This trip surpasses anything of the sort ever enjoyed by human beings. The chief caterer on the train has been 'gerging us all day to help him by drinking more champagne. He says that unless he can induce us to use more he will lose his position at the end of the run." In the conclusion of this letter he says that the party had reached Johannesburg and 30,000 people were out to see the Americans.

Some Curious Caves.
Speleology is a scientific cave hunting. There is a society for that purpose with headquarters in Paris which recently investigated the caves in the Mendips hills in England. These caves are of vast extent perforating two masses of limestone, lying on either side of a core of old red sandstone forming the center of the Mendips. Some are 'swallow holes' at swirling rivers others stalactite caverns. One called Wooley hole, marks the emergence in the form of the river Axe, of two streams 'swallowed' some miles away. One of these swallow holes is 500 feet deep. Another cave, called Swildons hole, is draped with wreaths and festoons of pure white stalactite. Lamb's Lair, on the north side of the hills, is the most magnificent stalactite cavern in Great Britain, while adjoining Wooley hole another chamber has just been found with 2,000 stalactite pendants, all of dazzling whiteness. The famous spring which gives its name to the town of Wells is believed to come through hidden caverns from the higher parts of the Mendips.

Tennyson's Worries.
Aubrey de Vere has written some interesting lines concerning a period in Tennyson's life of which the public knows but little. He says concerning an unexpected morning call "On my way in paid a visit to Tennyson, who seemed much out of spirits and said he could no longer bear to be knocked about the world and that he must marry and find love and peace or die. He was very angry about a very favorable review of him. Said that he could not stand the chattering and conceit of clever men or the worry of society or the meanness of turf hunters or the trouble of poverty or the labor of a piece of old red sandstone on his back. He complained much about growing old, and said he cared nothing for fame and that his life was all thrown away for want of a competence and retirement. Said that no one had been so much harassed by anxiety and trouble as himself. I told him he wanted occupation, a wife and orthodox principles, which he took well."

Founding German East Africa.
At the international geographical congress meeting in New York recently Dr. Joachim Graf von Pfeil and Klein Eliguth, a noted German explorer, stated that he and two companions, while traveling in East Africa in 1884, seized all that territory in the name of Germany. The bond borrowed \$10,000 to finance the enterprise, struck across Zanzibar to the African coast, signing treaties of cession with the native chiefs as they went along, and when they reached the coast the doctor's companions went to Germany to negotiate, leaving him alone, the only white man within 1,000 miles to await their return. The proposition submitted by his companions was eagerly accepted by the German government, warships were sent to the scene, the region, equal to Germany in area, was seized, and thus, according to the story, German East Africa came into being.

A Canine Jag.
A beer wagon collided with an ice-cream cart at Providence, R. I., recently, and the beer and ice-cream became generally mixed in the gutter. Some dogs started in to eat the mess and two became so drunk that they could not stand.

WEIGHT OF A PIECE OF ICE.

How It May be Easily Determined by Measurements.
"Example." It doesn't look as if there were 25 pounds in that piece," exclaimed a housewife on the fourth day of a married man's absence. The day as she pulled a dripping piece of ice from the dumb-waiter into her apron.
"It doesn't feel as if it weighed that much either. A person's right in the grip of these loamen. If that's the way trusts," as my husband calls em, do business I say the men ought to make some laws that would stop the trusts."

"I tell the woman that I don't think he is giving me what I order, and he says: 'Well, madam, if you don't think you are getting what you order, why weigh it yourself.' He knows as well as I do that I haven't any scales that I can weigh ice with. Most people don't have 'em, and that's the way he gets around 'em."

This, doubtless is the colloquy of many now that the iceman is again making his daily rounds. It is not necessary to have a pair of scales to determine if the piece of ice served is the amount ordered or not. For the convenience of those who would like to fasten on the side of the refrigerator a table of the dimensions of a number of different shaped pieces of ice of the weights which are ordinarily sold the year at retail for 5 and 10 cents is given, the first figure in each case being the thickness of the cake of ice.

High Prices in Russia.
It is well to warn travellers entering Russia about the marked difference in money there and elsewhere. "Wrote Jerome Hart. From whatever direction you come the money is on a smaller scale. Pennies, sometimes, sometimes, or 'bellers'—all of these, roughly speaking, run from four or five to a cent. It makes a great difference. The Russian koppek is worth about half a cent. The twenty and fifty koppek pieces look very much like the French, Swiss and Italian coins worth 2 1/2 and 5 cents. They are insignificant, frankly little things, and do not look their value. If the traveller is not careful he will discover, with a shock, about the third day that he has been giving away 10 and 20-cent pieces as gratuities under the impression that they are worth only 1 and 2 cents.

Tourists in Russia will find the prices there are not low. Everything is dear. The hotels charge high rates. The good restaurants are expensive. The prices for imported wines, spirits and cigars are much higher than in other European countries. There are excellent hotels to be found in St. Petersburg and Moscow but they charge in accordance with their excellence. Even at these most frequented by strangers the traveller will not find English and French spoken as he will in western Europe.

It is an item showing the prices charged in the first-class restaurants in St. Petersburg for two, appears on the 17th page of "The Day" which is now in San Francisco that servants refuse to eat it, not because it is poor, but because it is cheap—Arrogant.

Warfare Against Rats.
Unremitting warfare against rats is advocated by Sir James Christchurch Brown, who says that people now days are living under sanitary conditions which will seem as shocking and wrong to their descendants 200 years hence as conditions that obtained two centuries ago appear now. In advocating a crusade against rats, as the great carriers of disease Sir James suggests a new form of retaliation. "We have with us," he says "lots of glided youths whose time hangs heavy on their hands, and who might vary their amusements by rat-catching, which must be quite as exciting and elevating as pigeon shooting. If the sporting papers would give a description of the battles and reports of the bags, with odds on the favorite rat-catchers and portraits of the record breakers, these pernicious little rodents would soon become scarce—unless, indeed, enthusiasts should take to breeding and laying them down as we do pheasants. Great things may be expected when sport, fashion and sanitation join hands in rat-catching."

No Need of Advice.
Rear Admiral Henry C. Taylor often cited as an example of grim humor an incident that befell a young woman who was doing missionary work in the hospitals during the civil war. One day, during her rounds, a young soldier, immediately after she had passed him, set up a loud laugh. She turned and looked at him in surprise. He seemed a pitiful case. Nothing of him but his face was visible on the little white bed, and this young face was sadly thin and pale. Nevertheless he laughed like one possessed. "Why, you tell me what amuses you?" she said. "Why, ma'am," said he, "here you have given a tract on the sin of dancing when I've got both legs shot off."

Beard Eleven Feet Long.
The Beard of Valentine Tapley is almost twice as long as he is tall, and he is proud of his peculiar distinction. He lives at Frankfort, Mo., and his beard, which is the longest in the world, is more than eleven feet in length. It has remained untrimmed since the Civil War. Mr. Tapley is an interesting man. He has travelled much through the United States and Mexico. He preserves his beard by wrapping it from the chin down in a silk braid, rolling it up and wearing it under his shirt bosom.—Toledo Blade.

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