

LONDON'S BIRD-ABOUT-TOWN.

Widely-known Jackdaw that Traveled Around for Years on Buses and Trams.

Though by no means aged as jack-daws go, the remarkable bird which has just died at the Angel, Brixton, had made a considerable reputation during nearly 11 years of its association with mankind, and the original purchase price of 18 pence which was paid by its owner, Mr. Thomas Beck, some ten years ago, was but a fraction of its value at the time of its death.

In his very early and irresponsible youth Jack was a mischievous daw, but after his first owner, a little schoolboy, had sold him to Mr. Beck his manners became more sedate, though they never lacked variety, the consequence being that scores of well-authenticated stories are extant of the bird's feats and his remarkable intelligence and memory.

Jack's first flight from home was when he sailed to the roof of a house opposite the Angel. He returned safely to the call of his master, but this excursion evidently gave him confidence, and thenceforward it was his practice to leave and return to his home whenever the spirit moved him.

In his restless moods, it was his habit to alight on the tramcars and busses which passed the door and journey with the conductors to such places as the Elephant and Castle, Westminster, Blackfriars Bridge and Streatham. Another favorite resort of this strange bird was the police station, whence, after favoring the constables with his company for an hour or two, he would leave for home on a tramcar, like the independent citizen he was.

Another energetic woman cultivates blackberries for the market, and makes them pay, too. The carefully tended berries are far superior in size and flavor to those of the wild variety, the crop is more certain, and there is no expense in their cultivation. She wonders why gardeners do not grow blackberries as a general thing.

THERE IS PROFIT IN WEEDS.

Proved That the Right Varieties Are Cultivated—Four Illustrative Instances.

A garden of weeds is not the unprofitable thing usually imagined—that is, if the right sort of weeds are permitted to grow therein. We know of a gardener who actually encourages groundsel, devoting a great piece of ground to its cultivation. Of all weeds this is the gardener's pest, but our present subject has an eye to business, relates London Tit-Bits.

A Yorkshire farmer cultivates the common vetch in great abundance on ground formerly devoted to turnips and oats. Not only is the vetch good food for animals, but it possesses medicinal properties as well. Horses will eat heartily of the cool, succulent herb when everything else is refused. Nettles are greatly in favor among poor people in the north of England during the early spring months.

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A FEMININE MYSTERY.

It is a Puzzle Why Tall Women Are Melancholy and Small Ones Brisk and Cheerful.

Among the minor mysteries of life is the bewildering fact that, as a rule, the tall woman is of a melancholy disposition, while her smaller sister is of a bright, brisk and cheerful temperament. Science, so far as we know, has never addressed itself to the solution of this puzzle, and the amateur philosopher is therefore left to cudgel his brain and marvel, says the London Globe.

Malberry Trees. In 1839, just before the people came to their senses in regard to the hallucination that malberry trees would bring them wealth, a nurseryman sent an agent to France to purchase several millions of young trees.

Our Type of Man. The man who sits around and waits for his friends to find him a job is always the first to line up in front of the bar on a general invitation.—Chicago Daily News.

The Best Way. When you can honorably do so the best way to conquer your enemy is to occur with him.—Sam's Horn.

GIRL GOES A-FISHING.

Had Her an Experience Such as Inexperienced Anglers Are Quite Certain to Have.

My uncle, who is 83 years old, was induced by me—one of those girls that delight in all outdoor sports—to go for a day's fishing on the river, says a writer in Forest and Stream.

Now, uncle was a great fisherman, usually coming in with an empty bait-box and an equally empty fish-basket—but still his enthusiasm was always great, and the immense fish that he lost and the many bites he had were truly remarkable.

Well, we were tired with this attempt, and a little bit discouraged, but we at least had the consolation of knowing where to get some worms to finish out our bait.

After a ten-minute chase they were captured and put up in the boat to dry, and we were again ready to fish—but, oh! what did I catch? It was merely an old roach which took me about ten minutes to free from the line.

HE WAS QUITE A BOY. Only Sixty-Eight, and There He Had Been Envy the Man of Seventy-Four.

Two elderly men were conspicuous the other morning in a Sixth avenue elevated train. They entered at opposite ends of the car. One was short, slow, and heavy of tread, and yet obviously anxious to appear spry and youthful.

As the crowd thinned out at Park place the two men caught sight of each other and the tall one moved over to a seat alongside his friend, relates the New York Times.

Stew the pumpkin till very dry, press through colander; to each two cups of pulp allow one tablespoon (level) of butter, teaspoon cassia, one-half cup molasses, a little salt, clove and ginger (just a pinch), one teaspoon flour. Stir flour in a little cold milk just so it will not be lumpy, and add to rest, then give it all a generous stirring and add three cups of milk.

Shrimp Sauce. Pound one cup of shrimps, skins and all, in a mortar. Boil afterward for ten minutes in a cup of water. Press the liquor through a puree strainer. Mix one tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of flour to a paste, pour over it the shrimp liquor. Season with salt, paprika and one teaspoon of anchovy paste.

Just Recounted. "What's the Armless Wonder mad about?" "Oh, he says he dozed a little, and the manager came along and yelled out: 'Stir your stumps!'"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

Shakespeare's "King Lear" has just been translated in Japanese and will shortly be performed.

Mrs. Leland Stanford is greeting for Stanford university, which was built and endowed by her late husband and herself, the finest library building in the world, which she proposes to equip with the best assortment of books that money can buy.

The widow of the late Congressman Amos J. Cummings, of New York, who served his time as a typesetter, has given his library to the old printers' home at Colorado Springs. Mr. Cummings had frequently stated that his intention was to make this disposition of his books, but his will made no mention of it.

The king of Portugal inherits the scientific tastes of many members of the house of Braganza. His father was a patron of literature and art and no mean scholar. He was a great lover of English letters.

Mrs. Humphry Ward, the novelist, never submits to an interview, but she cannot avoid being written about. This is a pen picture drawn by a London writer: "A tall, graceful figure, steady, smiling eyes, dark hair (touched with gray) waving down each side of an intellectual, attractive face—and yet there is something austere about Mary Ward. She is of the type of womanhood which accepts the responsibilities of life, which sees both the nobility of motherhood and the nobility of knowledge."

At a sale of books in Washington the other evening the auctioneer put up a set of Theodore Roosevelt's works and after a sharp contest among bidders it was knocked down at a figure slightly in excess of the regular store price. Then the auctioneer picked out a life of George Washington and held that up with the usual preface of choice comment.

PAID BANDIT TO DEPART.

The Cuban Method of Ridding the Country of a Troublesome and Dangerous Outlaw.

Enrique Mesa, the notorious Cuban bandit, a worthy successor of Manuel Garcia and as desperate as the late outlaw, Harry Tracy, has left Cuba for a consideration of \$1,500.

At any rate Mesa killed and robbed and looted without apprehension by the rural guard, which is a mounted military police organization. Mesa was an officer on this force until he killed a newspaper man with whom he had a dispute over politics.

On the day fixed he rode into Manzanillo, says a Havana correspondent of the New York Tribune, and, armed to the teeth, he went to the steamer between two lines of his former companions, and later his enemies of the rural guard. When he boarded the steamer bound for Mexico the promised money was paid to him, which went to his men, who dispersed.

Military Conscription. The compulsory enrollment of citizens for military or naval service is unknown in this country as a permanent institution; and twice only in the history of the United States were drafts temporarily resorted to by the government for the purpose of raising and increasing the armies in cases of special urgency, once in 1814 during our war with Great Britain, and once on May 3, 1863, when a bill passed both houses calling every able bodied citizen of military age to enter the federal service, or pay a commutation fee of \$300 for exemption, under penalty of being treated as a deserter.—Detroit Free Press.

WIT AND WISDOM.

There is entirely too much future to some people.—Atchison Globe.

True enjoyment comes from activity of the mind and exercise of the body; the two are ever united.—Hum-boldt.

It sometimes happens that a man agrees with you because your arguments make him tired.—Chicago Daily News.

The brave man wants no charms to encourage him to duty, and the good man scorns all warnings that would deter him from doing it.—Bulwer.

First Politician—"Of course, you consider yourself master of the situation?" Second Ditto—"Guess you haven't heard of my marriage."—Boston Transcript.

"Don't you like the book?" "No, the heroine is a most impossible creature." "Is that so?" "Yes, she doesn't appear to have a single gown of some material that enhanced rather than hid her graceful figure."—Philadelphia Press.

He Never Had It.—"With all his money Andrew Carnegie can't buy a well-behaved stomach." "Well, I think if I had all his money I'd be willing to take a lot of dyspepsia along with it." "That shows you never had it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Not Always a Perfect Job.—"Algy is bound to be a man—a real man." "How is that?" "Why, he has had nine tailors in the last year." "Oh, well, while it takes nine tailors to make a man, it does not necessarily follow that nine tailors always succeed in making one."—Chicago Post.

THOSE WHO GO TO LAW.

The English Are More Given to Settling Disputes in Court Than Any Other Nationality.

Deep is the confidence of the Briton in the law. It settles his quarrels, and he settles his charges, or as much as he can defray, states a London paper.

A parliamentary return issued recently, and dealing with the judicial work of 1900, shows that during the year mentioned there was, compared with the preceding year, a slight increase in appeals entered and an increase in proceedings begun.

It appears that of all the cases begun considerably less than half come to trial. The total of cases entered in all courts was 1,310,680, and the number heard and determined 429,418. This means that one case was begun for every 25 members of the population, while one for every 75 was heard.

The average cost of an appeal to the house of lords is nearly twice as much, senior counsel in these cases receiving from 50 to 75 guineas a day, and their juniors two-thirds of their fees.

Of 803 cases in the court of appeal no fewer than 122 were cases under the workmen's compensation acts. The average cost to each party of these appeals is put at £50.

It is instructive as to the nature of lawyers charges to know that some bills of costs of appeal before the lords have had as much as 62 per cent. taxed off, and the average reduction by taxation was 29.06.

Limited and other companies are responsible for more litigation than individuals. Of 638 actions in January, 1901, 45 per cent. were by companies.

Many persons will be surprised to learn that divorce and judicial separation cases, while showing a decrease for both countries, are proportionately more numerous in Scotland than England.

How It Happened. Sally Pumpkins—Jenny Ann says: Si Hayrake offered her his hand in marriage.

Just Recounted. "What's the Armless Wonder mad about?" "Oh, he says he dozed a little, and the manager came along and yelled out: 'Stir your stumps!'"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

REFORMS IN THE BEDROOM.

Errors Which Are Commonly Made in the Making-Up of Beds, and Other Details.

We will be a healthier and happier race when the double bed is banished. The light iron or brass bedstead, with a mattress that can be easily aired and kept clean, is the bed that ought to be generally used. The bed covering par excellence is a light-weight blanket that can be frequently washed and kept soft and white.

The bed should not be placed against the wall, but should be accessible on both sides. The old fashion of placing the bed in an alcove, which cannot be ventilated so well as a large room, is considered to be an unhygienic one. An excellent reason why a bed should not be placed against the wall is that the person who sleeps at the rear of the bed is likely to have his face, during sleep, so near the wall that his breath, striking the wall, will be re-breathed again.

A large portion of existence is necessarily spent in sleep that the location of the bed, the covering and bedding, and the furniture of the bedroom, should be the subjects of consideration and thought. As it is, too often this is the last room considered. In many families a good-sized closet, with no opening into the outer air, is considered good enough for a bedroom. Not only should the bedroom be thoroughly ventilated and exposed to the rays of the sun, but the bed clothing should be taken off and hung in the air and sun for several hours before the bed is made up.

MODERN CLOTHING TOO THICK.

Heavy Underwear Especially Checks Respiratory Action of the Skin and Excretion.

An evil effect of modern clothing is that by its thickness it interferes with the excreting and respiratory action of the skin. The work of excretion is thus either thrown upon other organs already overtaxed or upon some tissue which the body selects as a possible medium for elimination. Thus it is likely that catarrh is always caused by the inactivity of the skin. The matter thus left in the body through the inactivity of the skin seeks egress by means of the mucous membrane, which is merely a kind of internal skin, and thus we have catarrh, says the Healthy Home. People need protection in cold weather, but they do not need their thick clothes in their warm houses.

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BITS OF FEMININITY.

Noticeable Features of the Latest Productions of the Dress-maker's Art.

Evening gowns were never more lovely, with their dainty laces mingling with fur, velvets and jewels.

The large draping, cape collars so fashionable on cloth coats are seen on many long fur coats, says the Detroit Free Press.

Facings, revers, vests and cuffs of white or cream-colored cloth still appear on many of the stylish cloth costumes designed for special wear. Some of the French and English tailors are lining Henrietta cloth, cashmere, vigogne and the other light wool skirts with plaided silks—not the clan tartans, but patterns showing very novel and pretty color blendings.

Pur cravats are new, and so few of them are as yet worn that they have a great deal of distinction. They are merely a straight fur choker, crossing in front and held with an ornament or bunch of tails. They are flat, not round, which makes them unlike the little fur animals that were so modish about six years ago.

New Persian and oriental trimmings are very vivid in coloring and striking in workmanship. Gold embroidery, gold cord and gold applique flowers are stunning and freely used. Chenille fringes and passementeries in white, black and colors are very stylish and look well on light cloth and lace costumes.

Shrimp Sauce. Pound one cup of shrimps, skins and all, in a mortar. Boil afterward for ten minutes in a cup of water. Press the liquor through a puree strainer. Mix one tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of flour to a paste, pour over it the shrimp liquor. Season with salt, paprika and one teaspoon of anchovy paste. Just before serving—and it must be served very hot—add half a dozen shrimps cut in inch pieces. This is one of the most delicious sauces that can accompany any fish. Good Housekeeping.

Discomfiting. He—I don't hear you practicing on the violin any more. She—No, you see the heat injured it so that I can't use it. "The heat?" "Yes, pa threw it into the fire the other night."—Philadelphia Times.