

TEACH BIRDS TO IMITATE MANY SOUNDS

Ingenious Idea is in Operation in London to Teach Feathered Songsters to Sing — Rich People Entertained.

New York, Mar. 17.—Canaries and bullfinches trilling, tweedling and carolling, owls hoo-hooing, doves cooing, parrots chattering in foreign tongues, is the riotous, exciting babel of noises that greets one on entering an extraordinary house hidden away in the heart of Brompton, where are collected from all parts of the earth birds to be trained for the amusement of London's daughters of wealth. One wall is banked to the ceiling with tiny white cages of sumptuously colored songsters, whose ceaseless music sounds like a vast orchestra of treble instruments tuning up.

"These," said the keeper and trainer of the birds, "are our newest sensation for our London patrons. They are called piping bullfinches, and they come from Germany. They are after the nightingale, the most skilled singers we know of, and bring very high prices. We call them our 'operatic singers,' because the Germans teach them famous operatic arias. They get the name 'operatic' because they are taught by an instrument which the Germans call the 'water pipes.'"

"A series of reeds is so adjusted that when water is run through them from a reservoir they can be made to repeat the song notes of any bird, or, indeed, to play any operatic or popular air, with variations inserted, which only the throat of a finch is capable of producing. When the water pipes are properly adjusted a number of these finches is placed near them for a sort of preliminary rehearsal. About one in a dozen is found to possess talent enough to make it worth while to continue his education."

"The gifted birds are thus singled out and made to attend a daily rehearsal of a given aria from the water pipes. Soon they get interested in the succession of notes, hop about nervously, try to state or two of their own wild song, and then suddenly burst into exact harmony with the pipes. These finches are mostly untrained birds who sing only their native songs, which as beautiful and varied as they are, do not satisfy our clients. They seem to like the German and Italian operas better. It took some time to find out how to teach the wild finch to forget his native song, but the Germans have turned the trick and are making fortunes with their bird conservatories."

From the mass of cages he drew out one labelled "Garsio, Primo Tondoro" and placing it against wall began nodding his head and uttering caressing and cooing words. The little singer, clad in slate and golden russet and capped with rosy hood, hopped toward the wicker cage, puffed its feathers out nervously gave its sheeny bill a preparatory wipe right and left on its perch and sang. It sang a thoroughly recognizable rendition of the famous melody, and sang it with all the wild sweetness of the voice of the nightingale.

Other "artists" were brought forth and launched into their novel specialties. One did "La Donna e Mobile," from "Rigoletto," another "The Evening Star," another an étude called "Water Bubbling," and one even managed the tune of "Grandfather's Clock."

But, of course, bird song in this highly artificial form is available only to those who live in the regal homes which rise in stately rows south of the Serpentine.

"WHAT IS LIFE ON MARS LIKE?"

Mars is more distant than we are from the sun—56,000,000 miles on the average instead of 106,000,000. It is, therefore, a little colder; the more so as its central heat is less, because the diameter of the planet is only 4,500 miles instead of 8,000. Martian days have almost the same duration as ours; but the axis of the planet being more inclined on the plane of the orbit by about four degrees, the polar regions where the sun remains more than one day on or below the horizon, are more extended, as is also the torrid zone. The inequality of days and nights at the same latitude is greater on Mars than on earth: at the latitude of 45 degrees our shortest day is eight hours 45 minutes, and the longest 15 hours 38 minutes; there are on Mars respectively seven hours 55 minutes and 17 hours 55 minutes long. The duration of the year is almost double 688 1/3 days instead of 365 1/4. The orbit of the planet is an elongated ellipse instead of being a circle like ours. There is, therefore, more difference between the seasons both in respect to duration and to temperature; and the northern hemisphere, favored by a long summer, is warmer than the southern hemisphere.

On the planet Mars, therefore, there are extreme variations of climate and temperature. Protected by the glowiness of the variations of temperature of water, marine animals, fish especially, differ, doubtless, very little from ours; but it is quite otherwise with aerial animals. Those with constant internal temperatures have been infinitely more favored on earth. They must have appeared sooner and have more quickly crushed the great reptiles, which have long been extinct. On the contrary, the plumage of birds and the skin of mammals, which protect these animals against the extreme variations of temperature, must have developed in a luxurious manner, both attaining a splendid variety, changing and being modified profoundly every year with the seasons.—Edmond Ferrier in North American Review.

WHAT OR WHERE IS TEAPOT HARD? DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW?



To conform to the regulations laid down by the British Home Office for aerial exploits contemplated within the limits of the shores of Great Britain, foreign aviators must acquaint themselves with other conditions besides the varieties of fog and Scotch mist with which the atmosphere of the United Kingdom is generously endowed.

To accomplish this the aviators will find useless the many official and unofficial maps, topographical charts, survey gazetteers, lists of naval stations and bases, locations of forts and the like. Apparently a very necessary provision—and this is a matter of life and death to him—is that the aviator acquaint himself with the slang terms in use in the royal navy of Great Britain.

Included in the scheme of military sanctuaries which the foreign aviator must avoid is a place named Teapot Hard. A perusal of sundry maps of the British Isles and the survey gazetteer published by George Newnes, Limited, of London, failed to reveal any such name in the list of places in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales or the Isle of Man. If the British government had designated any military or naval station by the name of Teapot Hard the officials of the British Consulate in New York city, as well as officials in Washington and other parts of the country, had not been of it any more than the people of England.

How Fighting Spirit of Japan Is Fostered and Encouraged

It certainly requires some apology as a tribute to a new book about Japan, for the subject has been vastly over-written during the last few years, says the London Daily Telegraph's book reviewer. Nevertheless, the author of this handsome volume, Mr. E. J. Harrison, makes good his claim to public attention, for he knows his subject well, and writes of it with animation, albeit with no sort of pretension to literary finish or distinction. Mr. Harrison is no glib globe-trotter, evolving a theory of national character from a month's sojourn in an hotel. He has lived in Japan for four years, and during that period has served as correspondent, both for English papers published in Yokohama and Tokyo, and also for London and American journals. A working journalist of this order is apt to see a good deal of the inner life of a country, and Mr. Harrison has added appreciably to his knowledge by himself adopting many of the national customs and sports of Japan. A fine athlete, he at once set himself to qualify in the school of Jiu-Jitsu, and made friends with many of the athletic champions of the day. He has also studied the domestic life of the average Japanese home, with sympathy and intelligence, and his book is much more comprehensive than its title would suggest. The first half does, indeed, confine itself to a detailed account of the Japanese athletic system; but, when this theme is exhausted, Mr. Harrison strays off into the equally congenial pastures of Japanese superstition, marriage customs, and domestic regulation, all of which subjects he touches briskly and with insight. His book presents, therefore, a fairly complete study of the life and circumstances of the average Japanese citizen, and may be read with profit by all who desire to understand the ideals and idiosyncrasies of our allies in the Far East.

Judo and Kodo Kwan.

Judo, or Jiu-Jitsu, constitutes, as most people know, the principle athletic exercise of the Japanese race. It is the art which every samurai undertakes, and the feudal system was compelled to learn to extend, the police force, from being a monopoly of the military class, to forming a part of the education of every well-founded Jap. It has its relations to our own school of wrestling. As Mr. Harrison says, the nearest approach to Judo that we have in Europe or America, and several of the pure throws are similar in both schools, though, in view of the fact that the catch-as-catch-can wrestler is naked, save for a pair of jock straps and pumps, he is by no means so good a subject for holds and grips.

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as a man who is clothed. Again, the object in catch-as-catch-can is to force your opponent's two shoulders down upon the mat; in Judo, though a clean throw, of course, counts, you are at liberty to try to defeat your opponent by falling voluntarily upon your back or in any other manner, whereas in catch-as-catch-can the man who, voluntarily or otherwise, allows his two shoulders to touch the mat together, is defeated. In Judo, on the contrary, it may often happen that the man on top is in such pain as to be forced to surrender.

The great school of this exercise is the Kodo-kwan of Tokyo, where the art is brought to the highest pitch of perfection. Mr. Harrison gives some attractive pictures of the sport in full swing, and his lively anecdotes prove the everyday value of its practice. Here, for instance, is a salient passage:

"Two Kodo-kwan teachers were assaulted some time ago by seventeen coolies in a meat shop—a sort of popular restaurant. Although some of the coolies were armed with knives, the gang were dispersed in a twinkling, three of them with broken arms and bruised and battered faces. As fast as one of the experts artistically downed his men the other would pick the victim up like an empty sack and dump him unceremoniously into the street. The only evidence of the conflict on the side of the two experts took the form of skinned knuckles where the latter had come into contact with the coolies' teeth. On another occasion a celebrated expert fell foul of a coolie in the upper room of a restaurant and promptly threw him downstairs. The coolie returned to the fray with fourteen comrades, but the expert calmly sat at the head of the stairs, and as fast as the coolies came up in single file, owing to the narrowness of the passage, he simply choked them in detail, and hurled them down again. In the excitement of the moment he was rather rougher than was strictly necessary, and so broke one man's neck. The rest fled in terror, carrying off their dead and wounded. The Judo expert was arrested, but as he was easily able to prove that he had been one man against fifteen, he was, of course, acquitted. Nevertheless, the Kodo-kwan temporarily suspended him for his conduct, which was deemed unduly violent."

Mr. Harrison gives many quaint photographs of the leading practitioners of Jiu-Jitsu, including a group of experts of an obesity so rotund that it would seem impossible that they could excel in any form of athletics whatever! He also gives a valuable

record of a lecture by the well-known professor, Mr. Kuni-hise, upon the esoteric aspects of Judo, which invites the most careful consideration. All this part of the book is full of information, so clearly conveyed that the reader will readily overlook any lack of grace or polish in its expression.

Japanese Superstition.

The average British impression that the Japanese are a hard, cold race, devoid of faith and of imagination, will be considerably disturbed by Mr. Harrison's account of the prevailing superstition which is so characteristic of the race. The Japanese are, as a matter of fact, extremely imaginative and credulous.

"Belief in ghosts," (we read) "is common. The same old servant who first directed my attention to the foxlight could no longer remain in my service, owing to an uncanny visitation. She slept in a Japanese room in the detached servants' quarter, and complained that nightly, towards 12 o'clock, she became a prey to the most distressing sensations, was tormented by horrible dreams, and usually awoke with a startled cry. She could never see anything, but was sensible of a ghostly presence, and heard a sound as of ghostly fingers tapping on the shoji (paper slides) outside. She said she had experienced these unpleasant feelings from the first, and had as-

Cheneyville, La.—"Some time ago when in poor health, suffering from female illness, I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Liver Pills. I soon felt better and gained strength and flesh. A gradual improvement continued as I took the Compound, and from 120 pounds I now weigh 145, and feel that my life has been prolonged."

"I deeply regret that I did not know of your medicine long before I did. Friends often speak of the wonderful change in my health, and I tell them that your medicine did it."—Mrs. J.W. STANLEY, Cheneyville, La.

Distressing Case of Mrs. M. Gary, Chicago, Ill.—"I have used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for backache and it has certainly made a new woman of me. After my first baby was born I was left a perfect wreck. I was so weak I could hardly do my household duties and suffered with an awful backache. But since I have used your Compound the pains in my back have left me and I am strong again."

"My mother used it also through Change of Life and speaks very highly of it. You can use this letter any way you wish. I think it is only fair for one who has suffered as much as I, to let others know of your great remedy."—Mrs. M. GARY, 2938 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Write the names of the States in a letter or postcard, giving your Name and Address.

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