

THE OSPREY.

One of the most interesting of the prodigious birds which belong to Great Britain is the celebrated osprey or fishing hawk. This fine bird was formerly very common in England, but is now but rarely seen within the confines of the British Isles, although isolated species are now and then seen.

As the bird is a fish-eater, it is generally observed on the sea coast or on the banks of some large river, but has occasionally been observed in some comparatively waterless situation, where it has been probably driven by stress of weather. In some parts of Scotland the osprey still holds its own, and breeds year after year on the same spot, generally choosing the summit of an old ruined building or the top of a large tree for that purpose. The nest is a very large one, composed almost wholly of sticks, and contains two or three whitish eggs, largely blotched with reddish-brown, the dark patches being collected toward the large end of the egg. As is the case with the eagles, the osprey is monogamous; but on the death of either of the pair, the survivor soon finds another mate, and is straightway consoled by a new alliance. From all accounts it is an affectionate and domestic bird, paying the greatest attention to its mate and home, and displaying a constancy which is not to be surpassed by that of the turtle-dove, so celebrated for matrimonial felicity.

The flight of the osprey is peculiarly easy and elegant, as might be expected from a bird the length of whose body is only twenty-two inches, and the expanse of wing nearly five feet and a half. Living almost wholly on fish, the osprey sails in wide undulating circles, hovering over the water and intently watching for its prey. No sooner does a fish come into view than the osprey shoots through the air like a meteor, descends upon the luckless fish with such force that it drives a shower of spray in every direction, and soon emerging, flies away to its nest, bearing its prey in its grasp. In order to enable it to seize and retain so slippery a creature as a fish, the claws of the osprey are long, curved and very sharp, the soles of the feet are rough and the outer toe is capable of great versatility. When the bird has settled upon its nest, or upon any spot where it intends to eat its prey, it does not relinquish its hold, but, as if fearful that the fish should escape, continues its grasp, and daintily picks away the flesh from between its toes. Sometimes in making its swoop it arrests itself for a second or two, as if to watch some change of position on the part of its intended prey.

The singular beauty of the osprey's flight attracted the attention of M. de Quatrefages who remarked that the bird was able with outstretched and immovable wings, not only to withstand the power of a "squall" that would have flung a man to the ground, but even to work its way against the wind. How this feat was performed he confesses to be a mystery to him, and that the so-called scientific theories of "acquired velocity" or "tremulous movement" of the wings could not at all account for the phenomenon which he observed.

Harmless though the osprey be—except to the fish—it is a most persecuted bird, being not only annoyed by rooks and crows, but robbed by the more powerful white-headed eagle, who strikes the osprey on the wing and snatches from the poor bird the results of its morning's labors.

There is but one species of osprey although it has been thought that the American bird ought to be reckoned as a different species. The general color of the osprey is dark brown, but it is pleasingly variegated with various shades of black, gray, and

white. The crown of the head and the nape of the neck are covered with long gray-white feathers, streaked with dark brown. The under surface of the body is white, with the exception of a light brown band which extends across the chest. The primaries are brown tipped with black, and the tail is barred above with a light and a deep brown, and below with brown and white. The legs, toes and cere are blue, the eyes golden yellow, and the beak and claws black.—*Wood's Natural History.*

TRAINING THE LITTLE ONES.

BY NELLIE BURNS.

Some time since, as I stood with other waiting customers in a dry-goods store, a fashionably dressed lady entered, accom-

panied by a fair, flaxen-haired little girl of about five years of age. They had just left a confectioner's stand, and as the result of her purchase the mother carried in her hand a paper of candy. As they approached the place where I was standing I heard the child teasing for the candy. The mother refused to give it to her, and her rather mild teasing assumed the form of a half crying command, and upon being reproached in an impatient tone by the mother, and again refused, she threw herself at full length upon the floor and indulged in such a series of kickings and screamings as to attract the attention of every one in the store. The

mortified mother hastily assured the child that if she would get up, and be a good girl, she would give her the candy; upon which assurance the little victor arose, and after securing her prize, looked around on her spectators with the smile and air of one who had conquered. On the faces of those who had witnessed the scene there was an amused expression, but to me there was nothing in the sight to produce a smile. Such an outburst of temper and such a conquest on the part of that little girl had a deeper significance than was at first apparent to those witnesses.

When I thought how ignorant she was of what was right and wrong, and how dependent was her conduct on the teaching she received, I knew she was not to blame for this act. If her mother had taught her no les-

children, I know they very soon learn if they are to govern or be governed. And as gratifying their wishes is the only thought by which they are guided, they become the severest little tyrants if there is no restraint on their actions.—*Christian Union.*

SELF-CARE WHILE NURSING THE SICK.

To those who are called upon to nurse the sick through a long and severe illness it is of the utmost importance, not only to themselves but to their patient, that their own health should be preserved and their own strength maintained, not only throughout the critical stage, but during the period of convalescence, sometimes so tediously prolonged. To all such we submit the following simple precautions, to aid them in preserving their own health while attending the sick.

If the malady of the patient be such as to cause any marked odor of the breath or noticeable exhalations from the skin, take care always to sit on that side of the bed or sick person which is opposite to the direction which the effluvia take toward the windows or draft of a fireplace. Sit so that their breath, etc., is carried away from you. Do not sit too close to them, or take their breath if you can avoid it.

To keep one's strength in a case of prolonged care, and particularly if obliged to sit up all night for many nights in succession, great benefit will be derived from taking a warm bath early in the morning, and putting on fresh under garments every second morning; or if the disease be particularly infectious in its nature, it is best to change the underclothing every morning. It will be found that the warm bath, followed by brisk rubbing of the whole body with a coarse Turkish towel or flesh brush, will refresh the wearied body almost as much as sleep.—*Christian Union.*

In 1878 UNG A-CHE, a leper, was baptized at the Christian hospital at Swatow, and went away to his home at Na Thau, not cured, but full of joy in his new faith. Three years passed without sign or sound. "A new convert of a day, who came for what he could get, and then vanished," would be the verdict of critics. But last year, news came to the missionaries that at Na-Thau, among a people notorious for piracy, this poor leper had gathered a little band of his neighbors, and had taught them all that he himself had learned during his stay at the hospital. Sunday after Sunday, in spite of the hostility and the threats of the rest of the city, they met for worship; and when the missionaries from Swatow visited the place, they found a congregation of twenty or thirty men or women, as intelligent as they were loyal and prepared for fuller teaching. One and all had learned to love and serve Christ from the teaching of the poor despised leper, still scarred with the marks of his terrible disease. Converts in China, for all that malignant critics may say, are not all hypocrites in search of gain.—*Sunday Magazine.*

WHAT TO WEAR SILVER IN.—Thick white cotton flannel with plenty of fleece on it. I have a silver tea set which we had used every evening for two years and four months, and it is yet bright and pretty, though never scoured. It never had a touch of soap, as that turns silver an ugly whitish color. Every evening, when the family leave the table, I pour scalding water over each piece, and while hot wipe with a soft linen towel, polish once a week with a soft chamois, then pin up in thick cotton flannel bags made for the purpose.



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sons of obedience, and she had been allowed to indulge in such conduct at home, it made but little difference to her as to the time and place of giving vent to her enraged feeling. So, instead of reproaching her for being guilty of this most repulsive act, I pitied her for being the victim of so wretched and ruinous a form of parental government. If, in the short space of her young life, the discipline she had received had been productive of such bad behavior, there could be no doubt that it would in time destroy all the natural goodness in the child's nature.

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BY ERNI

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