

For the REVIEW.]

"We Agree to be Kind to Animals."

We are not apt to realize that our conduct influences not only those among whom we live but that animals as well become good, bad or indifferent, according to the character of those by whom they are surrounded.

The benefit that children derive from having the care and responsibility of pets is often spoken of, and very often a girl or boy is highly commended because he or she is known to be the possessor of a cat, dog or bird. On the other hand it would oftentimes be interesting to know just what that pet thought of its owner. One naturally supposes that the boy or girl who has a pet gives it the very best care and attention, but warm beds, freshly aired houses and plenty of food do not make the sum total of "good care." How would a boy feel if his father or mother never said a pleasant word to him, never asked after his welfare, or expressed delight in his enjoyments? And how many boys there are who never think it necessary to talk to the pets committed to their care.

It is ridiculous to say that animals cannot understand nor do not appreciate such attentions, because it has been proved time and again that such is not the case. Among the pets in a certain household are crows, dogs, pigeons, rabbits, canaries, a pony, a tiny marmoset, and a pretty grey Java sparrow. These animals are all great favorites with the children, and are treated by them as companions in the broadest sense of the word. The canaries, from having been talked to, have come to know what is said to them—in a limited sense, of course,—but still they know when they are spoken to and when they are the subject of conversation. The sparrow, who has always had its freedom during the day, was at first caged at night, as it was feared he might fly into the lamps or strike against some bright object in the room. If by any mischance his cage was not opened for him as soon as the daylight faded he would fly down upon the table, chirping and hopping from place to place until the desired attention was attracted, and he was safely housed until the next morning, when he would stand before the door waiting for it to be opened and his liberty given him again.

The rabbits are the tamest, but perhaps it is because rabbits are invariably so shy, that these seem particularly noticeable. They know no fear whatever, but will come to be petted as soon as they see anyone, and are never happier than when being talked to. The crows have picked up one or two words and say "hello" distinctly; they bark like the dogs, imitate many sounds, and resolutely refuse to allow strange boys to enter the barn in which they live, regarding

it, evidently, as their personal property. It is the same with the other pets, and it is only to show how very friendly and companionable animals will become when the opportunity is given them that these instances are cited.

We have known and heard of animals, on the contrary, belonging to apparently kind boys who were timid, cross and stupid. It is not an unfrequent thing to hear of a parrot that is in the habit of swearing, and this accomplishment has, too, been spoken of with pride, the poor bird's owner forgetting that its words were only a repetition of his own thoughts.

Apart from the simple justice of treating animals, humanely and considerately, such a course will add to their value as protectors of mankind and promoters of civilization. For instance, in one family was a big Newfoundland dog, a great pet and play-fellow. He had been taught to consider the children, particularly the baby, as his especial charge. Wherever the little ones were there was "Major" keenly alive to all dangers. Often at night he would go from room to room looking into the beds to see if all were safe. If any restless little sleeper had burrowed out of sight beneath the clothes, "Major" would hunt until his search was rewarded by finding what he sought. Nothing was more pathetic than to see him grown old, blind, lame and deaf, trying to join the children in their games, and painfully seeking out and keeping near the one who, "though older grown," was still the baby.

All are familiar with the brave St. Bernard dogs and their lives devoted to the saving of human life. Would they be as gentle to the lost traveller if they, themselves, were not treated with love and kindness? Next to the nobleness of the St. Bernard, stands, I think, the confidence of a beautiful Irish setter, who brought the pretty little pup—her only one—that she had accidentally killed and laid in the lap of one of the family, sitting down beside her with a look in her great brown eyes that was heartbreaking. The poor dog had known only love and care, and felt sure that in this case what she could not accomplish would be an easy task to those who had always shown her such kindness.

And this kindness, gentleness and patience to animals must help to develop our own lives and to enable us to influence for good the lives of those about us. A very lovely story is told of Mr. Corliss, the inventor and engine builder. He had a number of men at work blasting out some rock for building purposes. One day some of them found in a cleft of the rock a nest, on which a little bird was sitting. They knew that the next blast would destroy the nest and showed it to Mr. Corliss. The great man—for