

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—This month I propose to talk to you about rabbits and how to care for them. It is best to buy your rabbits of some reliable dealer, rather than of a boy friend, who may happen to have some, unless you know your boy thoroughly. You must take care not to buy old ones, or, indeed, any over eighteen months. A good rabbit has a fine, large eye, a smooth coat, and an active, sprightly appearance.

Having obtained your pets, their hutch or dwelling is the next consideration. This should be elevated from the ground, and (for two rabbits) should have four compartments,—a sleeping-room at each end, and a large living-room in the centre, divided by a good stout board. The sleeping-rooms should be closed, but the living-room may be covered by a wire netting, so that the inside can be easily seen. The hutch should be perfectly water-tight, for a damp hutch will kill even strong, healthy rabbits. The sleeping-rooms should have some soft hay in them, and the floor of the entire hutch should be arranged so that it may be easily cleansed. Too much cannot be said about keeping the house clean, for a dirty hutch is the cause of almost all the ills which rabbits are heir to.

Their food is the next question which may perplex the young keeper. Oats should be given freely, as one of the best things, but it should be remembered that "variety is the spice of life," even with rabbits, and so the food should be as varied as possible. Oats may be given dry or after having been soaked in tea leaves over night. Rabbits are also fond of carrots, cabbages and lettuce, and a variety of other garden vegetables. As rabbits require little water, and almost all the moisture they require is obtained from this fresh food, very little should be given them, and that very seldom. But in winter and times when fresh food is not easily obtained, a little water, or, better still, milk, will do no harm.

The rabbits should be allowed to run at large as often as possible, and they cannot have a better place for exercise than in a yard with grass and clover growing in it. Whenever there is an addition to the family, the doe will begin to make a nest, and to do so will usually pluck her breast bare of the fur. To avoid this soft cotton should be supplied, but not just in the nest, which must not be disturbed. The proper way to handle and take up rabbits is to take them by the ears, close to the body. Lift them up thus, and support the hind legs with the other hand. The mother will look after her offspring until they are about two weeks old, when they ought to begin eating. In winter they should be kept warm and the dampness rigidly excluded. A piece of glass in place of the wire netting in front of the living-room is a good protection. Powdered sulphur sprinkled around the hutch and on the rabbits is a good preventive of ordinary diseases. After you have had your rabbits for a few months, by close watching you will discover their wants and peculiarities, and will need little, if any, assistance from outside. You will have found out that "experience is a good teacher."

UNCLE TOM.

Puzzles.

1.—DROP-VOWEL PUZZLE.

Th - f - l - w - l - v - s - th - l - w - t - w - ll.
W - ll - s - th - n - t - nd - g - n - th - sh - ll.
ADA ARMAND.

2.—TRANSPPOSITION.

Na enthso yoyenamr si uro 'socytnur eridp,
Ewnh enco oytdderes nca vnree eb euipaldp.
ROBT. J. RISK.

3.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

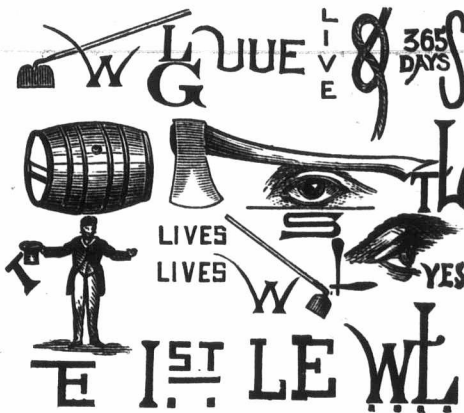
I am composed of nineteen letters.
My 4, 10, 6, 8, 9, 16, 19 is worn by all.
My 14, 15, 6, 5, 13, 8 means old.
My 11, 18, 6, 8 is a garment.
My 7, 2, 13, 15, 8, 16 is a space of time.
My 11, 6, 7, 10, 3 is an animal.
Whole was a king of England.

WILLIAM A. LAIDMAN.

4.—SYNCOPIATIONS.

Residence = A tool.
To heave = Great number.
To stop = A covering for the head.
A man's name = A nobleman.
A small boat = A stick.
Numerous = A month.
Syncopated letters will give a poet.
HENRY REEVE.

5.—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



6.—BURIED CITIES.

That felon don't like imprisonment.
Look at Hector on top of the hill.
I bought that watch at Hamilton.
The people on the barque be-koned to those on shore.
Look at that man breaking stones.

7.—DIAMOND.

A vowel; a girl's name; a weapon; a country;
a sea in Europe; a deed; a vowel.

ELLIS AUGUSTINE.

8.—ANAGRAM.

Sthi efi si otn os dab a life
Sa moes ludwo eocosh ot kame ti,
Tbu fi ouy rae eessdrp yb erac dna fistre,
Tusj fimriyl dastn adn kate ti.

MARY MARSHALL.

9.—CHARADE.

My first is something new,
A letter is my second.
Now join these two, and on my third
You'll find them there, I reckon.
Or first and second take and see
Them in my whole as plain as can be.

A. J. TAYLOR.

10.—WORD SQUARE.

An ache; a piece of land; the rainbow; a
bed for birds.

MAGGIE F. ELLIOTT.

11.—ANAGRAM.

Yb ceanogrin si derip descriane,
Tyte ostm ssuema hwo wkno eth sealt.

ADA ARMAND.

Answers to September Puzzles.

1.—
L
F O R
D O U B T
H E R I T O R
L O U I S R I E L
S C A R L E T
E X I L E
S E A
L

2.—Be wise to-day, 'tis madness to defer,
Next day the fatal precedent will plead;
Thus on till wisdom pushed out of life,
Procrastination is the thief of time.

3.—Your fate is but the common fate of all,
Unmingled joys to no man befall.

4.—
Farce—Fare—C
Fiend—Find—E
Place—Face—L
Peony—Pony—E
Gray—Gay—R
Boyne—Bone—Y

5.—Vest, zest, pest, jest, test, nest, west,
rest.

6.—March, Hungary, Inn, Friendly, Man,
Tweed, Negro, Black, China, Nice, Turkey,
Salt, Rainy, Mud, Chili.

7.—The breaking waves dashed high,
On a stern and rock-bound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed.

8.—Rye, butter, wheat, oats, peas, beef,
honey.

9.—Forget-me-not.

Names of Those Who have Sent Correct Answers to September Puzzles.

Henry Willson, E. W. Hutchinson, Joseph Allen, Willie B. Bell, Wm. Jackson, Chas. Herbert Foster, Will Thirlwall, Jane L. Martin, Mary Morrison, Henry Reeve, Wm. A. Laidman, Georgia Smith, Thos. J. Lindsay, Alice Hume, Lottie A. Bass, Robert Wilson, Robt. J. Risk, Alice Mackie, J. J. Steele, Mary Black, Ellen D. Tupper, Ada Armand, Edmund Pepper, Emma Dennee, Sherman Fortner, Becca Lowry, Chas. Simpson, Agnes Leslie, Fannie Hammond, Minnie Smith, G. O. Gordon, Alfred Luscombe.

About two hundred years ago there was a physician in London by the name of Isaac Letsem, whose sign read as follows:—

When the people get sick,
I phisix, bleeds, and swets 'em,
Then if they wishes to die,
I. LETSEM.

A man of tact always manages to get out of difficulty. The clerk of a parish, whose business is to read the "first lesson," came across the chapter in David in which the names Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego occur twelve times, and finding it extremely difficult to pronounce these names, he went through the chapter referring to them as "the aforesaid gentlemen."