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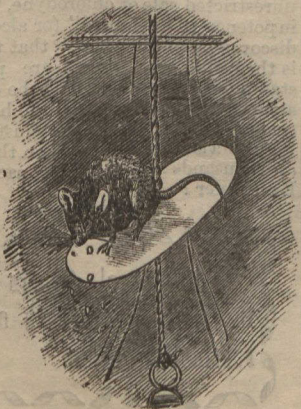
OLD TRAY AND HIS LITTLE FRIEND.

**TAKING CARE OF THE CANARIES.**

The Canary, which is a native of the Cape Verd and Canary Isles in the Atlantic Ocean, was first brought into Europe about the beginning of the 16th century, and since that time has been a general favorite.

A great deal of mis-management is shown in the choice of cages for our pets. The plainer and simpler the cage is the better; those fancy cages filled with nooks and corners are totally unfit for the proper keeping of the birds, as the corners are only breeding places for vermin which bother them and sometimes are the cause of their death. Airiness, light, space, and ease of cleaning, are the principal points to remember in the selection of a cage. The color is a matter of taste, but a combination of green and white makes a pleasing contrast, and is best adapted to the hues of most birds. The door should be large enough to admit of a good sized bathing tray. The perches should be plain round sticks of different sizes. If the cage is a medium sized one an ivory ring, suspended from the roof, will prove an endless source of amusement to the occupant, who enjoys nothing better than a swing now and then.

For the keeping of canaries in a healthy condition much depends upon the judicious mixture of seeds. Canary-seed is their principal food, but they require a variety, such as hemp, rape, millet, linseed and poppy, and the crushed seed of many garden vegetables. Canary and rape seed mixed is about the best for



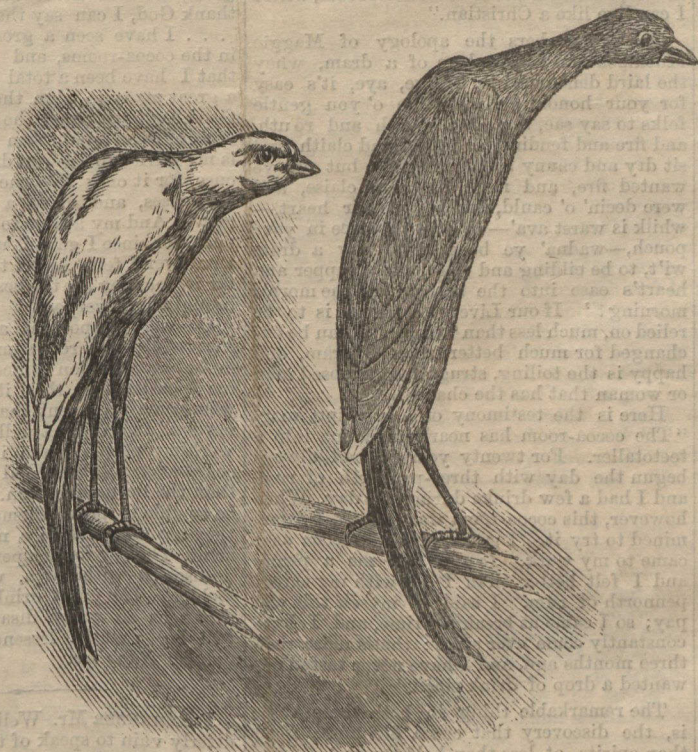
A DISCONCERTED MOUSE.

general use. The fresh tender leaves of water-cress, lettuce, and cabbage are also highly appreciated, while a perfectly ripe strawberry or apple is a dainty to a canary.

Sand carefully washed should be laid sufficiently thick to cover the bottom of the cage; this should be frequently changed. On account of the canaries bad habit of scattering seed and husks about the part of the room in which

its cage may be hanging it is often barred with wire, and its escape can easily be prevented, and pet kept where he is wanted by taking a strip of

tin or cardboard which will sway with the weight of the mouse and thus afford it no chance of holding on. The place in which the birds are kept should be neither too hot or cold or liable to drafts. In summer a high sunny window out of reach of cats, and where cooling breezes blow about, will be sure to please the birds and bring out their gayest song. In winter the best place would be the wall of the dwelling room on which the sun shines part of the day. Stove heat and particularly gas is bad for canaries. To avoid the evil effects of the last, which makes the air intensely hot near the ceilings, it is a good plan to have the cage suspended from a pulley, so that it can be lowered within three or four feet from the floor in the evening. At night if the room will become very cold the cage should be wrapped in an old shawl or covered with thick paper leaving a small space open as an air-hole to prevent disease, much of which is caused by the imperfect way in which they have been attended



FANCY VARIETIES OF THE CANARY.

muslin or thin gauze, wide enough to fit loosely about the cage when its edges are sewed together; gathering it in a bunch like the neck of an old fashioned work-bag, and attaching six inches above the bottom of the cage and also about six inches below it, where it can be tied by a ribbon.

Trouble is sometimes caused by mice making their way into the cages and eating the seed intended for the birds. They will climb down the rope by which the cage is suspended if no other way of entering can be found. Our engraving shows how this may be prevented by passing the cord through a circular piece of

to. Either the cage has been allowed to become so dirty as to impair his health, or the proud owner of the bird has been over indulgent and injured its stomach with rich food, or else it may have been allowed to associate with some diseased birds and so have caught the malady. The signs by which it can be generally told whether the birds are in good health or not, are—The general appearance of his plumage, the color of his eyes, legs, beak, and last though not least, his liveliness or lack of it. A bird's health is generally most delicate at the time of molting, which begins in August or earlier in hot weather. Too early

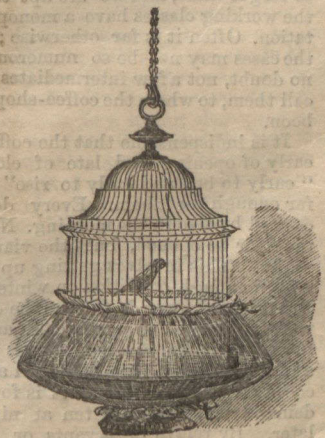


DICKIE.

molting should be prevented by removal of the bird to a cooler room and by frequent baths. While molting the bird should have plenty of water for drinking and bathing and a generous diet. Some stimulant in the water in the shape of a rusty nail, and careful attention on your part will help your favorite through what is to him a most trying season. Sometimes the feet and legs become sore and scaly; this is caused by foul perches. The treatment is to hold the feet frequently in warmish water, sometimes adding a trifle of arnica to it and anoint them with oil. The perches should be frequently examined, scraped, and if any of those pests, the red mites, should make their appearance upon them plunge the perch in boiling water two or three times a week.

Canaries show a great aptitude for tricks, and will soon come to know their master or mistress. An English gentleman had a canary which, for years, was never kept in a cage. In summer he would fly out to the gate or down the road to meet his master, perching on his finger, nestling in his bosom or, best of all clinging to his hair, where he was supremely happy.

The picture of the bird in the dog's mouth tells a true story of a bird in France which really would go into Old Tray's mouth and sit there in perfect security.



A CAGE WITH LACE BAG FOR CATCHING SEED.