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A HEN THAT ADOPTED A KITTEN.

The following account of a hen that adopted a motherless kitten is contributed to Our Animal Friends, August, by Dr. N. Roe Bradner:

"One of our barnyard fowls had been laying her daily egg in an unused manger, which she had evidently se lected as a hatching-place, and she was now ready to begin the ordained kitten were happy and contented, little three weeks' labor of 'sitting.' this same time, the barn cat had found this same manger very inviting for her hours of repose, and it thus happened that Tabby and old Cluck had become friends, and agreed to occupy the manger in joint possession. Things went along smoothly in this unique but happy family for several days, during which the hen faithfully plucked her breast, feathered her nest, and no doubt believed that she was hatching, while in truth her ova were but stale nest eggs from which all the warmth of hendom could never educe a chick. Still she sat and smiled, plucked her breast and turned her eggs, while pussy came and went at will, spending at least half her time with the hen, and in as close proximity as if they had been sister cats. But the threeweeks' hatching process was destined to be very much shortened."

"It was, in fact, nearer three days than three weeks when the hen awoke one bright morning to find the nest filled with young. Young what? Perhaps she thought they were chickens, but if she was wise enough to know the truth, she was not honest enough to acknowledge it, for she innocently assumed that they were chickens, and her own offspring; whereas, and of a truth they were pussy's dear little kittens.

"The cat and the hen, however, seemed to remember their compact. They were friends, and friends they remained, notwithstanding the advent of children the maternity of which was equally claimed by the biped and the quadruped. Nay, their bond of friendship seemed to be strengthened by the union of their efforts to give the little ones a proper bringing-up. Inexorable fate, however, decreed that the poor little kittens should have no natural mother. About the time it was possible for them to live without her, an accident caused the death of the old cat, and a home was found for all but one. To that one the hen devoted her undivided attention for the whole summer, and so assiduously that the kitten must surely have believed the hen to be her true and natural mother."

"The hen going about between the

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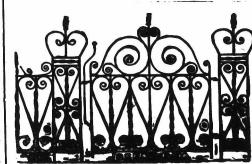
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house and barn, clucking for the kitten, was indeed a funny sight, and attracted very general attention, and it was equally remarkable to see the kitten run to her when she made the peculiar call that chickens so well understand means something to eat. At night and during the resting-hours of the daytime, kitty would crawl under the warm wings of her foster-mother. and the brooding-hen and her nestlingdreaming and caring less that they were so far from being related to each other.'

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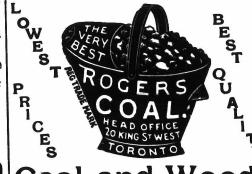
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