

feathers of one wing must be cut or stripped, as it is absolutely necessary that they should have plenty of sun and air. The chicks hatch on the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth day, and should be treated very much like turkey chicks, giving them a tight, dry, board coop, and allowing them on the grass only when quite dry and warm. For the first few days they should have ants' eggs, or hard-boiled egg, chopped fine (the former preferred). After a week, the staple food may be oatmeal dough, mixed very dry and made into pills; or Spratt's Food, varied with crushed hemp seed, and occasionally crushed wheat. The animal food must not be forgotten even for a day. Some fanciers hang a piece of meat in a warm place, and allow it to become fly-blown, and breed worms for them. Pure spring water is an absolute necessity, to prevent the gapes, which is much more fatal to young pheasants than any other fowls. While the young birds are very tender, adult birds are very hardy, and except in winter, do not require protection beyond what a few shrubs will afford. They do much better on a light, than a heavy soil. A cock and three or four hens make a very attractive aviary; and there is no doubt, that if carefully kept for a few generations, would be almost as tame as our lighter breeds of poultry.

Care of a Canary.

The first thing to do after getting a bird is to see that he is provided with a suitable cage. This may be of brass or iron wire, or wood, and never should any of them be painted. If you will watch a bird in a cage you will see him peck at the wires of the cage often; if it is a painted cage you will notice the paint off in little spots where he has been pecking, and it will take but a short while for the white lead used in the paint to do its work by killing the bird. A brass cage is also dangerous if not cleaned often, owing to the verdigris that collects in the crevices. A brass cage may be cleaned by using ammonia and whiting mixed to a paste. Rub every part of the cage with this, using an old tooth brush to get into the crevices, then wipe with a soft, dry cloth, using a dry brush to remove all the powder from the interstices. While cleaning the cage the bird should be in another cage, or, if tame enough, allowed to fly around the room. Any bird may be tamed enough to fly about the room, with a little patience, and all birds should be allowed to exercise their wings a few minutes each day in this way.

The inside of the cage should be cleaned out every day. Always have a layer of sand in the bottom of the cage. If a piece of thick wrapping paper is cut out the size of the bottom of the cage, and the sand placed on this, it can be removed each day, and the bottom of the cage be kept clean and dry. There are sand papers manufactured for this purpose, which can be bought in any bird store, and cost only a few cents a dozen. After washing the roosts, be sure they are thoroughly dry ere replacing in the cage, for if damp the bird is in danger of having sore feet. Give fresh drinking water each day, and wash out the drinking cup. Some birds will not bathe at first, and should be taught, for they never can be kept healthy and clean unless they bathe daily. While the bird is in the cage, remove the bottom of cage, and place the top with the bird on the table over the bathing dish, which should be filled with fresh water. If he

does not feel inclined to bathe, sprinkle a few drops over him, and when he feels how good it is, it will be only a short time ere he bathes of his own accord. In winter always take the chill off the water.

The plain canary seed is the healthiest kind of food for the bird, although a little mixed seed occasionally will do no harm, but should not be adopted as a regular food, as there is a seed in this mixture (the hemp, we think) which is very fattening, and the constant use of this seed in a cage where the bird has no chance of exercising will in a short time result in death. If the bird is troubled with dizziness and falls from the roost, take away the mixed seed and feed wholly on plain canary. The practice of giving a bird bits of sugar, candy, cake, etc., cannot be too strongly condemned, for aside from injuring its voice, the health of the bird suffers also in consequence. Pieces of green are always good, such as a bit of lettuce leaf, chickweed, blades of grass, and if you wish to delight the little songster, place in the cage a bunch of plantain seed bulbs. Always keep a piece of cuttle fish bone in the cage, which may be bought of any druggist. A piece of hard-boiled egg may be used with good effect.

After buying a bird do not keep it in the tiny wooden cage in which it is brought home any longer than you can help. Don't hang the bird-cage too near the ceiling, as the heat ascends and the bird may be very uncomfortable, particularly in warm weather. The spring hook is an excellent thing to use. Be careful that the cage is not hung in a draught, and if near a window, do not open the top of window unless the cage is removed. When hanging the cage outside, do not hang in draught or sun, and if in the latter, put something over the top of the cage as a shade. When carrying a bird in a cage through the streets for any distance, wrap the cage in a newspaper, to prevent the draught hurting the bird.

Regularity of Habit.

One of the most difficult of all the minor habits is to acquire that of regularity. It ranks with that of order. The natural inclination of most persons is to defer until the last possible moment, or to put off to another time, where this can possibly be done. Yet, habits of regularity contribute to the ease and comforts of life. A person can multiply his efficiency by it. We know persons who have a multitude of duties, and who perform a vast deal of work daily, who set apart certain hours for given duties, and are there at the moment, and attend rigidly to what is in hand. This done, and other engagements are met, each in order, and a vast deal accomplished; not by strained exertion, but by regularity. The mind can be so trained to this that at certain hours of the day it will turn to a particular line of duty; and at other hours to other and different labors. The very diversity is restful, when attended to in regular order. But let these be run together, and the duties mixed, and what before was easy is now annoying and oppressive. And the exact difference between many is just at this point. There are those who confuse and rush, and attempt to do several things at once, and accomplish little; while another will quietly proceed from one duty to another, and easily accomplish a vast amount of work. The difference is not in the capacity of the two, but in the regular methods of the one, as compared with the irregular and confused habits of the other.

Uncle Tom's Department.

A Little Bird Made a Nest.

"A little bird once made a nest,
Of moss and hay and hair,
And there she laid five speckled eggs,
And covered them with care.
"Five little birds were hatched in time,
So small and bare and weak;
The father fed them every day
With insects from his beak.
"At last the little birds were fledged,
And strong enough to fly;
And then they spread their tiny wings,
And bade the nest 'Good-by.'
"There's many a little home like this,
Sheltered in every grove;
To teach us how to make our homes
Abodes of peace and love."

MY DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:—One day, some years ago, a man whose peculiar dress told he had travelled far, registered his name at one of the hotels at Niagara Falls. A quiet man, unattended, but carrying with him that dignity which a true object in life gives to the possessor, whether dressed in homespun or broadcloth. Over his shoulder a worn knapsack was suspended. As he passed through the society-loving company gathered there, he attracted no attention, unless, indeed, a second look, from ruder eyes, who saw not the man but the dress. It was Audubon. That man of whom my nieces and nephews have read. Where has he not travelled? What about birds—and that is but a small part—does he not know? It is said by John Burroughs, himself a most interesting writer on this subject, that "Audubon, on the desolate coast of Labrador, is happier than any king ever was; and on shipboard is nearly cured of his sea-sickness when a new gull appears in sight." Such intense love has this man for his work, that, exposing himself to all kinds of inconveniences and climates, over land and sea, north and south, over thousands of miles, he has followed the objects of his search, and given to the world the result of his discoveries.

Burroughs says, in his "Wake-Robin":—"First find your bird; observe its ways, its song, its calls, its flight, its haunts;" and your Uncle Tom is really interested to know who have been busy since last writing. The birds have been busy, anyway; and if the little bare feet have not been slower than their Uncle gives them credit for, they, too, have had their eyes and ears open. What did they see and hear? When they went for the crows, or planted the potatoes, or picked the beautiful trilliums or nepatica or the buttercups in the woods, or went to school, what lessons from the bird world did you learn, and which of you, with your clear, sweet voices, can rival the singing of the birds? Some of them, of course, do not sing sweetly; yet, which of them would we not miss? The robin, canary, blackbird, crow, hermit-thrush, or many others? No; we want them all, and to learn of more. How beautiful God has made them; and their sweet singing seems like hymns of praise to their Creator, these lovely June days. Did you ever wonder why visitants from the spirit world are ever spoken of as coming on wings? But there is more than ornithology to be touched on this time. Too busy at school just now to read up extra subjects? Well, get interested in the birds now without reading; then read Burroughs, Audubon, and everything else that is good on the subject.

Have an appetite for what you read. After years of experience, one lesson has been im-