#### THE COMMON MOUSE.

HE IS A DECIDEDLY INTERESTING LITTLE ANIMAL

Agile and Graceful In His Movements, Intelligent and Rather Dainty, Too, and Not at All Vicious In His Disposition.

The common little house mouse is probably the best known wild animal in America. It is almost impossible to avoid learning something of the appearance and habits of this little fellow, for he acts as a private tutor on the subject

in almost every household. As few of us are fond enough of him. however, to pay strict attention when he presents himself as an object lesson, a brief description of his external appearance may not be out of place. In a certain quaint dictionary I once possessed the definition of "mouse" was given as "a small rat," and this is not such a very bad one, after all, except for the fact that the reader is apt to be less familiar with the appearance of a rat than a mouse. The total length of the latter animal is about 6% inches, of which the tail takes up nearly one-half. His head is longish and his nose sharp. His ears are large and erect, with very little hair on either surface. His legs are slender, and his delicate little toes are provided with sharp, slightly hooked nails. His tail is round and tapering, scaly and with a slight covering of short hair. In color

Altegether he is a very dainty little fellow, and if persons would only stop to study him a little instead of throwing things at him or calling in the cat every time be puts in an appearance they would soon find him a very intelligent and at tractive companion. He is very agile and graceful in his movements and not at all vicious in disposition. For some time past I have had a number of mice in captivity, and I find them very amusing spets. They will eat anything and are so same that they will take food from my land or drink from a little vessel held in the fingers. They are most active at snight, but often play about in the daytime. They are very bright and immediately give their attention to any unmisual sight or sound. To do this they musually pause, with their head slightly -on one side and with a most inquiring Book in the eyes. After eating they wash themselves very rapidly with their front DAWS.

rellowish.

Where there is an abundance of food mice eat a great deal, but they seem able to live on very little, and when once well established in a house they manage to get along somehow, even if the provisions are carefully locked up for months at time. When hungry, however, they ar very persevering in their efforts to get food and will gnaw their way into boxes and cupboards, scale walls and eve cross ceilings when the latter are rough enough to afford a hold for their sharp, hooked claws. They have been known descend a rope and eat up the contents of a basket hanging from the ceiling.

They make their nests of scraps of pa per, wool, rags or any soft material, which they usually chop up very small with their teeth. These homes are usu ally made in a hole in the wall or beneat! the fleor or in an old box, drawer or other convenient place. Often when clearing out an old desk or trunk one comes upor such a nest, made of fine particles of old letters, penwipers and such like things.

There are several litters of young every year and generally from four to ten in litter. When the young ones are born. they are very small, pink little creatures. maked and blind. The mother is devoted to them and tends them with great care and evident affection. When they are a their hole to play about and see what the world is made of. They may easily be distinguished from the older ones by their smaller size and younger looks.

Others are spotted black and white and | tures made from there increase the ap- nation. at times have been sold at quite good parent height of hurdles and make a prices as "fancy" mice.

Of the many enemies of the little rodents perhaps the house cat stands at the head of the list. Many people judge a cat chiefly by her qualities as a mouse hunter, and, all things considered, it is perhaps just as well that she does take a hand in the game occasionally.

Next to the cat perhaps the owls and and foxes, coons, weasels, skunks and crows all look upon mice as a delicacy. But the troubles of the rodents do not end here. Scores of ingenious traps have been invented for their destruction, and they are also poisoned in great numbers every year.

When it becomes necessary to destroy mice, perhaps the most humane way to do it is with the spring trap, which kills them instantly by a blow. Poisoning is very cruel, and this method is also a menace to human life, not only because It is always dangerons to have poison where there is a possibility of children getting hold of it, but because the mice are apt to die in the walls, floors and other inaccessible places. Drowning is also cruel, though I once

knew two dear elderly ladies who were so kind hearted that they used to drown their mice in warm water, "because," they said, "it is so cruel to drown the poor things in cold water, in the middle of winter too."

Sydney Ought to Know I's Now. It was in the year 1820 and in the Ed inburgh Review that Sydney Smith made his celebrated sneering reference to this country. "In the four quarters of the globe," he asked, "who reads an Ameri can book, or goes to an American play. or looks at an American picture or stat ne? What does the world yet owe to American physicians or surgeons? What new substances have their chemists dis covered or what old ones have they arlyzed? What new constellations been discovered by the telescopes

America? What have they done in the mathematics? Who drinks out of American glasses, or eats from American plates. or wears American coats or gowns, or sleeps in American blankets?"

Prompt.

Holden-What kind of a boy is that

new one who came last week? dull. He was talking rather loudly the at the public expense. other afternoon, and I hollered, "Shut up!" Well, sir, before I knew what he

TRAGIC CHRISTMASES.

World's Greatest Holiday Has Often

Been Reddened by Blood. Christmas, which should be and usually is the merriest day of all the year, has semetimes been reddened by bloodshed

and blackened by tragedy. One of the most barbarous of the persecutions against the Christians was begun by Diocletian on Christmas day, A. D. 303, when a church in Nicodemia, filled with Christians, was ordered by him to be set on fire. Every way of egress was barred, and not a single worshiper escaped the flames.

Yuletide in 1066 was a melancholy time in England, which nevertheless always celebrated it with the utmost eagerness, for Harold, the last of the Saxons, had fallen before the Norman conqueror, and on Dec. 25 of that year William the Conqueror was crowned in Westminster abbey. The occasion was signalized by the slaughter of a huge crowd of Anglo-Saxons outside of the church through a mistaken idea that they had risen in revolt.

Exactly two years later there was an uprising of the malcontents in the northern counties who hoped to throw off the Norman yoke. William marched in person against the rebels and directed universal slaughter. His men surprised several garrisons and put them to the sword. Neither age nor sex was spared. and every house in the disaffected rechildren perished on Dec. 25, 1068.

the is dusky gray above and ashy be-1170 that Thomas a Becket, the greatmeath. His eyes and most of his whiskest English cleric of his day, ascended ers are black, and his front teeth are

> on Dec. 29 they slew the prelate before the altar of St. Benedict in the northern-transept of Canterbury cathedral. On Dec. 25, 1384, John Wyclif died as he was about to preach his Christ-

One of the saddest Christmases known in London was that of the year 1663. The great plague had stricken the city, and the people were dying at the rate of 1,000 a day.-London Mail.

PHOTOGRAPHING HORSES.

Little Tricks of the Camera to Get the Best Effects.

Photographs of horse show prize win ners and of beasts whose owners aspire to honors are in good demand during horse show times, and photographers who make that branch of the business a spe cialty have a busy time.

"It is no easy matter to make a good horse picture," said one photographer, "although every amateur thinks himself equal to the task. A horse must be taken from the proper point or his owner will not recognize the picture. If the camera is too near the subject, certain points will be exaggerated in the photograph.

"The best results are obtained by placing the horse on a slight incline, so that the fore feet are a trifle higher than the hind feet. This position throws the head up. Then snapping the fingers or mak ing any slight noise will cause the ani mal to prick up his ears, and at the mo ment when he is in this position of attention the photographer makes the picture.

"When horses in harness are to be photographed, they must be posed on level ground or on a slight incline. To make them look alive a hat or a card is sometimes scaled in front of them, and at the moment when they look up the snap shot is made.

"When pictures of horses in action are made, we usually place the camera near the ground, and by that means we get few weeks old, they begin to come out of the best hoof positions, which cannot be secured when the camera is held or placed at the ordinary height.

"To make pictures of jumping horses kept as pets are albinos of this species. in the ground for that purpose, and picsmall jump look something remarkable."

#### Missed His Calling.

A young insurance man received an introduction to some good people a few days ago in a manner which he will not soon forget. The friend who did the honhawks account for the greatest number, of those guiet, sober, polished men whom one meets occasionally. Upon this occasion he was as grave and dignified as a sincere. He said:

> man, and I have always insisted that any one who could tell as good a lie as he can ought either to be a piano tuner or a lightning rod agent."

Do You Wear Green?

Probably at some time in her life every woman has been approached by been friends so long that you will surely your interest and take it kindly. My friends say I am a fool to say it to you, but I feel that you must be told. Now, do take it in the right spirit. It is this: You ought not to wear green. It is so very unbecoming to you."

He Needed the Man.

"Excuse me for breaking into your conversation," said Senator Sorghum as he approached the musicians who were diseassing their art, "but who is this man you are talking about?"

"We have talked of several." "But the man you last mentioned. You campaign fund."

There is at least one country in the street dress, but arrayed in the robes and world where it costs nothing to die. In full bottomed wig of his office. some of the cantons of Switzerland all Winter-Ob, he's all right-only a little the dead, rich as well as poor, are buried

> At Whakarewarewa, New Zerland, a "den?" sools, mud volcanoes and hot water falls. the house\_Somerville (Mass ) Journal

RULES THE COMMONS.

THE SPEAKER ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ENGLISH OFFICIALS.

His Authority In the British Parliament and How It May Be Exerted. The Manner In Which He Is Elected-Taking the Chair.

The speaker of the house of commons is one of the most powerful personages of the British empire. For the latter is governed by parliament, representing the will of the people, and by ministers of state, representing the majority of votes in the national legislature, and it is the speaker who is the authority over parliament-that is to say, over the most important part thereof-namely, the house of commons. He can suspend a member, he can stop the prime minister on a point of procedure, he can close a debate, he can decide the most momentous constitutional questions by a few words spoken m private conference behind the chair, he can overrule the cabinet on points which may be vital to its policy and which may either enhance or discredit the authority in the house, and it is he alone who decides who is to speak and who is to remain silent. No secretary of state, not even the first lord of the treasury, who holds the title of "leader of the house," is gions was razed to the ground. It is able to speak in parliament without havsaid that over 100,000 men, women and ing obtained the permission of "the first commoner in the land" by means of the It was on Christmas day in the year peculiar process known as "catching the speaker's eye."

There is no optic in the world that has the cathedral pulpit at Canterbury and played so important a part in history as preached what may be called his own | the "eye" of the speaker. Its power and funeral sermon. The words he made rights are not based on any written law. use of so angered Henry II that he let | but on long established custom and tradifall those fatal words, "If anybody loved | tion. Often several members rise in their me, he would rid me of this turbulent places at once, endeavoring to arrest the wandering optic of the speaker, and it is Four knights took him at his word, and then free to that august functionary to make his selection and to indicate the member who has his permission to speak. While he generally concedes priority to newcomers who are about to address the house for the first time, yet he is so impartial in the performance of this particplar duty that, within the memory of the present generation at any rate, no speaker of the house of commons has been taxed with unfairness.

The manner in which the speaker is elected at the opening of a new parlinment is as follows: On the day appointed by royal proclamation for the meeting of the newly elected legislature the members assemble in the house of commons, the speaker's chair remaining empty and the mace of office being under instead of on the table. A few minutes after 2 o'clock -that is the usual hour for the ceremony -the doorkeeper announces "Black Rod." and the latter, who is the principal executive official of the house of lords, enters and with a number of bows to the speaker's empty chair invites "this honorable house" to repair "to another place" to hear the reading of the royal commission y means of which parliament is opened. He then retires, bowing thrice, and is followed by the chief clerk of the house of commons, a queen's counsel, wearing the wig, the silk robes, the queer fashioned coat, black knee breeches and silk stockngs of his office, and by most of the members of parliament, who take up their position at the bar of the house of lords and listen to the reading of the commission opening the new paritiment. The royal .amissioners, consisting of the lord high chancellor and four other peers, arrayed in the scarlet and ermine barred robes of their rank, are scated in a line on the woolsack in front of the throne. At the conclusion of the reading of the sovereign's message the commons flock back to the lower chamber. After they have taken their places the clerk of the house, sitting at the table below the speaker's empty chair, rises and silently points three fingers at the chief representstive of the administration, known as the leader of the house. The latter thereupon rises and proposes the election to the speakership of some candidate whose had invented the scheme to make him the same method is employed, and the name has usually been already agreed take exercise. His courtiers were com-While the normal color is gray, very beight of the jump is sometimes exage upon jointly by the leaders of the adminipled, of course, to exercise with him. rarely a black specimen is seen, and the gerated by placing the camera below istration party and of the opposition, the white mice with red eyes which are often the track level. An excavation is made chief of the latter, in accordance with time honored usage, seconding the nomi-

Seldom-certainly not within the membeen a full fledged contest for the office | dred yards slowly now and then. Above of speaker. For the government party, ways endeavors to secure a candidate person how foolish is the man who does who will be acceptable to the minority, so that there may be no question as to the impartiality of the chair. It has often ors was somewhat of a wag, but was one happened that the speaker, by the wish and consent of the party in power, has been selected from the ranks of the opposition. If there is no objection raised to church deacon and seemingly perfectly the candidate thus nominated, the clerk of the house, after the lapse of two min-"I would like to make you acquainted utes as indicated by the sandglass on the with Mr. B. I can recommend him to table before him, arises from his seat at your good graces, having known both him | the table and, without uttering a word, and his family for years. His father is points three fingers at the nomince. The one of the best men I know, and their latter then rises from his seat and, adfamily is an old one. There is only one dressing the clerk of the house by name, thing I might say. Mr. B. is an insurance expresses his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, requesting that he may have the support of every member, "without which the speaker can do nothing, but having which there is little he cannot do."

As soon as he has concluded his little address the leader of the government smiles across the body of the house to the leader of the opposition, whereupon both a woman friend with the following: "I arise from their places and conduct the hope you will not be offended at what speaker elect to the speaker's chair. I am about to say to you. We have Standing before the latter under its canopy and facing the chair, he beckons to understand that what I say is solely for the sergeant-at-arms, who, taking the mace of office from beneath the table, places it on the latter, the members on both sides of the house having risen to their feet. As soon as the mace has been placed on the table the speaker; no longer "elect," but duly inducted, gives a signal to the members to reseat themselves. Then the leader of the government party delivers a brief speech of congratulation, in response to which the speaker "unreservedly places himself in the hands of the house." Then as people are just beginning to wonder what will happen next the speaker rises again and in his official ! voice -a distinctly different and more authoritative organ than that employed dur- living that long anyhow." said he had such a beautiful and unerring ing the earlier proceedings-exclaims, touch. I am willing to pay such a man "The question is that this house will now adjourn." No objection being taken, the speaker leaves the chair, and when he next resumes it does so no longer in plain

An All Pervading Growler.

MODERN RURAL COMEDIES.

Or What's the Use of People When You Have Live Stock?

"I have everything ready for the presentation of the greatest rural comedy ever staged." said the theatrical promoter. "Good! We're always looking for good UllULA rural comedies," cried the theatrical manager as he reached for his bunch of contracts. "Tell me about it."

The theatrical promoter laid his fur trimmed coat on the mahogany desk of the theatrical manager, elevated his feet upon the Dresden tiled mantelpiece and

"This is the greatest ever. Scene laid n Vermont. Big mountains on one set, Pretty little valley another set. Interior of quaint old cottage, showing stone fence and brier patch, makes another set. Another set shows interior of house, rafters in plain view, decorated with strings of dried pumpkin, paper sacks full of seeds, two or three hams, ears of popcorn hung up to dry, and all that sort of thing." "Just the thing, just the thing!" ex-

claimed the theatrical manager as he began filling in a contract. "Go on."

"Several head of cows come on in the first act, together with a flock of trained hens headed by an educated rooster. Eleven head of sheep are seen feeding on pasture in distance. Bony old horse with well worn sidesaddle is hitched to real stump on side of stage. Real dog suns imself on porch of old house. Cat comes down porch. Dog and cat have scrap in full view of audience. Squirrel-real squirrel-comes out of hole in tree in third act. Dog sees squirrel and gives chase. Great excitement.

"Splendid, splendid!" ejaculated the theatrical manager. "Give you time in all the houses in our circuit on your own terms. Go on."

"Third act shows field of ripe oats. Team of real horses hitched to real reaper. Cuts oats in full view of audience. Real cows give milk and real butter is churned on stage." Magnificent!" shouted the theatrical

manager. "Have you engaged your peo-"People? Thunder!" exclaimed the theatrical promoter. "What's the use of having any people in a rural drama if

A LECTURE ON EXERCISE.

you've got plenty of live stock?".

The Game of Polo and How It Became Fashionable.

The game of polo sheds some light upon the foolish suggestion that exercise is not necessary to human beings. You all know that in playing polo a big man climbs on a small horse and races over a green field, hammering away at a little wooden ball, while other horses and men bump into him. There is no more violent exercise known to men, with the possible exception of football.

A great many hundred years ago an oriental prince was in what the English describe as a very "seedy" condition. His liver was too big; his muscles were too small; his heart acted badly. He was billious, downcast and ready to give up the ghost. The doctors could do nothing for him. But along came a doctor from foreign parts who agreed to cure him. He said:

"I have wonderful drugs which can only be absorbed through the pores in the palm of the hand. These drugs I have inclosed in the handle of this instrument which you see."

Thereupon he showed the prince the original polo mallet with leather wrapped around the handle. The prince, as easily deceived as are most princes, consented to try the new remedy. It was explained to him that he must get warm in order that his hand might absorb the health giving drugs. He raced about on a little pony, as directed, all day long for many days and at last was a perfectly healthy, prince. The wise doctor never told him the

truth-namely, that there were no drugs in the handle of the mallet and that he Thus the game of polo became fashionable and survives to our day.

Don't be a foolish oriental prince and wait for some doctor full of strategy to make you exercise in spite of yourself. ory of the present generation-has there Be sensible; go out and walk; run a hunall, breathe deeply and slowly through conscious of its numerical superiority, al- your nose and demonstrate in your own not appreciate exercise.

Sarcastic.

One night Sir Arthur Sullivan, along with Byron, the English dramatist, was at Charles Mathews' house, and among the amusements provided for the visitors was a raffle for penny toys. You drew a paper and if successful made your selec-

Palgrave Simpson, the dramatic author, drew a prize and said in his finicky way, "Dear, dear me, What shall choose among these?"

Byron immediately took up a penny sword, pulled it out of its sheath and exclaimed, "Take this, Palgrave; you need something that will draw;" which was rather hard upon Palgrave, who had just perpetrated a dead failure.

Climate Affects Cigars. Many attempts have been made to

grow Havana tobacco in other parts of the world. They have never succeeded any more than you can persuade an expert that Australian claret is French. The true Havana cigar must be grown in Havana and made there. Export the leaf in bulk and have it made up precisely according to Cuban methods, and you will find that the results are quite different. Even the real Havana cigar cannot be smoked for a few days after reaching England. It is "seasick."-London Express.

No Terrors.

Watts-I broke a mirror yesterday. n't there a superstition of some kind connected with breaking a mirror? Potts-Yes. It means seven years' bad

"It does? I'm glad to hear it. If I am in for seven years' bad luck I am sure of

Memory. Husband (angrily)-Den't forget, madam, that you are my wife. Wife-Oh, never fear. There are some

In Switzerland bread seems to play a Mrs. Wiggles-Does your husband have more prominent part as food than in any was about, he had half the shutters up.- there are geysers, hot springs, boiling Mrs. Waggles-No; he roars all over es 70 per cent of the nourishment of the inhabitants in the Swife senublic

things one can't forget.

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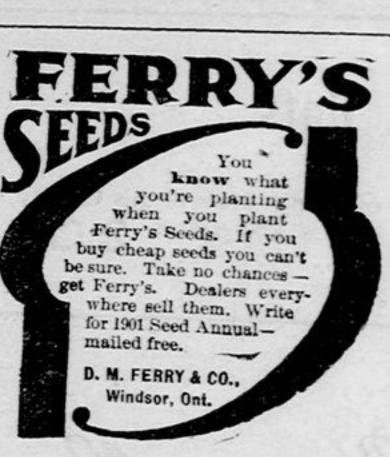
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#### KIDNEY DISEASE FOR TEN YEARS.

A Glen Miller Man's Terrible Trial.

He Found a Cure at Last in Doan's Kidney Pills. Mr. P. M. Burk, who is a well-known

resident of Glen Miller, Hastings Co., Ont., was afflicted with kidney trouble for ten years.

So pleased is he at having found in Doan's Kidney Pills a cure for his ailments, which he had begun to think were incurable, that he wrote the following statement of his case so that others similarly afflicted may profit by his experience: "I have been afflicted with kidney trouble for about ten years and have tried several remedies but never received any real benefit until I started taking Doan's Kidney Pills. My back used to constantly ache and my urine was high colored and milky looking at times. Since I have finished the third box of Doan's Kidney Pills I am happy to state that I am not bothered with backache at all and my urine is clear as crystal. I feel confident that these pills are the best kidney specific in the country."

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Dec. 14, 1898

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