NOTES AND COMMENTS

A British jury appears to have settled an old and vexed question by a verdict which upheld the right of spectators or auditors to hiss. A man who had been ejected or maltreated for hissing vulgar and silly doggerel sung in a music hall was awarded $250 in damages under a court ruling which exonerated him from the charge of disorderly conduct and disturbance of the peace and decorum of an amusement place.

The right to clap, stamp, cheer, applaud has never been questioned by managers. There are sensitive persons who regard all applause as barbarous and who actually suffer from it. Little sympathy is felt for them because artists like applause and look embarrassed and crestfallen when it fails to come at the end of an act, movement, song or stunt. But, if we are encouraged to make noise and assault refined ears and nerves by any kind or degree of applause, how can any exception be taken to hissing? The right to approve implies the right to condemn. And so a British jury has held.

Canadians never assert their prerogative and privileges as others do. They prefer to put up with small impositions and suffer in silence. When anything offends them in a place of amusement they quietly walk out. Silence is their manner of indicating indifference or contempt. It is an effective manner, and we would not advocate a change. Still, it is well to know one's rights, for somewhere, sometime, some one may be driven to hiss—and not the villain of a melodrama, who likes it.

Every now and then the testimonial bug breaks loose and starts out to ravage. Sometimes it selects a public office, sometimes a private one. Sometimes it lays a big tax, sometimes a little one. Sometimes it stings a body of employes, sometimes a small circle of intimates.

Even when the motives of the promoter are of the worthiest—often they are not—they may still represent an emotional impulse that were best disregarded. Contributions are commonly made under compulsion, assumed if not avowed. Whether they represent a percentage on salary or a per capita amount arbitrarily set, they call for payments that many can ill afford and they make pretence of an ostensible good will which is but limited or indeed altogether absent.

A testimonial may range over the various stages of humbug, calculation and self-seeking, on to coercion, extortion and even fraud. Too often it curseth him that gives and him that takes. Pity the man who cannot show his good will save cooperatively. Pity the fond fellow who is duped by formal demonstrations of regard that may far outrun any merit discernible in him. Pity those who confuse officiousness with friendliness and those who are prompted to curry favor at the expense of their associates. And pity, if you choose, the man who is unwilling to refuse for fear of being misunderstood.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFRICA.

Has the Privilege of Marrying Whom She Pleases.

Although woman in Africa is regarded as property she has certain rights which are seldom infringed upon, and of these the most important is her right to marry whom she pleases, or rather to refuse to marry one who does not please her. There are two reasons for this. First, women married against their wills have been known to commit suicide. Second, women married against their wills have murdered their unloved husbands, usually strangling them when asleep. So, in forcing one's self upon one of these women there is liability to a great loss—the loss of valuable property or of no less highly prized life.

The young girls are well cared for, partly that they may be comely and draw many suitors. Every girl will tell you frankly that she wishes to marry and have a good husband and children. Every father is anxious to have his daughters marry well. To obtain a wife one must pay a dowry in cattle to the father, or, should the father be dead, to the nearest male relative. If a girl is much sought after, her father naturally asks a larger dowry. When the man has paid part of the dowry the father may give consent to a provisional marriage and permit the couple to live together. Should the husband be too slow in paying the remainder of the dowry the wife is taken from him.

Trial marriages are common and can be set aside by either party. Their principal objects in marriage are mutual helpfulness and the perpetuation of the race.

Taking things philosophically is easy if they don't concern you.

HEALTH

Diet in Winter.

Though it is quite true that we require more heat-producing food in the cold than in the warm weather, it is equally true that most people make the mistake of taking too much. What some of them eat in the summer months, for instance, would make a perfect winter diet, and if during the hot weather they cut it down by about a third they would be in good health all the year round. Instead of that they are reminded by the first cold days that a little extra heat-making food is good in winter, with a result that they over-eat, as indeed they have been doing all the summer. The people who most commonly fall into this error are the middle-aged, who who do not as a rule get enough active exercise in the open air to counteract the effects of over-loading the system with more material than it can dispose of. The first risk they run is of indigestion, which leaves them an easy prey to chills by reason of a generally lowered bodily condition.

Another danger is that the excess of fat that is being taken into the body is stored up in the form of fat globules that settle in the liver, about the kidney, heart, and other organs. These impede the proper action of these organs, because they displace some of the working cells. The strength of the heart is diminished, because its muscle fibres are invaded by fat which has no right to be there. Extra work is thrown upon the liver and kidneys, which they cannot well perform, and that is a season of the year when they require to be kept at the utmost pitch of efficiency.

The man who thus abuses his kidneys must not be surprised if, when he takes a chill, they retaliate, or more properly speaking, throw up their task as being beyond their powers. The result is a more or less serious attack of kidney trouble or Bright's disease. In the same way the man whose liver has been working against heavy odds will become the victim of a severe attack of congestion which will keep him more or less ailing all the winter. If he had been in better health because he had been careful not to overdo his food, he would probably have escaped from the chill with no worse effect than a few days' discomfort, and needed no more skilled attention than the simplest home treatment.—A Physician.

How to be Beautiful.

The man or woman who wants to be as good-looking as nature will permit is given a few practical hints in the Family Doctor. They are not any new discovery, but are really more efficacious than quack medicines:—Don't eat your meals quickly; this causes indigestion and a red nose. Don't worry; other people's troubles are quite as bad as yours. Don't forget that a penny spent on fruit does more good than a shilling on buns or sweets. Don't walk five miles one day and stay at home all the next. Don't read till midnight; one hour's sleep before twelve is worth five afterwards. Don't shut your bedroom window; fresh air is necessary for health. Don't expect physics and tonics to keep you well if you neglect the laws of health and hygiene.

A HUMAN DEVIL.

General Villa Delights to Kill Men Who Are Helpless Before Him.

General Villa, the successful leader of the revolutionist forces in Mexico, is a murderer and thief according to a wealthy mine owner who has just returned from that troublous country.

"Villa," said he, "is half devil and half cur. He is the most unspeakable wretch that ever straddled a horse, but he doesn't expose himself to danger if he can keep out of it. I suppose he has killed as many men with his own hands as any other man in Mexico. I doubt if half a dozen were given the chance to shoot back."

He told of one occasion in the early days of the present insurrection in Mexico when Villa captured twenty men of a band that had been badgering him. He condemned them to death in his usual way, never bothering with court-martials or other flub-dubbery. Then he designated himself as the executioner of his own decree. He had the men bound, hands behind backs, but with eyes unbandaged.

"This will seem impossible to you," said the mine owner, "but Villa walked down that line of men, revolver in hand. From timo to time he shot a man through the heart, and stood by him until the victim had kicked his last kick. He taunted the bound men.

Prolonged Torture.

"I want you to enjoy this, as I do," he told them. "Those who gave way to terror he put aside, to be shot last of all. In that way they savored to the last twinge the full agony of their position. Some of them he half encouraged to believe that he might spare them. Then he killed them, fairly licking his lips as he did so."

There was another story, of Villa's garroting half a dozen men one day. For some reason he did not want to shoot. He slipped a short loop over the head of each man, thrust a stick through it, and twisted. As the victim gasped for breath he let up on the pressure, so that the death agonies might be as sweetly prolonged as possible. An eye-witness told the mine owner of this series.

General Villa.

"When they were all dead," said the witness, "Villa was so tired, he slept like a babe."

"For years," said the man from Mexico, "Villa has made a practice of robbing isolated ranches or little towns. First he killed every man he could find, both because he liked to kill and because he carries caution to an absurd excess. Then he took the women. He led his men in the excesses that followed.

Twenty Years a Bandit.

"For twenty years Villa has been a bandit. In that time he has never exposed himself willingly to bullet or knife. I do not say that the man is a coward. I merely declare that fair play, as Anglo-Saxons understand it, is folly to Mexicans. They hate and fear Villa, but it has never occurred to them that he was anything but superlatively sane in lying behind a rock when he shot down his man, or in approaching a man with a smile, only to thrust a knife through him when his back was safely turned. They do things differently in these Latinized countries.

"Villa is an able man," said the speaker. "He kept at liberty for twenty years, during most of which time a price was on his head. He knows the desert and mountain country better than you do the lines in your hand, and he has a certain quality of loyalty not common among Mexican leaders. His men knew that if they were captured by the police or soldiers Villa would rescue them if he could. If he could not he would have revenge for them. His revenges were so bloody and cruel that towards the last he was little interfered with by the regular forces. One of Madero's mistakes was in recognizing this man. And yet he remained true to Madero as better men did not. He is a fairly good general, and has not imposed too onerous restrictions upon his men, who are for the most part mere land pirates. It is not likely that Chihuahua or any other large town will be looted by him, because of the effect upon his standing with the United States. But later you will hear that he has carried fire and sword to the lonely countryside. Every man who had money before the war began has been made to give it up—if Villa found him."

Things—Big and Little.

What do you think of this for smallness? It would take 250,000 years to count the atoms on a pin's head. We would hate to begin it for fear we wouldn't end it. But we must take the word of science for it. But this is not half the story. Now, if you take one of those inconceivably small atoms and explore the interior of it, you will find a universe filled with circling orbs, much like a solar system, and every orb with a motion of its own that is calculated down to the .000000001 of a second and with a course as exact as a planet's. Sometimes we like to get onto such facts and speculations, when we think of how small we are in this world of tears, and how insignificant are human events generally. They help to make a fellow hold up his head and feel that he is bigger than a universe of atoms anyhow, and yet it is no time for vanity.

Fashion Hints

Brown Still Popular.

Brown continues to be a favorite color. It is used even more for house and evening gowns than for street suits. When it is used for street suits it is generally of a dark shade. The house shades are often lighter and brighter. With pink it makes a wark and brilliant combination for the house.

Brown chiffon over pink silk or pink over brown silk or satin can be used effectively. Brown and yellow are a good combination. A brown chiffon frock, made up over brown satin, is trimmed with much gold-bead embroidery and fringe and tassels of gold cord. Another brown and yellow combination is a canary yellow chiffon made up over brown satin.

Wheat Instead of Aigrettes.

Wheat trimming has been used for a long time with good results on hats. Last summer silver and gold as well as white and yellow wheat heads trimmed many straw hats. Now there comes news that one of the substitutes for the forbidden aigrette will be a sort of aigrette built up of wheat heads. This is said to be very graceful. Artificial flowers, too, will doubtless be much more used than they have been in the last few years, now that women must learn to content themselves without their favorite plumage.

Most Popular Fur.

Skunk is the fur of the day. It is decidedly more popular than any other. It is used to edge tunics and skirts and sleeves and necks of bodices. It is used on the boudoir caps and negligees, on velvet chiffon and cloth coats and muffs and scarfs. It is used on hats. And it is used, in combination with nothing else, for muff and scarf sets. It is said that ermine is next to skunk in popularity.

Ermine in New Fashions.

The fashion for tailless ermine seems to be established. Muffs, collars, coats and trimmings are all made of ermine unspotted in its whiteness by the small black splotches that have always been considered its distinguishing mark. There is a charm to this white ermine, but it lacks something in character. Apparently realizing this, some of the furriers have made charming garments of white ermine trimmed in odd ways with the black tails.

Ermine Muffs and Collars.

One ermine muff is all white, save for a small bunch of black tails fastened under a big black braid ornament. Another muff of white ermine is piped with black tails about the hands; that is to say, they are fastened in a narrow line where the hands enter the muff. There are collars of ermine, all white save for bunches or pipings of ornaments made of ermine tails.

Gloves With Colored Cuffs.

White glace kid gloves have narrow scalloped turnback cuffs of colored kid—green, yellow, pink, blue or lavender. The gloves are long wristed and are cut diagonally at the end where the cuffs are fastened on. Three glass buttons, colored like the cuffs, are sewed on the white kid in a line from the cuffs to the wrist.

Silk Cords on Muffs.

Some of the new fur muffs are decorated with festoons of silk cord on which big bead-like balls of colored silk are strung.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Don't pass your worries; chloroform them.

Moreover, the freckled criminal is bound to be spotted.

The suspicious man always finds what he is looking for.

Success seldom comes to a man who is too lazy to go after it.

The more a man's thirst is irrigated, the faster it grows.

The easiest thing for a man to acquire is old age—if he lives long enough.

When a watch is run down it stops working, but it's different with some men.

It is well enough to be a thinker, but too often the man who thinks does nothing else.

It's rather difficult for an easy going man to keep people from using him for a door mat.

No, Cordelia, practice doesn't always make perfect. Even good physicians occasionally lose a patient.

Paying premiums on a fire-insurance policy is like throwing money in the fire—until one has a fire.

Something for Nothing.

Are you one of the people who spend their time in trying to get something for nothing? There are a great many such people. They are the people who always taste the cheese when they go to buy it, not because they want to know what it tastes like, but because they want something for nothing. Whenever they see free samples advertised, they apply for them. They may have no earthly use for them, but they can't let the opportunity slip. If they go into restaurants and places where pickles, bits of bread and cheese, or cloves are on the counter, they always have some, whether they like them or not. These things are hardly ever done by very poor people, but generally by those who have plenty of money. Poor people would be ashamed to stoop to the dodges which a well-to-do man will invent to save himself from spending a penny.

Unreal pleasures are the most expensive.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JANUARY 4.

Lesson I. Jesus and the Children. Mark 9. 30-41; 10. 13-16. Golden Text, 1 Pet. 5.5.

Chapter 9.

Verses 30-32. Following the transfiguration and the subsequent healing of the lunatic boy (Mark 9. 1-29), Jesus again went forth with his disciples from thence, that is, from the region of Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8. 27) at the foot of Mount Hermon and about thirty miles northeast of the Sea of Galilee. Passing southward through the province of Galilee, the scene of his recent public ministry and great popularity, he avoided as far as possible the crowded highways and public thoroughfares in order that he might be alone with his disciples, to whom at this critical turning point of his ministry he had many things to say concerning its more serious purpose and final outcome.

Son of man—Referring to himself in the familiar Messianic phrase occurring in Dan. 7. 13, though probably with the deeper thought of his representative humanity in mind, Jesus points out to his disciples that the popularity which he has thus far enjoyed will not long continue and that in its stead persecution and death awaited him.

Understood not the saying—As yet the understood little concerning the true nature of his mission and Kingdom that his prophecy of apparent failure and defeat was to them incomprehensible. Yet the seriousness of his manner and words overawed them and they were afraid to ask him to explain more fully his meaning.

33-37. Disputed one with another—The human side of the disciples is reflected in the fact that the serious words of their Master were soon forgotten, and as they proceeded with him along the way their minds were again filled with visions of the coming glory of the Kingdom which their Master was to establish, and with questions concerning their relative position and rank in that Kingdom. Jesus doubtless noted the earnest and perhaps heated discussion which they carried on among themselves a little apart from him, but he said nothing until they reached Capernaum, on the northern shore of Galilee, and a natural stopping point in their longer journey southward. Here, however, in the seclusion of some lodging place, perhaps the home of Simon Peter, he asks them concerning their reasoning on the way. Ignoring their silence and embarrassment, and still intent on teaching them the true spirit and nature of his Kingdom, he gathers the twelve about him in a closer circle and in a short, epigrammatic sentence sets forth the fundamental principle of his Kingdom.

Took a little child . . . in his arms—By way of illustration and to make it very clear that their task as his disciples and ambassadors is not to scramble for recognition or rank, but to teach others, even little children, and in so doing they would be serving both him and the heavenly Father, whom it was the purpose of his life to reveal unto them.

The remaining verses of chapter 9 continue the discussion of Jesus with his disciples concerning humility (9. 38-50).

Chapter 10.

Verse 13-16. The incident recorded in these verses belongs chronologically not with the events mentioned above (9. 30-37), but to the next period (compare Text Studies for January 11). They are included in the present lesson as further illustrating the attitude of Jesus toward children, which thought has been chosen by the committee preparing the outline of studies as the central thought on which emphasis should be placed in this lesson.

Bringing unto him little children—Jesus is again on the public highway with his disciples, and of the multitude who gather about him some are bringing their little children to him that he might touch them and give them his benediction and blessing. His disciples, regarding this as an unwarranted interruption in his discourse and conversation with the grown-ups who were anxious to hear him, rebuked those who thus interfered with his work.

Jesus . . . was moved with indignation—Their inconsiderate, and perhaps even rough, treatment of the offending parents aroused the indignation of Jesus and prompted him to speak, doubtless with some warmth, the words which since then have been treasured through the centuries as setting the Master's zeal upon the sacredness of child life.

To such belongeth the kingdom of God—The revised rendering of the text makes clear the relationship of little children to the church and the Kingdom. The thought of verse 15 is additional and supplementary rather than explanatory of what precedes. Adults also must possess and cherish the child-like spirit if they are to remain in the kingdom of God.

Making Measles Pay.

Parent—Now, what are you going to charge me to cure this boy of the measles?

Physician—Nothing at all, my dear sir, as it is an original case; and you get your ten per cent. commission for every child that catches them from him.

A man's best friend is a woman who can keep him from making a fool of himself.

THE GREAT QUESTION OF GOD

Not to Be Wondered at That We Should Find It Difficult to Understand the World of Nature

"Canst thou by searching find out God?"—Job xi., 7.

There are many paths of thought and experience which lead to atheism, but none perhaps which is more frequently travelled than that of the inability of the human soul to interpret rationally and morally the workings of the universe. Again and again we find ourselves standing dumb and helpless before the inexplicable mysteries of earth. How to explain the stupendous cataclysms of nature, the universal horror of the struggle for existence, the innumerable agonies of animal life, man's inhumanity to man, the ravages of disease, the barbarisms of war, the sorrows of death—how to reconcile the hard facts of evil with the conception of an all wise, all just and all powerful God—this is a question which we cannot seem to answer. And, failing to answer, we jump at once to the sweeping conclusion that, these things being true, there is no God. "I cannot understand the universe," is the line of argument, "and therefore I cannot believe in God."

A Thing To Be Wondered At.

The further we penetrate into the great world of being the deeper becomes the mystery in which we find ourselves involved. But that we should immediately assume because of the inability of our little minds to fathom every depth and scale every height, that God is a sheer figment of the imagination is certainly a thing to be wondered at to the very end of time. For when has failure to understand ever before been taken to be bona fide evidence that there is nothing to understand? The schoolboy is undoubtedly unable to work out the answer to his algebra problem, but what right has he to throw down his pencil and shout that the problem has no answer? I certainly fail in miserable fashion to decipher the inscription on this broken tablet from the Egyptian desert, but this does not prove that the letters have no meaning. For countless ages men saw nothing but conflict and disorder in the world of natural forces, but this demonstrated not that the universe was chaotic but that the human reason was not yet acute enough in observation and daring enough in imagination to behold the law and order which has since been unveiled. And so with the great question of God. It may be true that I cannot see any evidence of divine goodness and wisdom in the world. It may be true that I cannot understand the place of flood and pestilence and sudden death in a world created and ruled by

A Beneficent Deity.

It may be that I can work out no answer to this tangled problem of existence. But who am I, pray, that I should expect to do this thing? And why should my failure be taken as in any sense proof positive that it is not to be done at all? Where is the logic of such a conclusion from such a premise? Is it not more logical to argue that my failure to understand is perhaps a reflection upon my powers of understanding, rather than a reflection upon the understandable character of the problem itself? Is it not at least possible that the answer is there, even though I cannot see it, and that some day a mightier understanding than mine will make it plain?

So at least I try to think. It is my faith that God lives and that his reign is at once wise and good, even though I fail to understand. "I believe; help thou mine unbelief."—Rev. John Haynes Holmes.

Doings in Europe.

Horse Meat in Berlin.

The Taegliche Rundschau says that as one consequence of the continued rise in meat prices in Berlin a special municipal slaughter house for horses will shortly be established in Berlin.

An extraordinary story circulated by the Deutsche Orientkorrespondez from St. Petersburg declares that a Russian knacker who previously buried the bodies of old horses slaughtered at Reval and Dorpat for their hides has recently been making a big profit by pickling his horse meat and importing it for food into Germany. The story meets with considerable incredulity, as such importation should be impossible under the German regulations, but the Berliner Tageblatt demands an inquiry.

The official figures recently published by the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung showed a considerable increase in the consumption of horse meat.

The Health of King Alfonso.

Deep anxiety prevails in court circles at Madrid owing to the well authenticated report that a Viennese specialist, consulted by King Alfonso, takes a grave view of the king's condition. The affection of the throat from which the king has been suffering for years has spread to the postnasal organs and is progressing upward. Unless it can be checked, consequences of the gravest kind are feared.

A Vienna has been advised that the only possible hope of arresting the disease lies in undergoing a course of treatment for a year, living an absolutely quiet life and abandoning all official work and entertainments.

The king is reported to have replied: "You don't guarantee a cure, and I can tell you that a year as an invalid would certainly finish me."

The king's action excites intense admiration, but his reckless energy and fatiguing pursuits aggravate his condition.

Serum Prevents Diphtheria.

Prof. Behring, of Paris, who in 1892, created anti-diphtheria serum, has just perfected it so that it is a preventive as well as a curative.

Heretofore this serum had, above all, a curative value. Injected into a person already ill, it arrested the progress of disease in proportion to the promptness of use after the outbreak, but the serum was almost useless as a preventive. In epidemics it was only useful for a few days.

The new serum is obtained by mixing the diphtheria toxin with the anti-toxin extracted from the serum of immune animals. This is entirely harmless. Injected into school children it will cause to appear in their blood for a long period a quantity of the preservative anti-toxin. It has also the advantage of sterilizing bacilli in persons who, while their own systems resist disease, may impart it to others.

Hid Gems in Oranges.

Some days ago a dealer in precious stones in Naples, Signor Gaeparo Boccerino, was robbed of jewelry valued at $100,000, and although the suspicion of the police was directed toward two brothers who kept a fruiterer's business, a search of the shop failed to reveal anything of an incriminating nature.

By chance a policeman observed some boys playing in the gutter with what proved on examination to be some of the stolen stones. The boys, who were quite unaware of their value, confessed that they had found the stones secreted in some oranges and citrons which they had purloined from the shop of the suspected brothers.

The shop was again raided by the police and the brothers were arrested. It was discovered that on the previous visit of the police the whole of the stolen property was hidden in oranges and citrons from which the pulp had been taken.

The Extermination of Mice.

German science has lately turned its attention to mouse-killing, and an effective method of exterminating the rodents by exploding bombs in their holes is the result. The country is just now suffering from something like an Egyptian plague of mice, and the scientific men long have been trying to find a means of killing the pests by wholesale. A German chemist has discovered a method of using with safety bisulphide of carbon, a gas which poisons small life. Capsules containing the elements of the gas and a little explosive cartridge are lowered into the burrows of the mice, all the entrances are stopped with earth, the capsule is exploded and the gas generated permeates all parts of the holes, killing every inmate. The process is swift, requires little labor and is cheap.

Paris Police Poorly Paid.

The Paris police, some of whose members have fallen into disgrace, are poorly paid. The maximum salary attainable by a "sergeant de ville" is $360 a year. In view of the high cost of living in Paris, this amount is inadequate to maintain a family in any degree of comfort, and the married members of the force have frequently to supplement their incomes as best they can. Some of them earn a few francs by working at market porters during their time off duty. Others do boot repairing, and there is one who does odd tailoring jobs.

Still, in spite of these hardships, there are always plenty of men eager to join the force, about ten candidates being available for every vacancy that occurs.

Claim Millions After 240 Years.

The hearing in one of the most romantic cases ever before the French courts has begun in the civil tribunal of the Seine.

It is the claim of Mme. Cotton against the French government for 20,000,000 francs ($1,000,000) left her by her ancestor Jean Thiry, who died in Corfu in 1675, leaving a fortune to his brothers and other descendants.

The brothers entered endless litigation in the courts over the division of the property, which the courts ordered held by the State Bank of Venice, pending final judgment. There it lay until 1795, when Napoleon seized it, using part of it to pay his army and forwarding the rest to Paris.

X-Rays for Teeth Cleaning.

A new method of dentistry is being introduced in Paris in the form of treatment of the teeth by ultra-violet rays.

Such rays from a mercury lamp, it is claimed, have the power of whitening discolored teeth and sterilizing them in such a way that they are not so easily liable to decay. The teeth to be treated are isolated from the rest, which are covered with a rubber shield. The face too is protected by a mask. The teeth are then washed with oxygenated water and exposed for an hour to the direct action of the rays.

It is stated that the teeth acquire a lustre like that of pearls. Two sittings a year are recommended to keep the teeth in good condition.

Young Folks

Two Little Builders.

Did you ever see Mr. Ovenbird? He is a brave little fellow, living on the banks of the rivers in South America. He does not seem to be afraid of people. He is only about as large as the lark, quite slender, and stands very straight. He is dressed in a pretty brown suit, and flies from bush to bush, hunting insects. He is very active, walking and running quickly when he is not flying. He flies often, though not long at a time.

Both he and his mates work hard and long at their nest. They are busy as two bees, hauling clay and grass, and mixing them with their little bills. If other birds come near they drive them away with a great deal of spirit, giving their harsh, piercing note. And what a wonderful nest they do make! They are thought to be the finest nest-builders among the birds.

From the banks of the river they secure mud and clay; this they stiffen by mixing in grass, stems of plants and vegetable fibres. When it has been dried and hardened by the heat of the sun it seems almost as hard as a brick.

The nest is round with a dome, and opens at the side. Mr. and Mrs. Bird are not particular where they build their nest. Sometimes they build it on top of a fence, or in the branch of a tree; perhaps on a projection of a house, but more often they build among the bushes, although they do not try to hide their home.

The walls of their curious nest are at least an inch thick. If you look inside you will see two rooms, for the nest is divided by a wall made of the same material as the outside. This wall reaches almost to the top of the dome. In the dark inner room is placed a soft couch of feathers, and there Mrs. Bird lays her eggs, usually four in number. In the outer room Mr. Bird, no doubt, stands guard, when he is not busy bringing food to his faithful mate.

Not Very Promising.

Mrs. Newlywed (to cook, whom she has just engaged)—You see, my husband is so very particular about his food.

Cook (sympathetically)—They're all alike, mum. My old man was jest the same; I never cooked anything to please 'im in me life.

Mr. Bacon—"You should never judge a man by his clothes, my dear." Mrs. Bacon—"I never do. I always judge him by his wife's clothes."

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