

THE CHICADEES' CAFE

A Hint for Young Bird-Lovers About Winter-Feeding.

"Oh, Jack, look here! Come quick, but don't make a noise."

Evans, at the kitchen window, had just discovered a handsome old blue-jay, making a meal of the piece of suet the two brothers had tied to a limb of the apple-tree, in the garden, a few days before.

Excitedly the two boys watched that skillful beak chisel its way into the meat. It was very thoughtful of you, boys, to put your feeding stations up where I can enjoy your birds while I am baking the pies and biscuits for dinner," was mother's first remark.

Not many days later, a pair of chickadees came along, singing their merry "chic-a-dee, chic-a-dee, chic-a-dee-dee-dee." The first winter snow covered the ground, and the weed seeds were not so easy to find as they were in September. So the chickadees were very glad when they found that somebody was providing a convenient meal for them. One day a time they would hop down to the piece of suet and help themselves, standing now head up, now head down, but always active, always cheerful. The suet course over, off would go the chickadees to the apple tree to vary their diet with a few codling moth larvae, hidden under the scales of bark.

Soon the nuthatches found the festive board. With their trumpetlike nasal "Yank! Yank!" they trumpeted, again next year," said Evan.

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ways one at a time, climbing down the tree trunk head first, or flying directly to the meat. They never stayed long, but they came often and the boys found them very friendly little fellows. It was difficult at first to distinguish the nuthatches from the chickadees, but Helen soon discovered that the chickadees had black throats, while the nuthatches were white or reddish on both throat and breast.

One Saturday morning, early in February, Jack ran into the house very much excited. "Oh, mother, a chickadee lit on my hand," he shouted. "Well, I declare," said mother; "how did you ever bring it so close to you?"

"It was just this way. I went out to tie up the new piece of suet to the tree, and a chickadee came down. There was no meat left there and the first thing I knew he was on my hand pecking the suet. I got such a surprise I guess I scared him. But, gee! I wish he'd come again. He's as light as a feather."

Evans thought he would play a joke on a pair of chickadees, one day, when he tried to imitate their plaintive whistle "phe-be-be." To his amazement, one of the birds came to a branch beside him and repeated the call. Evan had solved the problem of calling the chickadees.

The birds continued to come as long as the snow covered the ground. Every morning, about eight o'clock, one old, hairy woodpecker paid a shy breakfast call. And usually, about eleven o'clock, a pair of downy woodpeckers came. Whenever anybody would go out to see them at closer range, "Downie" would simply turn around, although shyly keeping an eye on his observer, or would move a few hops higher up to tree, if the intruder came too close for comfort.

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Hosts to Duke and Duchess of York in Australia.



LORD AND LADY STONEHAVEN Lord Stonehaven is the governor-general of Australia. The Duke and Duchess of York sailed from England on January 6 for their Australian trip. They will inaugurate the new capital of the dominion, Canberra. A session of the Australian parliament is expected to be held at Canberra next May.

Tranquillity.
The moonbeams draw me
To my window;
Can it be frost
Upon the ground?

Lifting my head, I gaze
On the moon;
And bending low
Think of my Fatherland.
—Gonosko Komal.

What They Are Saying.
There are no two words in all the English language more wretchedly misrepresented in current debate than income and capital, none more widely misunderstood. —William Graham, M.P.

In my view, the whole progress of civilization in this world is bound up with the capacity that the white races have and will have to help the races of the world to advance. —Stanley Baldwin.

Character is power, and do not forget that character is capital. —Sir John Ferguson.

Deflation robs all those who own money; inflation robs those to whom money is due. —H. G. Williams, M.P.

The worst cricketer is generally the most enthusiastic player. —Sir Roland Blades.

If all manufacturers would treat their workers well, they would not alone have happiness, but they would make more money. —Bernhard Baron.

Many a bachelorship has been wrecked on a permanent wave. —Lord Dewar.

When Things Went Wrong.
Conjuror—"Now, to help me with this trick I want the services of a boy. Just any boy in the audience—yes, you will do, my little man. Come along. Now, you've never seen me before, have you?"
Boy—"No, father."

Sneeze, But Don't Sniff, English Doctor's Advice
London.—Sneezing one's way to health is the latest fad as advocated by Dr. Octavia Lewin and other physicians. "Never stifle a sneeze," she advised health visitors and school nurses at Bedford College.

"Remember, the fundamental fact of health is sound, healthy breathing through the nose," cautioned Dr. Lewin, who continued: "Never sniff. Here is a verse to keep in mind: 'Sniffing's bad for brain and head. Sniff not—blow your nose instead.'"

"Lack of nasal hygiene is very largely responsible for defects of the eyes. It will be found that nearly all the children in our schools who wear spectacles have clogged heads."

"Humans should take a lesson from the animals. Take the elephant. If he, with a yard and a half of nose, can keep his head clear, surely we ought to be able to do something with our children. Even the little mouse and the canary know how to sneeze."

"Silver Ship on Silver Sea" For Duchess of York's Table
London.—A feature of the Duchess of York's dining table decoration in the battle cruiser Renown is a "silver ship sailing on a silver sea." The beautiful wrought ship is a model of H. M. S. Endeavour, in which Captain Cook first visited Australia.

The plate was the property of the battleship Commonwealth, and since the latter was scrapped has been in store. The plate has been loaned to the Renown for the world voyage of the Duke and Duchess, who will return home in June.

Chemistry Professor—"Name three articles containing starch."
Student—"Two cuffs and a collar."

How Long to Hang Curtains.
It is always better to make the curtains hang to the floor where the structure of the window permits. In a room which depends for its chief charm on quaintness it is often better to make the curtains to hang six inches below the sill. In making them long enough to hang six inches below the sill one should allow for tying back—which, besides, prevents the curtains from blowing out so easily.

Johnnie Knew.
Teacher—"Can any of you tell me how stove pipe is made?"
Johnnie—"Well, Teacher, you just take a big long hole and put tin around it."

Yes, Send It!
Dealer—"Shall I send the clothes horse you ordered?"
Customer—"Send it! Did you think I intended to ride it home?"

Parrot Jail Breaker.
An Australian parrot in the London Zoo has gnawed his way out of eight cages in three years.

Piano as Loud-Speaker.
There appears to be no end to the ingenuity of the radio enthusiasts, and it is truly amazing how many remarkable inventions in connection with wireless have been produced by amateurs.

The very latest is an attachment for converting an ordinary piano into a loud-speaker, which is said to be unequalled for purity of tone. It can be adapted to fit any make of piano, and eliminates all harsh and indistinct notes both in speech and music.

"Low frequencies," which have been liable to distortion in the ordinary methods of reproduction, are now made as clear as crystal by the wide register of the piano and the immediate expansion of the sound over its full compass.

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A Field of Plovers.
A flock of plovers in an English field in January is a sign of hope. They may be making no music, just quietly working in the field. The field may be but a part of call, but to see them is to know that spring happenings are once again on the wing. The last flock seen may have been in November. That was the end of a season. This is the beginning. At the turn of the year, with the shortest day left behind, there is a movement toward those places where presently they will nest. That time is not yet. They are still in flocks, and flocks are a sign of winter. That is how birds spend the winter. They club together and forage together. A little later the flock will break up and here and there over the hillsides, fields and uplands, pairs of birds will be seen and heard, much noisier than they are on a January day.

In flight a flock of plovers is a lovely vision, their white underbodies gleam in the sunlight, then they wheel and show pairs of dark wings strongly beating. The heart leaps up to see them in January dawn. One feels better for a sight of them, especially in view of the fact that they are a diminishing race. The trouble is that the plover's egg is supposed to be a delicacy. The writer once had two, his farmer landlady reminding him that gentlemen in the west end of London would pay anything from half a crown to seven and six for such delicacies. Perhaps plovers' eggs are an acquired taste. Possibly the price paid constitutes them a delicacy. Were the domestic fowl's eggs as rare and as high priced, doubtless they would receive the gourmet's attention.

Hardly any bird takes so little trouble with its nest. Often it is little more than a hole in the ground, or the hollow of a misplaced stone. It prefers a small ridge, so that the water can drain off on all sides. The nests and the eggs and the fledglings are so completely in keeping with their surroundings that only the practiced seeker discovers them.

The eggs are usually four in number, placed in the nest point to point, so that the bird covers them more completely and hatching is the more sure. As soon as hatched, the young, being clothed at birth, run off in all directions and cause much trouble to the anxious parents who have to keep constant watch over them. Fortunately they are obedient to their parents' call. After hatching the nest is not used, as is the case with many other birds. That is doubtless one reason why a more elaborate nest is not made.

Plovers are erratic and loose jointed in flight, tossing and tumbling in the air and excitedly crying "pee-wee." Light of body it has difficulty in flying against the wind. The meaning of its name Lapwing is "one who turns about in running or flight."

She Appeared Stupid.
Horace was sent to his room for talking forbidden words from the cupboard. His mother, thinking to make his punishment more impressive, went to his room and, after all was forgiven, said: "Now Horace, what did I punish you for?"
"Well, ma, I like that! I've been kept in bed all the afternoon, and now you don't know what you did it for!"

Oak trees take so long in attaining any profitable size that it is not a business proposition to grow them.

COAST TO COAST

Vernon, B.C.—The Kelowna Fruit Growers' convention unanimously adopted the Board plan for handling the 1927 crop. The Board will consist of three members, one representing the Associated Growers, one the Independents and one the Provincial Government. The Board will have absolute control over the fruit movement with legislative authority to regulate shipments to the different markets, to fix prices and exercise an all-round supervision.

Edmonton, Alta.—Fifteen hundred homesteads were filed at the Edmonton Land Office last year, the largest number since before the war. The applicants represent 267,769 acres of potential cultivation.

Moose Jaw, Sask.—The Harris Abattoir (Saskatchewan) Limited has been incorporated, according to the Gazette, and registered under the company's Act. Its present capital is \$100,000 and its headquarters in Moose Jaw.

Winnipeg, Man.—During 1926 the Canada Colonization Association settled 734 families on 163,094 acres in Western Canada, 59,678 acres of which were in the Province of Manitoba, according to T. O. F. Heizer, Manager of the Association. Since the Canadian Pacific Railway took over the Canada Colonization Association on January 1, 1925, a total of 1,561 families have been settled, taking up 492,566 acres of land, worth, with equipment, between \$3,000,000 and \$19,000,000. Forty-five per cent. of this land is in Manitoba, 30 per cent. in Saskatchewan and 25 per cent. in Alberta.

Toronto, Ont.—Tourists left \$50,906,816 in Ontario last season according to Provincial calculations; of which auto parties contributed \$30,779,566. Approximately 75 per cent. of the tourists coming to Canada in 1926 visited Ontario.

Quebec, Que.—Under the jurisdiction of the Lands and Forests Dept. a Forestry Research Bureau will start to operate from the first of February, with its headquarters here, under the direct control of the Forest Protection Service which is headed by Gustave Pice, Chief Forestry Engineer.

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Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Ammal, B.A., M.B., C.M. A leading medical practitioner of Madras, has been nominated a member of the Madras Legislative Council, in South India. She is the first Indian lady to be appointed for this high office. Dr. Ammal represented India in the world conference recently held in Paris.

A Great Novel.
"The Cloister and the Hearth" is Charles Reade's greatest work—and, I believe, the greatest historical novel in the language. . . . There is portrayed so vigorous, lifelike, and truthful a picture of a time long gone by, and differing in almost every particular from our own, that the world has never seen its like. . . . As one reads it, one feels in the very atmosphere of the century; one breathes the air just before the Great Dawn of Learning and Religion; it is still twilight, but the birds are twittering already on the boughs; it is a time when men are weary of the past; there is no freshness or vigor in the poetry; all the tunes are old tunes. . . .

In his chamber the scholar asks whether the newly found Greek is not better than all the ecclesiastical jargon. . . . There is uncertainty everywhere; there is the restless movement which goes before a change. There is, however, plenty of ordered activity in certain directions. Soldiers fight, and great lords lead armies; there are court ceremonies at which knights feast and common people gaze; practice runs a wanderer along the roads; with them tramp the vagrant scholars. . . . A fine, picturesque time. . . . All this . . . and more—is in "The Cloister and the Hearth," not described, but acted. The reader who knows the literature of the times says to himself as he goes on: "Here is Erasmus; here is Froissart; here is Deschamps; here is Coquillard; here is Gringore; here is Villon; here is Luther," and so on, taking pleasure in proving the sources. The reader who does not know, or does not inquire, presently finds himself drawn completely out of himself and his own time; before he realizes it he finds himself like the characters in the book; he feels like them; he talks like them. This is the general effect of the book; but, besides, there runs through it the sweetest, saddest, and most tender love story ever devised by wit of man. There is no heroine in fiction more dear to me than Margaret. . . . I do not suppose that by these remarks one can add anything to the reputation of Charles Reade, or to the admiration with which the English-speaking races regard his works. . . . One can only say that this great writer—there is no greater praise—paints women as they are, men as they are, things as they are. What we call genius, is first the power of seeing men, women and things as they are—most of us being without genius, are perurbed—and then the power of showing them by means of "invention"—by the grafting of "invention" upon fact. No man has shown greater power of grasping fact and of weaving invention upon it than Charles Reade. —Walter Besant, in the Introduction to "The Cloister and the Hearth."

London Plans to Divide City into Little Towns
London.—A greater London with no traffic problem, composed of little Londons where people can walk to their work, is the vision which inspires the Health Minister's invitation to 120 local authorities around this city to form a joint planning committee.

The new London would not be as much a city as a vast group of planned towns extending over 2,000 square miles separated from each other by belts of open land with manufacturing and housing sites selected on a scientific principle.

How Electric Iron Heats.
Certain metals have more resistance to an electric current than others. For instance, copper has a low resistance, or conducts a current easily, while German silver has a high resistance, or does not conduct readily. When a metal has a high resistance to an electric current, a large amount of heat is produced. This principle is used in the construction of the electric iron. The iron has wires inside, and these wires are made of high-resistance metal. The heat from these, when an electric current is passed through, heats the iron.

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.



Just Friendly—That's All.