

THE CHILDREN

VENTRILOQUISM AMONG BIRDS

Many Songsters Have Notes That Are Difficult to Place—Grasshopper Is Big Offender.

Ventriloquism is not confined solely to the human race, London Answers asserts. There are many birds whose notes it is almost impossible to place.

Take the corncrake, with its harsh "crake, crake!" One moment, the sound is by your feet; the next, fifty yards away. The grasshopper is another offender in this respect. Its silant note is hard to locate.

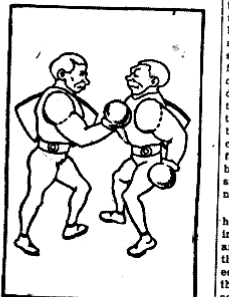
The sedge warbler goes one better. Not only is it an accomplished ventriloquist, but it will mimic or parody the song of other birds. In a lesser degree the redbreast and the crow possess these powers, and foreign doves encounter the same category.

In Brazil the bell bird is exceptionally skillful with its voice, while the American chickadee invariably deceives the listener. Canada boasts a partridge which is known to deceive sportsmen as to its whereabouts for hours on end.

MOST AMUSING LITTLE TOY

Figures of Two Boxes Swing Back and Forth Under Impact of Blows—Heads Are Separated.

A most amusing toy that can be made by any ingenious boy has been patented by an Illinois man. It consists of a piece of cardboard or thin wood upon which the figures of two boxers swing back and forth under



An Amusing Toy.

the impact of their blows. These blows, by the way, are delivered by the operator's fingers, which are thrust through openings in the shoulders of the figures and have miniature boxing gloves fastened on the tips, converting them into lifelike looking arms. The lower portion of the figure—from the waist down—is drawn on the card, but the head will pivot in separate pieces, pivoted at the waist, so that they swing freely. There is a stop, however, so that if one of the men gets an unusually vigorous punch in the jaw he will only bend back to a certain point and will swing forward again to the fray.

RIDDLES.

- What is the longest sentence known to history? Sentence for life.
- What is it that you give away all of it and can still keep all of it? Your promise.
- Why is Cupid a poor marksmen? He is always making Mrs. (misses).
- What does Washington, D. C., stand for? Washington, Daddy of His Country.
- What is the last thing you take off before going to bed? Your feet from off the floor.
- When is a woman not a woman? When she is a little cross.

POODLE DOG LOSES ONE LEG

Victim of Street Car Accident Is Furnished With Artificial Limb by Sympathetic Boy.

A very intelligent white poodle dog which had one of its forelegs cut off in a street car accident, wandered out into the country and was adopted by a farm boy. He took the dog to a doctor, who dressed the leg, and when it healed the boy fitted an artificial leg over the stump with a lace glove top and a little rubber pad for the foot. With this leg the dog travels nimes as well as ever, but occasionally



Runs With Artificial Leg.

He uses his artificial aid to locomote when looking for woodchucks.

Point in Her Flavor.
A female lays 120,000 eggs a year, she doesn't eat, anyhow.

EXPLAINED



Ma thinks I'm just a greedy pig. I cried hungry little John. But I can't help it cause I've got a jacket on!

OUR DEBT TO BUMBLE-BEES

These Busy Little Workers Play Important Part in Fertilization of Many Pretty Flowers.

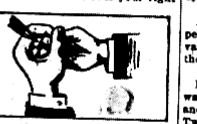
Barney Hoskin Standish in an article on "The Bumble-Bee" for the St. Nicholas says: The work of the bumble-bee brings about the cross-fertilization of flowers in as important a way as that of the honey-bee, and these two stand at the head of the list of insects that are useful to the farmer. Each has its flowers which it alone visits, but there are many flowers on neutral ground, visited by both. So we may say of the bumble-bee, as of the honey-bee, that more bumble-bees the more seeds; the more seeds the more flowers—especially wild flowers, as the tall bell-flower, touch-me-not, Solomon's seal, gentian, Dutchmen's breeches, and turtle-head. But probably the most important work this insect does for agriculture is upon the fields of red clover. There is abundant proof that this plant will not produce seed without the cooperation of the bumble-bee. It is impossible for the wind to bring about the fertilization of the seed as it may do in the case of Indian corn, grain, and some forest trees. The tube of red clover blossoms, too, is so long that other insects (including the honey-bee) are not regular visitors.

Here is proof that this plant must have visits from the bumble-bee. This insect is not a native of Australia, and red-clover failed to produce seed there until bumble-bees were imported. As soon as they became numerous the plant could be depended upon for seed. Again, the blossoms of the first crop of the "medium red-clover" of our own country are just as perfect as those of the second crop, but there are too few bumble-bees in the field so early in the season, to produce fertilization; hence little or no seed in the first crop. If bumble-bees were sufficiently numerous there is no reason why much larger yields of clover seed might not be expected than at present.

CLEVER TRICK WITH FINGERS

Middle Digit May Be Turned Under in Such Way That It Is Entirely Obscured From View.

To find out how sharp the eyes of some of your friends are try the following trick in their presence:

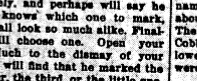


Middle Finger Hidden.

Place your left hand over your right

so that only the tips of your four fingers show. Hand a pencil to one of the boys or girls and tell them to rest the point on the end of your finger which they think is the middle one, that is, the longest one.

Your friend will look at your finger



Secret of Trick.

tips closely, and perhaps will say he scarcely knows which one to mark, for they all look so much alike. Finally, he will choose one. Open your hand. Much to the dismay of your friend he will find that he marked the first finger, the third, or the little one.

Let another person try his luck. He, too, will meet with disappointment. After you have allowed several persons to try, without success, disclose the trick to them if you like.

All these you were able to fool them because your middle finger wasn't there at all but was folded under. The only way anyone could find this out would be to sit behind the performer.

Large Paris Library.
The Imperial Library of Paris contains two million volumes.

ILLINOIS BREVITIES

East St. Louis—George Schippen, thirty-two, was struck over the head with a hatchet by John Cloien in a quarrel over a card game and may die.

Springfield—A man who suffers from pulmonary disease cannot be compelled to work out his poll tax on the street or other highways, the appellate court ruled.

Champaign—Vice-President Burhill and Comptroller Shattuck, retiring after fifty years of service, were given medals at the University of Illinois convocation.

LaSalle—An undertaking wagon, containing the corpse of Miss Rose Leininger, who killed herself at Decatur, fell over an embankment and rolled thirty feet, stopping within a few feet of the Rock Island railroad tracks. Joseph Kurowski and Charles Langer, undertakers, were knocked senseless.

Edwardsville—Nelson Armbruster, when, on top of a steel telegraph pole, encountered a high tension traction system wire and was electrocuted.

Techy—Twenty-four hours after he had been placed in St. Ann's home William Cochran, eighty-four, took a screened window for a door, fell and was fatally injured.

Quincy—Charles Vimpenny, seventy-five, who entered the State Soldiers' home from Joliet, was struck by an automobile and died from his injuries.

Quincy—St. Boniface Catholic church is observing its diamond jubilee.

Belleville—Because he was promised a whipping for disobedience Erwin Hartenstein, fourteen, ran away from home and is sought by the police.

Clinton—Local option forces of the city will take active part in the legislative campaign.

Joliet—Paul Pergamint, merchant, hanged himself to the foot of his bed by a leather strap.

Dwight—Jack Apple was arrested for the theft of a horse and buggy belonging to John Emery.

Alton—The board of trade is the first city of this state to be admitted to membership in the National Association of Chambers of Commerce.

Preport—Charles Green, 86, for thirty years in the service of the local street railway company, killed himself with poison because his wife died two months ago.

Carmi—The crop of pecans and hickory nuts in the Wabash river bottoms this fall is the best in ten years.

Spring Valley—White William H. Keegan, undertaker, was conducting the funeral of Mrs. Christian. He was attacked by a vicious dog and badly bitten.

Portland—The cities of Portland, LaSalle and Peru will cooperate for city improvements.

Kewanee—Isaac Farmer was attacked by a crane which he had wounded and it penetrated his left eye with its sharp beak.

Alton—Telephone service was suspended when a swarm of bees invaded the operating room and drove the girls from the switchboard.

Peru—Joseph Killuff, Jr., sixteen, was snatched, bound and gagged and tied to the piano by a burglar. Two dollars was taken from his pocket.

Dixon—William McMahon, a brakeman on the Illinois Central railroad lost both arms and was fatally injured at Amboy, when he was trapped under his train while trying to repair a broken brake rod. McMahon was dragged a quarter of a mile.

Peoria—Following an argument between himself and John Understock, Jr., eighteen, son of the proprietor of a saloon, Harry Johnson was shot by young Understock, escaping death by the narrowest margin.

Rockford—Myrtle Bowers, employed in a knitting mill, put her name and address into a stocking about to be shipped some time ago. The stocking was bought by Robert Cobb of Florida. Correspondence followed, and Cobb and Miss Bowers were married here.

Huntley—Charles Peters, who recently suffered a fractured right arm, was driving with the reins wrapped about his body when the team became frightened and ran away. He was thrown on his head and is in a critical condition. A few weeks ago he fell and broke an arm and last week suffered a finger crushed in a corn grinder.

Joliet—A second crusade against street corner rowdies has been started and all members will be given jail sentences.

FOR THE IDEAL PUMPKIN-PIE

Why Wait Until Thanksgiving to Enjoy This Exclusively American Delicacy—Make It Now.

Our neighbor came to call early this morning with the stalks of a dark purple from a saunter through the arbor; on his arm he carried a basket of grapes and in each hand a big red apple, and in his belt a whole sprig of goldenrod, and the first red autumn leaf made him quite gorgeous. Under his arm he carried a pumpkin, so we invited him to breakfast.

One should not wait until Thanksgiving for the first pumpkin pie, but getting puttin' their appetite in training for the feast by some preliminary work on a American pastry.

Steam the pumpkin instead of boiling it, and when cool press it through a fine sieve or vegetable press.

For each pie allow a pint of this strained pumpkin, one cup of rich milk, one egg, one-half cup of sugar, one teaspoon of ginger, one-half teaspoon of allspice, one-half teaspoon of cinnamon and a little salt.

If the milk is brought to the boiling point before the other ingredients are added the pie will bake more smoothly.

Crust should be baked before the filling is put in, and desirable to become soggy. Unlike most custard pies, pumpkin requires to be baked quickly. When the top is browned, brush the top with egg yolk and sugar.

TRY THE CASEMENT SCHEME

One of the Most Effective and Economical Window Dressings That Has Been Devised.

One of the neatest and prettiest ways of dressing the window of a room in which it is desirable to have flowing draperies is to use the casement scheme of decorations. For this purpose there comes a specially made fine cotton material called casement cloth, through which the light shines although the interior of the room is shielded from outside eyes, but a similar charming effect may be produced by cotton voile, by Chinese or wash silk, none of which materials are costly. The arrangements of the drapery are simple. It is slipped evenly at both its ends upon the sliding rods of brass which fit into grooves at top and bottom of the casement, if it be a full length French window and against the sliding casements if it be a window of the American type. Another feature of this scheme of window dressing is the ease with which the draperies may be laundered, for, being straight, guileless of ruffles and always unstarched, the merest tyro may wash, iron and readjust them.

Curried Cod.

Two slices large cod, or remains of any codfish, three ounces butter, one onion sliced, one teaspoon of white stock, thickening of butter and flour, one tablespoon of curry powder, one-half cup of cream, salt and cayenne to taste. Flake the fish and try to a nice brown, color with the butter and onions; put this in a steamer, add the stock and thickening, simmer for ten minutes. Then the curry powder into the cream; put it with the seasoning into the other ingredients; give one boil and serve. Time, three-quarters of an hour. Sufficient for four persons.

Buttermilk Cakes.

One quart of buttermilk, one level teaspoonful of salt, two eggs, flour to make a thin batter and one teaspoonful of baking soda. Beat up the eggs well, add to them the buttermilk; then add the salt and mix thoroughly. Dissolve the soda into two tablespoonfuls of boiling water; then stir it into the buttermilk. Now gradually add the flour, stirring all the time, until you have a batter that will pour smoothly from a spoon. Give a good beating and make quickly on a hot, well greased griddle.

Velvet Cakes.

Beat the yolks of three eggs and whites of two in separate bowls, add one-half cup of sugar to each, beat again, add whites to yolks, beat again, then add one round cup of sifted flour, to which has been added one teaspoon of cream of tartar and one-half teaspoon of soda, a little salt and one teaspoon of vanilla. Stir until smooth, add slowly one tablespoon less than one-half cup of boiling water, stir in just a little at a time. This sounds difficult, but is very easy to make.

Spinach Soup.

Cook three quarts of spinach in eight cups of water forty minutes. Press through a sieve. Blend three tablespoonfuls of butter with three tablespoonfuls of flour, add three cups of milk, stir till boiling; cook five minutes, add salt, pepper, celery salt, red pepper, one chopped onion and spinach mixture; cook eight minutes and serve. Garnish with whipped cream.

Russian Pottery.

Slice raw potatoes as for frying, and let them stand in cold water half an hour, then put in a bag with pepper and salt and one-half pint sweet milk to an ordinary sized dish. Put in the oven and bake an hour. When taken out cut a tablespoon of butter into small bits and scatter over the top.

Stewed Parsnips.

Peel the parsnips and slice them; put in a covered vessel, until tender, with this slice of pork; salt and pepper to taste.

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