

mimosa trees, and thereby serves as a good protector from birds of prey. The entrance to this nest is a hollow tube-like structure which projects over the side of the nest some two inches, resembling a pipe or nozzle, and close to its mouth is a projection or shelf on which a bird can sit. It is believed by many that the male bird uses this as a means for guarding the entrance, but more probably it serves as a resting place upon which the bird alights before slipping into its nest. This supposition is also strengthened by the fact that several of these projectors are found on the same nest, indeed they sometimes are so numerous that the immense nest appears irregular and unfinished. Among quadrupeds we see that many of the most skillfully constructed burrows as *e. g.*, those of the rabbit and badger, are evacuated by their original builders, and taken possession of by the foe. Exactly the same thing happens to the Drymoica. Its nest is so warm, thick, and comfortable that it creates the envy of other birds, who, by the right of the strongest, drive out the original occupants, throw out their eyes, and establishing themselves in these comfortable quarters, rear their own brood. Thus even the harmless life of these birds is not without usurpation and violence.

### SUGGESTIONS.

I have often wondered whether the great masses of aquatic vegetation which choke up our ponds and ditches in the summer, might not be utilized as manure. They should certainly be rich in the elements most valuable in manure. Not so much so as marine vegetation of course. What is called the "Neck" in Philadelphia, (the land extending from the built-up portion of the city to the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers) is devoted to truck farming. It is low ground banked in from the rivers, and drained by a complete system of ditches, from which hundreds of tons of this kind of manure might be taken, if of value.

In streams and ponds which are stagnant, there will be found great masses of *Confervæ*, or other vegetation—the *confervæ* often covering the entire surface of the water with a thick *green scum*. In rapid running streams these forms of vegetation do not much abound, but on the bottoms of the streams will be found deposits of dead leaves, twigs and debris. On taking a small scoop-net and lifting out a quantity of either of these, there will be found thousands of little wriggling things of divers shapes, from a quarter of an inch to an inch and a half in length. These are the larvæ of insects, the fresh-water shrimps, etc. I cannot see why they would not make a good food for poultry, and for young chicks especially. All that is necessary is to scoop out a lot of *confervæ* or dead leaves from any little spring, ditch, permanent puddle, or larger body of water, and throw it where the chicks can pick out the little wrigglers. In a ten-minute walk from my home, I could throw out enough food, in five minutes, to feed a regiment of chicks. Try it, friend Spangle, and report. It is only an idea, but I would like to see it tested, and I have nary a chick.

PHOCA.

**THE MOTH'S WING.**—Touch with a camel's hair brush, any part of the wing, so as to remove a few scales, dab the brush on a pane of glass, put it under the microscope, and then see how each particle of the almost imperceptible and impalpable colored dust which clothes the wing becomes manifest as an elegantly formed scale, sculptured with designs of singular beauty and regularity, formed of at least two, if not three separate membranes, and waved, toothed, or fringed at the extremity, according to its position on the wing. Hundreds of thousands of these scales are necessary to cover each wing—over which they are laid more regularly than the slates on the housetops—ranged and overlapping, so as to defend the delicate wing membrane from moisture. You cannot wet a moth's wing with water—it runs off in drops as if covered with oil.

## SMALL PET DEPARTMENT

### THE CARE OF CANARIES.

A pair of Canaries I give to your care  
Don't blind them with sunshine, or starve them with air,  
Or leave them out late in the cold and the damp,  
And then be surprised if they suffer from cramp;  
Or open the window in all kind of weathers  
Quite near to their cage till they puff out their feathers.  
The birds that are free fly to bush and to grot,  
If the wind be too cold or the sun be too hot;  
But these pretty captives depend on your aid,  
In winter for warmth, and in summer for shade.  
When they chirrup, and ceaselessly hop to and fro,  
Some want or discomfort they're trying to show;  
When they scrape their bills sharply on perch or at wire,  
They're asking for something they greatly desire;  
When they set every feather on end in a twinkling,  
With musical rustle like water a sprinkling,  
In rain or in sunshine, with sharp call-like notes,  
They are begging for water to freshen their coats.  
Cage, perches, and vessels, keep all very clean,  
For fear of small insects—you know what I mean!  
They breed in their feathers, and leave them no rest.  
In buying them seed, choose the cleanest and best,  
I feed my Canaries (excuse me the hint)  
On hemp and canary, rape, millet, and lint,  
I try them with all till I find out their taste—  
The food they don't care for they scatter and waste.  
About their bright cages I hand a gay bower  
Of shepherd's-purse, chickweed, and groundsel in flower.  
At a root of ripe grass they will pick with much zest,  
For seeds and small pebbles their food to digest.  
But all should be ripe, and well seeded, and brown,  
Few leaves on the groundsel, but plenty of down.  
In summer I hang them out high in the shade  
About our hall door by a portico made;  
In spring, autumn, winter, a window they share,  
Where the blind is drawn down to the afternoon glare.  
This window, if open beneath them, we close,  
Lest the cramp should seize hold of their poor little toes.  
A bath about noontide on every mild day  
Will keep your small favorites healthy and gay.  
In hot summer sunshine, some calico green,  
As a roof to their cage, makes a very good screen.  
On winter nights cover from lamplight and cold;  
And they'll sing in all weathers, and live to be old.  
—*The Animal World.*

### WHITE AND FANCY MICE.

*Continued from page 127.*

**Enemies and Ailments.**—In a wild state, mice are troubled with not a few enemies. Owls, stoats, weasels, hawks, cats, &c., are all fond of mice, and if it was not for the great fecundity, mice would soon be extinct. Like many other animals, however, this extinction will not be attained, and although in some cases total extinction is much to be desired, still by an all-wise Providence all Nature's scavengers are to a certain degree protected from undue extinction. In the case of house mice, the only animal that is antagonistic to their welfare is the cat, and were it not for the rather too trustful habit of the mice, cats would have but a poor chance with them. If there were no mice, what would come of the cats? Poison is another and most powerful enemy of the mouse, but then they retaliate by going into inaccessible places to die, and the stench they—or rather their bodies—produce, stands them in good stead against poisons, phosphorus, perhaps, excepted, as mice poisoned by phosphorus cause but a slight smell, as the bodies dry up and become desiccated, as it were. Corrosive poisons, as arsenic, for instance, allows the body to rot, and so causes decay of a most offensive nature. We give these hints, as it is very probable that the keepers of fancy mice, on a large scale, will find them useful. Great care must, however, be taken in the use of poisons, as, at times, we have heard of fanciers who had poisoned their stock of fancy mice, as well as the wild ones.

In the case of fancy mice, the first enemy—the cat—is easily guarded against, as she cannot get through a space less than two inches in width. Rats sometimes, although not often, cause trouble, and with them a morsel of singed or “frialed” bacon or cheese, proves a stronger temptation than grain, and consequently they are easily trapped. They also have a great antipathy to tar or carbolic acid, generally giving places strongly scented with these articles a very wide berth. Where it is not convenient to use these, wire netting of three-quarter-inch mesh is an efficient safeguard.

Wild mice are about the greatest living enemy that the fancier has to contend with, and the only plan to pursue with these is to catch all you can, and lay sheets of glass over the wired portion of the cages in which the fancy animals are kept. If the wild ones can gain access to those which are tame, they fight until one or both are killed. In country places, sometimes, though fortunately very rarely, a stoat or weasel will sometimes obtain an entrance, but, as with the wild mice, a sheet of glass is the best preventive of harm.

Insects are sometimes present in dirty cages, but frequent changes into clean cages soon gets rid of these unwelcome visitants. A drop or two of carbolic acid on the floor of the cage, or a little fine sulphur, dusted amongst the sawdust, is a very good thing where there are many insects. Cleanliness is, however, the best cure.

Roughness of coat and general debility is generally caused by overcrowding in too small cages, and the remedy is patent. Plenty of room, and not too many in a cage, is the remedy for this ailment. If however, it arises from old age, there is no cure.

Asthmatical complaints, for which there is no cure, are caused by exposing the animals to damp and cold, and where this is not done asthmatical mice are scarce. Skin diseases sometimes appear, and for these, as for the preceding, there is no cure. In all cases where a bad disease exists in any animal, and the disease is incurable, the most merciful thing for them is a sudden, and as painless a death as can be devised.

**Teaching Tricks.**—This is a question of time, and no royal road to the art exists. The first thing to be overcome is *fear*, both in the animal and teacher, and, until this is achieved, no success worth mentioning can be attained. Constant acquaintance is required for this first step, handling carefully but firmly, and, above all things, feeding the subjects immediately after they have received their lesson, which lesson should not be too prolonged. After tameness is obtained, these lessons should be commenced; and as all of them partake of the same nature, we will only describe one, and that is bringing down a flag from the top of a pole. For this purpose a round stick about eighteen inches long, and half an inch (or less) in diameter, is required, and a small paper flag or two—the stick made of a match, and the flag about half an inch square, or it may be triangular, as best suits the taste. The pole should be roughened with some coarse sand-paper, and the handle of the flag should be scented with a small drop of oil of aniseed, and then placed on the top of the pole. The mouse should be allowed to smell the flag before placing it in position, and, in nine cases out of ten, it will at once ascend to the flag and bring it down. If it does not do so, the same process should be gone through; and if not effective, a flag that has tallow on the stick should be substituted; and should this not prove attractive, the lesson should cease for the day. Each time the flag is brought down, a grain or two of canary seed should be given the animal; and if these lessons are persisted in for a week or two, that trick will be most effectually learned, and another can be taken in hand. Always give lessons before feeding, and every time the mouse is successful give a reward. Never give sugar in any form, as it causes a disease of the liver.

Short daily lessons are far preferable to long intermittent ones, as the lessons are not then forgotten.

White, lavender, and fawn mice are the easiest to train, then piebalds, and, lastly, black, but these latter are very dull in learning.

**Conclusion.**—We hope the foregoing will be found of use to mice-fanciers, being the results of our own practice, and we were very successful. The smallness and beauty of the animals render them easy to keep, and the cost of food is very small, amounting to a mere trifle in a large collection. The value of the animals is large, when good colored ones are obtained, and they are always salable. The cages may be made by anyone, and at a small cost, unless large fancy cages are used, and, as a pet, for quietness and agility, it is not to be surpassed. The great enemy—offensive smell—is not noticed to any appreciable degree, if our rules are followed; and we are sure no one will object to such a slight scent as they give off when kept clean. As the animals, as a rule, are so healthy, no expense in medicines has to be defrayed, and, as this is not the rule with the generality of other pets, it is an immense advantage. We may add that the price for ordinary colors varies from one shilling to five shillings per pair, while unusual colors fetch from five shillings to ten shillings per pair, as a rule, while it sometimes happens that a tortoise-shell will fetch double that amount.—*Bazaar.*

## YOUNG FOLKS' CORNER.

(For Fanciers' Journal.)

### ARRIVALS AT THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.

Arrivals ending June 26th, 1877.

1 Virginia Deer (*Cervus virginianus*). Born in Garden. 1 Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoccephalus*), presented. 7 Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Born in Garden. 4 Chequered Tortoises (*Emys picta*), presented. 2 Flying Squirrels (*Pteromys volucella*), presented. 2 Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), presented. 3 Gray Foxes (*Vulpes virginianus*), presented. 2 Parrakeet Cockatoos (*Calopsitta novae hollandiae*). Born in Garden. 2 Verbet Monkeys (*Cercopithecus lalaudii*), purchased. 1 Llama (*Lama peruana*). Born in Garden. 1 White-eared Parrot (*Conurus leucotis*), presented. 1 Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), presented. 1 Iguana (*Iguana tuberculata*), purchased. 2 Barred Owls (*Syrnium nebrelosum*), purchased. 1 Pennants Parrakeet (*P. pennanti*), purchased. 1 Yellow Parrot (*Conurus luteus*), purchased. 10 Common Seals (*Phoca irtulina*), 30 70, purchased. 1 Water Snake (*Nerodia fuscata*), presented. 1 Virginia Deer (*Cervus virginianus*). Born in Garden. 2 Prairie Dogs (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). Born in Garden. 1 Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*). Born in Garden.

ARTHUR E. BROWN, Gen'l Sup't.

(For Fanciers' Journal.)

### ZOO NOTES NO. 35.

BY HUON.

#### PETER THE RHINOCEROS.

Of the rhinoceros the Philadelphia "Zoo" holds but a single specimen. That one, however, as he weighs over 6,000 lbs., and consumes about 100 lbs. of hay, a bushel or so of bran meal, and whatever quantity of vegetables and other goodies he can obtain, together with some thirty gallons of water per day, may be thought quite enough, and, considering him from all points, his name might appropriately be extended from the simple "Pete" of his keeper to that of

"PETER THE GREAT."

Peter was born in India, about the year 1856. Quite young was he when he was forced away from his native home, on the marshy border of some river of India, and motherless he had to be made before his abduction could be effected. Quite small, too, he was; yet small as he was, he fought for his poor, dying parent—who loved him—the best he knew how, though, before his horn grew, he was not a very formidable antagonist. He could then only butt with his unwieldy head, or bite with his strong, young teeth. He has a long life before him, and should he meet with no accident, Peter will doubtless live out his full hundred years. Of his kind there are but two species, which, however,