

## THE CANARY BIRD. NO. I.

BY W. KIDD.



In order to secure longevity for your birds, be careful in the selection of your cages. Herein lies the grand secret. The cages generally in use are altogether ill-adapted to comfort; being open to the air at every point, and admitting a succession of draughts from morning till night. Hence the cause of so much sickness, and of so many deaths. Birds so attended to speedily become asthmatic, and seldom live for any great length of time, as daily experience shows.

Above all things, studiously avoid the circular, open-barred brass cages, with sliding doors, now so much in vogue. We mean those resembling a parrot's cage, on a reduced scale. They are frightful instruments of destruction; bringing full many an innocent songster prematurely to his place of final rest. The brass, we need hardly observe, when water lodges on it, presents verdigris; and this, when tasted, produces sometimes a lingering, sometimes sudden death. All manner of "cheap" cages, too, must be discarded as inadmissible. They are made of dry deal, and invariably harbor vermin. Of these latter, we shall ere long have to tell a pretty tale. As a rule, buy no cages whatever excepting those made of mahogany.

The proper description of tenement for a canary is a mahogany cage, thirteen inches long, eleven inches high, and eight inches deep. The top, back, and one of the sides, should be of wood; the other side should be of stout wire-work (also the front,) so as to admit the air, and

at the same time exclude a thorough draught. Just above this wire-work should be a glass or wooden slide, running in a groove. It might then be withdrawn or not, as occasion might require. The cage inside should be painted white. This, if your bird were of a fine bright orange color, would show him off to advantage.

A long, square, but narrow perch should run from end to end, about the centre of the cage; and a second, of a similar kind, directly behind the two tin pans inserted at the front of the cage (one on either side) to hold the seed. In the middle of the wire-work, at the front, let there be a hole sufficiently large to admit the bird's head while drinking. Never use glasses or fountains for holding water; but receptacles of tin, suspended by bent wires. Glasses and glass fountains are apt to get displaced; and many a prisoner dies for want of water thus unthinkingly removed beyond his reach. By having these two perches only, the bird's feet will be kept clean, (a point we must insist upon;) and he will have plenty of room for exercise, without injuring his plumage.

A bird thus lodged may be placed anywhere, or hung out of any window. He will never know what fear is, and he will be steady to his song. It is quite a mistake (irrespective of its being cruel) to place any bird in an open cage, if you wish him to sing well. By allowing him to gaze about, his attention becomes distraught, and his thoughts are divided.

Nor is due attention to the proper sizes of your cages the only thing required. The birds' perches must be well arranged, and so fixed as not to interfere one with the other. By no other method can you keep them, and consequently your birds' feet, clean. The water, too, must be changed in summer twice daily; and the seed looked to every morning. The gravelly sand, also, must be changed thrice weekly, and the birds' claws kept neatly cut.

In the matter of food, we should recommend a constant variety, in addition to the regular diet—such as egg, boiled hard; lettuce, chickweed, groundsel, &c.; but no loaf sugar.

*Au reste*—let your good sense be in active exercise day by day. Observation will tell you what your birds like, and what deranges their

stomach. They are easily pleased, and as readily tamed. If you study them, they will study you.

The most proper food is canary, flax, and a small quantity of rape-seed. All these should be old, and of the very best quality. It is miserable economy to purchase "cheap" seed. It will assuredly injure, if it do not kill your birds. Every morning the seed should be carefully examined, the husk removed, and the tins replenished. The bottoms of your cages should be well cleansed, thrice weekly; and be kept well covered with red gravelly sand. It is also desirable to have a small quantity of old mortar, well bruised, mixed with it. In addition to the water supplied in the tin, it is always expedient to have a square earthenware bath, fitted in a mahogany frame, ready for daily use. These are so made as to be easily suspended on the doors of the cages, when the latter are opened. They are over-arched with wire, to prevent the birds escaping; and are obtainable of almost any dealer. Never let a day pass in the summer season without administering the bath. It is a grand secret of health, and assists wonderfully in keeping your birds in fine feather. In the winter and early spring, forbid its use altogether.

To make your pets familiar, give them every now and then a small quantity of yolk of egg, boiled hard; and a small quantity of "Clifford's German Paste," mixed with a stale sponge-cake. Put this, lovingly, into a little "exclusive" tin

pan, fitted in a sly corner of the cage, and the treat will have a double charm. These innocent little creatures love to flirt with any nice pickings thus mysteriously conveyed to them; and they will keep on chattering to you in a language of their own, for many minutes, while viewing the operations in which you are actively engaged for their particular benefit.

When hanging your birds out in the garden, or at an open window, avoid as much as possible exposing them to the intense heat of a scorching sun. Although protected from its baneful influence by the covered roof of their cages, to a certain extent, they yet run a considerable risk of being killed by a *coup de soleil*—the fate of many a noble songster. The bough of a tree, well covered with foliage, is what they delight in. This should be allowed to depend from the top of their cages. So protected, they will not be annoyed either by the sight of a cat or dog, or any other noxious animal—indeed, they will be strangers to fear of any kind.

Neglect these precautions—the "consequences" will make you wise too late. No person can justly affirm that we do not illustrate all we say.



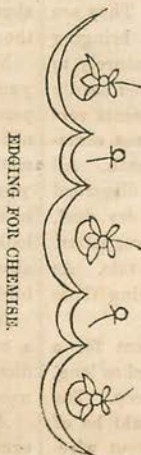
INSERTIONS, EDGINGS, & C.



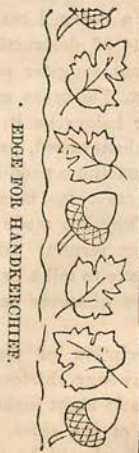
CHILD'S FLANNEL SHIRT.



CHAIN-STITCH.



EDGING FOR CHEMISE.

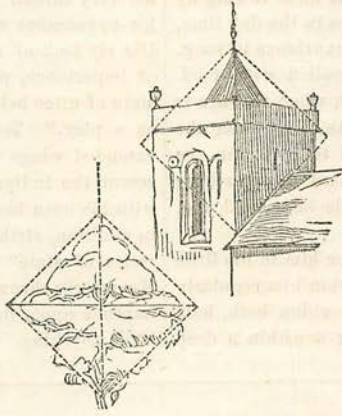


EDGE FOR HANKERCHIEF.



FOR CHILD'S SACQUE.

The two next outlines are based upon the square turned diamond-wise, and will need no further remark: examples upon this plan may be multiplied easily. Those given will serve as hints in the several directions of flowers, foliage, and landscapes generally.



## THE CANARY BIRD. NO. II.

BY W. KIDD.

We cannot help thinking, and we wish to be very emphatic on the point, that no persons should ever attempt to keep birds, or allow their children to do so, unless they are naturally "fond" of them, and, at the same time, themselves of a kindly disposition. To trust birds to the care of a thoughtless child, a callous servant, or an indifferent person, in one's absence from home, unless under very particular circumstances, is to yield them up to almost certain destruction. Hard-hearted servants either cram their troughs full of food (sufficient to last a week) with a view to save trouble, or, by never changing their water, they allow it to become corrupt. In the former case, the hull of the seed which is eaten, falling on the top of the residue, prevents the birds obtaining a fresh supply; whilst in the latter, the birds become poisoned by putridity.

We are sorry to say, adults are frequently quite as much in fault as children, in this matter; too often more so—for birds are not unfrequently killed by children through an excess of attention, having many things ministered unto them quite unsuited to their animal economy. They are also taken out of their cages to be nursed and "petted"—a horrible practice; when the heat of the hand and undue pressure on their body cause their death. Why, let us ask, should we be thus thoughtlessly, and continually cruel,

when five minutes of our time every morning would, in many cases, be amply sufficient to make our favorites both comfortable and happy?

These little creatures, if we would narrowly watch them, possess the most singular attractions, exhibit the most romantic attachments. Not a movement of their master or their mistress escapes their observation. They may be taught, easily taught, by affectionate care, to come out of their cages when called for; or to sit on the finger, and sing when requested. A simple movement of the head, or expression of the eye, will accomplish this; whilst the reward of a bit of hard-boiled egg, or a morsel of loaf sugar, will speedily cement an intimacy terminable only by death; the attachment of some birds knows no other limit.

As a rule—to keep your birds in continual song, hang them up in situations where they cannot by possibility get a sight of each other. We have often heard people express surprise at their canaries not singing; and we have frequently been consulted as to the cause. It has arisen, in nearly every instance, from the manner in which their cages have been suspended in the room. Immediately after the arrangement has been altered, and the birds have been kept out of each other's sight, they have commenced singing in all the joyousness of their nature. The reason is obvious. Their attention,

when thus separated, is not diverted from their song; and a spirit of rivalry induces them to do their utmost not to be surpassed.

If you particularly wish your birds to sing by candle-light, darken their cages in the day time, so as to prevent their over luxuriance in song. Also, keep them scantily supplied with food. When the candles are lighted, when the fire is seen to blaze upon the hearth, and when the cups and saucers are heard to rattle on the table—then you will be treated to something worth listening to. The whole household, too, will feel happy.

If you feel inclined to humor him in his little visits to you on the table, provide him regularly every morning with a square china bath, half filled with water; first placing it within a deep

basin, to prevent damage to your furniture by his splashing. An invite of this nature is irresistible, and he will soon be seen immersed to his very throat. On his return from the bath, his appearance will be found ludicrously comic. His sly look of self-satisfaction and assumption of importance, whilst nearly drenched, and in a state of utter helplessness withal—are “as good as a play.” Touch him—if you dare! With extended wings and unrestrained fury, he will resent the indignity by pecking fiercely at you with his open beak; and he will often give you, in addition, striking proofs of his anger. These “airs of state” are very frequently practiced. We merely throw out a hint for our readers to improve upon, for you may teach these majestic birds anything.

## BEDSTEADS FOR COTTAGES.

BY H. J. VERNON.

WHEN rooms are small, it is desirable to have them as little encumbered with furniture as possible, and if there be a recess, as there almost always is, it may be fitted up as a bedstead, without at all encroaching on the space of the apartment. The plan is frequently adopted in Paris; sometimes you see in one corner of a room, a large looking-glass, six or seven feet high, and three feet wide, enclosed in a polished wood or gilt frame, and seeming to be a part of the wall, as shown at figure 1. This looks ex-

can be made all in one length, with only a single joint near the head; it is therefore much firmer than where there are two or three joints, as must be the case when it is made to fold to fit into a low carcase. A recess nine inches deep, and three feet wide, will be quite large enough to contain a bedstead for a single person. The legs need not be more than four inches long, and a thin mattress and bed-clothes will fill up the other four, the whole, as shown in figure 2,

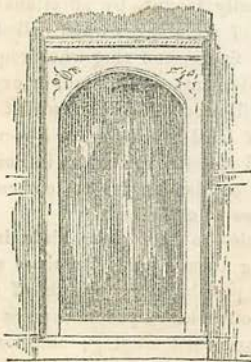


Figure 1.

tremely handsome and ornamental, but in many cases it is nothing more than a door which conceals a turn-up bedstead. At night the door is opened, the bedstead let down, and thus in a short time the latter is ready for use. There is one advantage in this contrivance; the bedstead

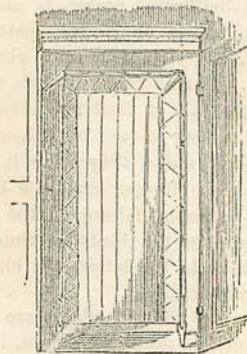


Figure 2.

being made to turn up at once. Whenever possible, it is best to have turn-up bedsteads made of iron as they are lighter, and less clumsy than wood, and will fit in a smaller space.

Should a sacking be used instead of hoop-iron for the bottom, it is strained by passing the cord round the sides, as may be seen in the cut.

## THE CANARY BIRD. NO. III.

BY W. KIDD.

In conclusion we will briefly comment on some of the little ailments of our winged friends. "Prevention being better than cure," we will hope that by due care we shall seldom have occasion to call in the aid of a doctor—our aversion always, excepting only *in extremis*.

The diseases to which a canary is subject are but few; and they are, any of them, easily got rid of. The husk is a "dry cough," caught from an undue exposure to cold and damp. Sometimes it is brought on by giving your birds hemp-seed; the husk or shell of which, adhering to the lining of their throat, causes inflammation. Never, therefore, give your canaries any hemp-seed without first bruising it. Half a dozen seeds per week, observe, are more than sufficient under any circumstances. To cure the husk, feed your birds on yolk of egg, boiled hard, and diluted with a few drops of cold water. Mix with it a small quantity of sponge-cake, rubbed fine. Instead of spring water to drink, give them, for a couple of days, boiled linseed-tea, flavored with liquorice-root; or (for one day only) new milk boiled. By keeping your birds warm, and covering them over to prevent excitement, they will soon rally.

Canaries in this country are seldom long together free from colds. These might readily be prevented, by discarding those circular open cages against which we have already so loudly protested.

Hung out of doors in these cages, exposed to every draught and change of air, or nearly broiled by the sun—choice pets die by the hundred, or are ruined for life. Asthma soon does its work; and brings with it a troop of undefinable evils, all of which are incurable. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ!*

A vast number of nominal ailments are recorded in bird-books, which we consider it needless to allude to. They all result from one grand cause—neglect. Extreme cleanliness—a whole volume might be profitably devoted to this point alone—careful feeding, proper cages, and affectionate attention, are all the "mysteries" of bird-keeping. Illness is of very rare occurrence with pets who are regularly attended to; and it is for this reason that we shall not puzzle our readers by a discussion of possible evils, and

imaginary cures for them. Red gravelly sand, well mixed with small pebbles, (to aid digestion,) bruised mortar from an old wall, chickweed, groundsel, (both quite ripe,) and boiled yolk of egg—these, and the daily use of a square bath (in summer) will keep your birds hearty and jolly. With care, they will live at least a dozen years; many kind mistresses have enjoyed the company of their pets from fifteen to twenty years.

An equable temperature, we should observe, is always desirable. A sudden transition from heat to cold, and from cold to heat, is dangerous. Good sense and a little reflection—rarities amongst us!—would determine all these matters. Birds and children had need be gifted with the longevity of a cat. "Nine lives" were barely sufficient to shield them from the dangers to which they are so thoughtlessly exposed by their protectors. We shudder, as we take our daily walks, to behold the cruelties practiced both on birds and children—all because people will not "think."

Let us now say a word or two about "moulting"—an effort of nature to regenerate our pets, and at the same time add to their beauty. We need not here go into the philosophy of this interesting subject.

When a canary "moults"—which is generally in July or August, according to the heat of the weather—all you need to do is, to keep him quiet and free from draughts. Being a cheerful, lively bird, there is no need to have him covered up; but do not let him be unduly excited. Give him a very small quantity of raw beef, scraped and moistened with cold water, once a week; occasionally, a little yolk of hard-boiled egg; and now and then a piece of sponge-cake, and ripe chickweed in full flower. Nature will do the rest; and present your pet with a handsome new coat that will keep him spruce, and last him a full year. Mind and trim his claws when they are too long. Use sharp scissors always; a knife, never. In handling him, let him lie passive as possible; so that your hand may not press unduly on any part of his little body. After the first operation, he will understand all about it, and cheerfully submit to be so "trimmed." A lady's hand is a bird's delight, it being

so delicately soft. But it is "dangerous" to lie there too long.

There are some "little secrets" connected with the welfare of your birds, that we will record here. One is—that they delight in, and are kept in rude health, by seed called "bird-turnip." This should be specially looked to, more particularly during the breeding season; and there should be an abundant supply of it.

Another great "little secret" is, the prevention of illness among your birds. Cut a thick slice from a well-baked crumby loaf. Put this by for a fortnight, to get thoroughly stale. Then soak a portion of it in cold water, afterward thoroughly squeezing it, to expel the superfluity of moisture. Give a little of this to your birds. If they be ailing, it will set them all right; if they be well, it will keep them so. This advice is worth a guinea. Now for a word or two about vermin, before alluded to. Birds are a doomed race; wherever they live in confinement, there lurk their deadliest enemies, to consume them homœopathically. Hundreds—aye, thousands—of our feathered friends die annually; and few of us guess the cause. These vermin are minutely small; nearly imperceptible to the eye, and equally impalpable to the touch. A microscope, however, reveals them, and all the "infernal machinery" of their hideously-disgusting creep-

ing forms. They lie in ambush. During the day, they take refuge in the joints of your cages. At night they come and riot in the bodies of your birds, whose blood supplies them with a perpetual feast. All cages are liable to these creatures, but those made of mahogany are the least so. Brass cages are the worst of all—deal come next.

To destroy these vermin, we have ascertained that nothing but camphine or naphtha can be depended upon. This must be freely applied to all the joints and crevices of the cage, with a sash-tool. No candle or fire must be allowed near the cage during the operation, so combustible are the elements employed in this warfare. Where money is no object, we recommend in all cases the purchase of a new cage; the old one being immediately burnt. Where expense is a consideration, an extra cage must always be kept to remove the birds into, whilst operating for their benefit on their old infested habitation. One week, at least, must elapse before the smell and danger are removed. Your pets may then be replaced. If you "love" your birds, you will after this caution examine carefully, from week to week, whether any foes have dared to intrude. Five minutes could hardly be better bestowed; for these "Thugs" are crafty as cruel.

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## SILK EMBROIDERY FOR TOP OF PIN-CUSHION.

