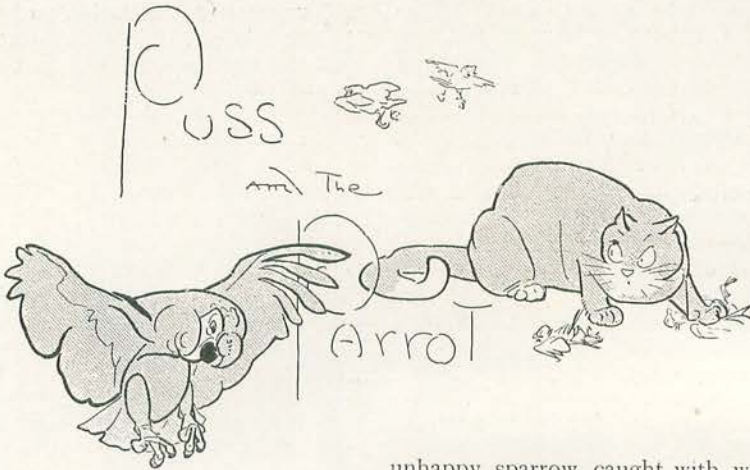


*Animal Actualities.*



THIS is a tale of the mysterious power of articulate speech and its effect in calming the more or less savage breast. Mr. F. W. Millard, of Hoddesdon, in Hertfordshire, possesses a very fine tom cat. This Tom,

unhappy sparrow caught with wet wings in a shower goes towards Dick's maintenance. And there is no positive reason to suppose him altogether averse from pigeon.

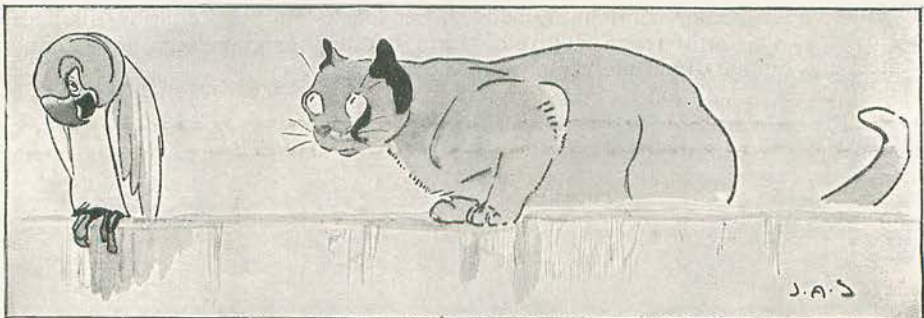
But lately Dick sustained a sad shock; a shock that has altogether shattered his confidence in dealing with birds. A neighbour



BEAUTIFUL.

whose name is Dick, is lord of a fine tract of surrounding gardens and partial to poultry. His master's cocks and hens he spares, having a proper fear of his master, but any

keeps a parrot, which is sufficiently tame to be let loose occasionally, and sufficiently well-educated to proclaim its freedom by voluble and extremely distinct talk. Dick was start-



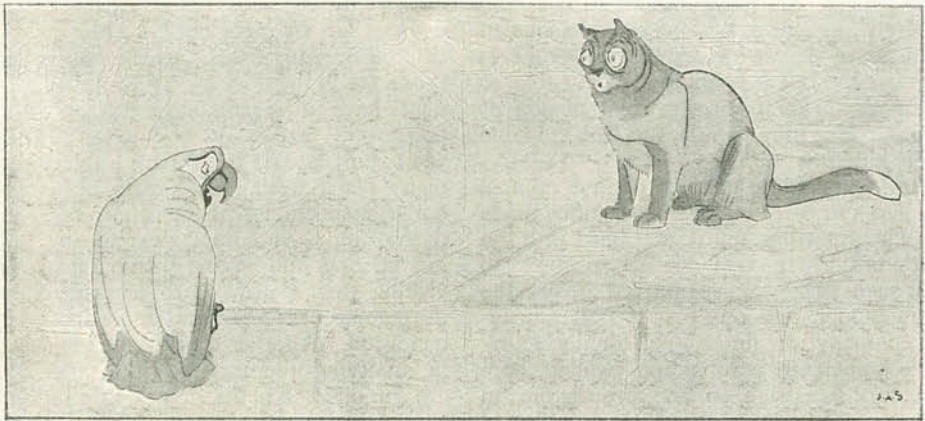
ADVANCE.



AMAZEMENT.

ing on an ornithological expedition, when suddenly the parrot alighted on a fence before his eyes. Here was a gorgeous prize, almost within Dick's mouth. Red beak, green wings

He retreated. Polly showered shrill abuse after him, and he retreated farther still. Could he believe his ears? What terrible creature was this, that talked like a man?

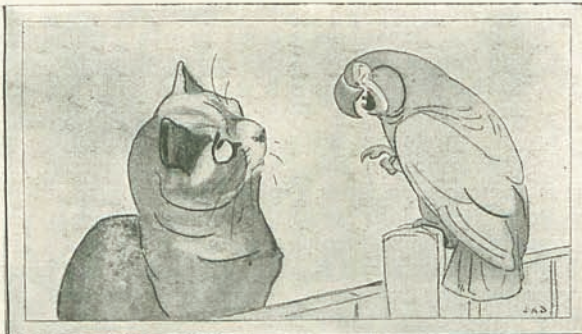


RETREAT.

—beautiful, and no doubt as toothsome as handsome. Dick crouched and crept. But Polly was watching from the corner of her eye, and, just as Dick stiffened for the spring, bawled aloud in his face, "That's right! Come along!"

Poor Dick was struck as by an electric shock.

Never again did Dick make an attempt on Polly; but, now that he has gained sufficient confidence, sits reverently below the parrot, quiet and awe-struck, listening. After each performance Dick repairs to a corner, and thinks. It is conjectured that he is taking lessons.



REVERENCE.