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HOWARD H. BLAIR

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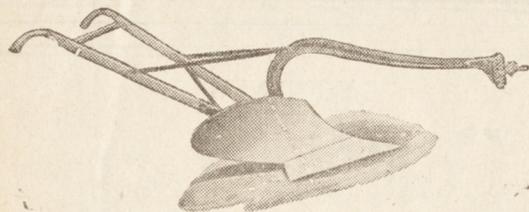
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Interest to Women

SONG OF THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH

Tiny Autumnal Vocalists of the Hedgerows May Win a Place in Family Circles

A great industrial executive, peculiarly versatile in his avocations, told an interviewer the other day how he collected crickets in summer in order to enjoy their music by his fireside at Christmas time. And cricket fanciers are not common in the Occident, but Orientals buy their grass larks in the market and cherish them fondly as household pets. To a poor cooie a cricket in a cage is more entertaining than two birds warbling in the bush.

Early discoverers of the literary virtuosity of Lafcadio Hearn revelled in the short and wistful story of Kusa-Hibari, the Japanese grass lark and furtive tears stained the pages that breathed a requiem for that infinitesimal tree cricket which filled a room with 'delicate and ghostly music of indescribable sweetness.' Hana, the Japanese housemaid, tragically immortalized in that poem in prose, forgot to give Kusa-Hibari his ration of egg-plant, and he sang his swan song, on and on to the very end, while eating his own legs. "May the gods forgive us all," said Hearn, "especially Hana, the housemaid!"

Probably it was Hearn's story that brought Japanese cricket cages to this country, and they are still to be found from time to time among the bijou odds and ends of Oriental bazaars. One of them lately got into its niche in this writer's home because it was an admirable bit of Japanese handicraft, and then came the cricket, uninvited, but inevitable. The family Scottie had a part in it. He has a nose for small game and doesn't despise even a sporting cricket when a morning's hunt fails to flush a rat or a mouse. It was a robust, black field cricket, probably ten times the size of Lafcadio's grass lark, and it made a good run and a jump; and there was the baying Scot in full cry, but there also was the cricket cage awaiting a tenant, so the hound was cheated of his prey. And thus a personality emerges from the myriad crickets of field and meadow to join a household and become a fellow to the Scot and the house birds and the less understanding human members. The cricket inspected every frail bar and joint and crevice of its prison, deliberately and curiously, like Xavier de Maistre in his Voyage autour de ma Chambre, then stoically accented the situation and refreshed itself with about one-sixteenth of a Malaga grape. A thin wafer of raw eggplant was offered, in memory of Kura-Hibari, but the Yankee cricket disdainfully and returned to the grape. Within two days it showed a sort of confidence and familiarity, and seemed to watch the opening of its door with interest. Now food is examined eagerly, almost as soon as it is presented. Apple, blades of grass, clover and bread crumbs are accepted; a pellet of fruit cake was sampled and approved, and every fresh slice of Malaga grape is received with evident enthusiasm.

"Yeah, they do it with their hind legs," said the dear old lady, after her neighbor had shouted half a dozen times that the village choir was singing well that September evening. But crickets don't do it with their hind legs. They are fiddlers, and use their hind wings for a fiddle and one upper wing for a bow. This lustrous black musician now fiddles with an air of calm assurance while one peers through the bars of the cage, and the rapid vibration of the wings can be clearly seen. A little warmth on a cold night steps up his tempo, and when the cage is placed on the chimney piece, with a fire in the grate, he shows his appreciation by fiddling through the night, even unto the gray of dawn. Two Massachusetts entomologists found by experiment that tree crickets sounded one hundred notes per minute at a temperature of 65 degrees with accelerated or diminished tempo according to thermometric changes.

Leigh Hunt, addressing grasshoppers and crickets, wrote:

"O sweet and tiny cousins that belong One to the fields, the other to the hearth,
Both have your sunshine; both, though small, are strong
At your clear hearts; and both seem given to earth
To sing in thoughtful ears this natural song
Indoors and out, summer and winter, mirth."

And Hearn in closing his tribute to Kusa-Hibari, said: "I had felt so much, in the hush of the night, the charm of the delicate voice—telling of one minute existence dependent upon my will and selfish pleasure, as upon the favor of a god—telling me also that the atom of ghost in the

Combined Dining And Living Room

The housewife who hankers after the modern but has some old possessions that she wants to keep has an interesting problem on her hands. The room itself in such a case is important.

The new horizontal panelling is an effective background in a modern room, contrasting pleasantly with old furnishings and toning in with the new. It may be used on all four walls, or on one, two, or three.

Many small houses are combining the dining and living rooms with success. A room with a bay window alcove lends itself particularly well to this arrangement. If such a spot is not available, the dining furniture may be placed in a corner of the room.

Funds for renovating and redecorating interiors may now be obtained from banks at a very low rate of interest under the generous terms of the Home Improvement Plan.

tiny cage, and the atom of ghost within myself, were forever but one and the same in the deeps of the Vast of being."

HUFF AND PUFF FOR MOUTH LINES

You Can Banish Those Aging "Parentheses" By Blowing Exercises

(By Antoinette)

What to do about and for those lines that plow a furrow between the nose and the corners of the mouth?

Although seen more often on older faces, they're still not confined to them by any means. A young woman in her mid 20s has the deepest indentations in this named area of any I have ever seen.

She has had for years the distressing habit of plying her thumb and forefinger down this 'parenthesis' lane as she talks, even as she reads. So, you see, that a bad habit may develop the lines from nose to mouth corners.

The muscles have to be made more self-reliant, so to speak, with exercise directed particularly at cheeks. One specialist has popularized a facial exercise which she calls the 'huff and puff' exercise. It's grand for the chinline, too, as is also a second exercise I shall give you for the facial lines primarily.

You fill your mouth full of air then puff hard against the cheeks and upper lip. Let the air come out in little puffs through slightly parted lips as though you were blowing a horn.

It is suggested to keep your mind on your work, imagining that you huff and puff after a bumble bee circling around your head, turning this way and that to blow it away. If you will smooth an emollient cream on your face and throat before you start huffing and puffing, so much the better. More cream is absorbed when the circulation is astir.

The second suggestion for making your cheek muscles firmer and your chinline cleaner is to go through all the motions of high and wide gum chewing, whistling at the same time. If you can do it! It doesn't matter

what sounds issue, since you'll be doing this behind closed doors anyway. Keep tossing your head from side to side so that the chin will get the benefit, too.

BLONDES BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

CHICAGO, Oct. 16—Blondes this fall are back in the fashion spotlight.

The tipoff came today from hairdressers at the annual fall and winter coiffure revue put on by the Chicago and Illinois Hairdressers Association.

The reason, they said, was that golden glitter is the keynote of the fall color picture. Black gowns, for daytime and evening, are accepted with embroidery belts and jewelry of gold.

Gold sequins lavishly trim evening dresses, sparkle on veils, evening bags and hats. Gold metallic cloth is a stylish leader.

Therefore, a gold head to match one's gold belt. That's the idea as the hairdressers see it. And the gold in the hair this fall is yellow gold—not platinum.



"There! How does this face look?"
"As happy as if he were smoking a Sweet Cap!"

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