

Esthetic Essays on Esthetic Subjects

Variety of Useful Purposes Which the Humble House Cat Serves.

In the list of household necessities the house cat ranks first. Just why it ranks first we do not know, but we are quite sure that it does. Its character forms a most interesting subject for study as well as its anatomy. If you desire to see a perfect picture of innocence and placid benevolence combined, note Tabby's expression as she reclines in the warmth of the hearth. But turn your back for a moment, and if there is a milk-pan or a platter of meat within easy reach, she will be head over heels in it and the maximum consummation is a thing accomplished before you are aware that anything is wrong. It is her nature, and like the man who chopped his wife's piano to pieces, she is not to blame for it.

The house cat is an agreeable and social creature. It is also democratic. It makes no distinction of creed, caste or color or of any other alliterative combination. It takes up with the tramp as he devours his portion of the household refuse on the back doorstep just as readily as with the society honess who sips tea from a three-finger cup of suicidally fragile mould at a table provided with the choicest cultured enervation. He appreciates the hungry benevolence of the former just as readily as he does the parsimonious charity of the latter.

To the young housewife its genial nature appeals with profound effect. It not only provides agreeable company for her in the discharge of her uxorial duties, but it often renders her services of incalculable value. Oftentimes when she sits weighed down with sorrow because of her husband's action in refusing to submit to the ordeal of disposing of her angel food, her heart is cheered by the readiness of the faithful house cat to accept of what has been rejected. No truer test of fealty could be devised, and in this respect the cold-blooded husband is completely outclassed.

Yet he is made to atone for his sins, and strange to say this self-same cat is the one to visit judgment upon him. Seated on the back-yard fence as a major axis, it gently wafts his soft, sad notes into the evening air, while its soul goes out in a melancholy chant, telling to the world of its trials and sufferings. Its laryngeal efforts never fail to have a rousing effect, and in putting it to flight the husband has an opportunity to work off a few erds of energy that he would have greatly preferred to save.

And in this connection it is proper to call attention to a glaring injustice. People will endure such affliction as the opera singer chooses to administer without a murmur. They will even suffer an irresponsible eruptive amateur to work unmolested. And yet they will turn out in squads and companies to check the vocal aspirations of the feline performer. With relentless tenacity they drive the musical Tom into remote obscurity, and then return to endure the long distance tremors of his less worthy human rival. If he ventures to discuss his political views with a comrade he is scurriedly treated by humankind, despite the fact that he keeps the rats out of their cellars and inertness out of their limbs.

The cat naturally loves the freedom of the open air. In the summer time it ranges abroad in the land and is self-supporting. But with the coming of winter it shows its domestic spirit and attachment for the loved ones at

home, and hastens back to resume its former place in the household. It never forgets those who have treated him well and never evinces a tendency to desert them. Yet for all its homely virtues it is not always deservedly appreciated, and is often the victim of base ingratitude—ingratitude as base as that of the man who put the dog in the pound after it had rescued his child from drowning.

The house cat is always cheerful and has little use for sack-cloth and ashes, much less for sack-cloth and water. In spite of bitter persecution it remains melodious, happy and always ready to oblige. Its calm, contented nature is really worthy of admiration and includes many traits that it would not be ill for us to emulate.

MEN'S MASS MEETING

Opportunity for University Men to Hear Talented Speaker

One of the finest and most successful speakers on the American public platform today is Mr. Fred B. Smith, international secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who will deliver an address at the Oliver theatre Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. His subject will be, "The Supper of Death." It is one of Mr. Smith's most powerful addresses, and he will be at his best when he sees the packed house tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Smith has had a wide and successful career in his work among men in this country. During the Spanish-American war he served the international committee with marked success in both Cuba and Porto Rico, and since that time he has been honored with the position of an international secretaryship in this country.

The popularity with which he is greeted in college communities is attested by his experience at Oberlin College, where he was but a few days ago. The president of that institution said that with a very few exceptions, every man was out to hear Mr. Smith on the evening before his departure, and that this was by far the greatest record in the history of the institution. On his former visit to Lincoln every inch of space in the Oliver theatre was occupied, and hundreds of men were refused admittance.

Those who have had the privilege of hearing Miss Robinson's beautiful contralto voice will need but a mere announcement that she is going to sing at this meeting in order to assure them a musical treat. She is well known in University circles, having appeared a large number of times before college audiences.

Mr. Fred L. Willis, of Omaha, who spoke here a few weeks ago, will be present with his big voice to lead the singing.

It has been announced that this meeting would begin at 4 o'clock, but it has been found necessary, because of other meetings, to change the time to 3 o'clock, and those holding tickets are to take especial notice of this change. Consequently the doors will be open to ticket holders from 2:45 till 3 p. m., after which time the doors will be thrown open to the public. This is an opportunity which one can not afford to miss and those so fortunate as to secure tickets, should see that they are there in time to make use of the same.

Mathematical Seminar Meeting

The next meeting of the Mathematical seminar will be held on Saturday, February 6th, 7:30 p. m., in M. 302.

The program to be presented is as follows:

"Some methods of conducting polyhedra after Eberhard," Laura D. Puffer.

"Review of Munay's Infinitesimal Calculus," T. M. Hodgman and A. L. Candy.

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