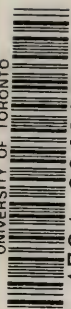



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A VETERAN NATURALIST

*Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your Teacher."*—

WORDSWORTH.



W. B. TEGETMEIER.

From an etching by Hubert Herkomer, presented by the Artist, and dated 1879.

[Frontispiece.]

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A VETERAN NATURALIST

BEING THE
LIFE AND WORK OF
W. B. TEGETMEIER

BY
E. W. RICHARDSON

WITH AN INTRODUCTION
By THE LATE SIR WALTER GILBEY, BART.

WITH PORTRAITS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

WITHERBY & CO.
326 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON
1916

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INTRODUCTION.

It is with great pleasure that I respond to the invitation to write an Introduction to the Life and Work of the late W. B. Tegetmeier: a man whom I, like all who were brought in contact with him, held in the warmest affection and respect. I think those who had the good fortune to know him intimately would agree that the salient points in his character were inflexible honesty of purpose and high moral courage; and that it was to these qualities he owed in great measure the place he won in the spheres to which he devoted himself.

Strong, practical good sense dictated all his actions, and when he had made up his mind that the course he proposed to adopt was right, no thought of personal consequence could influence him; he was then utterly indifferent to unpopularity or odium.

He was a man upon whom it was always possible to rely for an honest opinion on any subject; he would not obtrude his views unasked; but when called upon to express an opinion or give advice, it was nothing to him whether what he had to say were acceptable or the reverse: as one who knew him well wrote, "He said what

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he meant, and meant what he said, whether you liked it or not."

Not less conspicuous were the whole-hearted energy and singleness of purpose with which he applied himself to any matter he might take in hand; and this was the more noteworthy when the variety and breadth of his interests are considered. He was universally regarded as the final dictator in all relating to poultry: to many he was known as the first authority of the day on questions relating to the pheasant; to others he was the man who made the uses of the homing pigeon his speciality; the Fellows of the Zoological Society knew him as the author of thoughtful and informing papers on subjects so diverse as Abnormal Plumage in the Domestic Fowl and the Breeding of Salmon; at one stage of his career he was the man who knew more about bees and bee-culture than anyone else in England; there were those who knew him as an authority on the works of the poet Shelley; and yet again, a very large number to whom he was the best authority on domestic economics and female education.

And the remarkable thing is that all these different groups were right; when he took up any subject he worked at it until he had made himself its master, and felt entitled to speak or write upon it. He held in utter contempt the mere smattering of knowledge: and when

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Tegetmeier felt himself equipped to deal with his subject, whatever it might be, the probability was there could be little more to learn concerning it.

The popular papers on Natural History topics which he contributed in such numbers to the columns of the *Field*, invariably displayed that close observation and study which distinguished his more scientific writings. It was natural to the man to investigate and sift: his was the scientific cast of mind which seeks out truth for its own sake, and will never be content with the superficial. It was this thoroughness, this determination to get at facts, which made his co-operation invaluable to his friend Darwin. How much that great man owed to Tegetmeier, readers of his works are aware. There can be no more eloquent tribute to the value of Tegetmeier's minute accuracy of observation, than the absolute reliance placed upon his work by Darwin. Tegetmeier always referred with pride and affection to the close association with which, for a quarter of a century, he worked in collaboration with the famous naturalist.

Most men as they become advanced in years lose, to a greater or less extent, the interests which have served them during their life-time; but this was not the case with Tegetmeier. His high vitality, and the excellent health he enjoyed, were evidenced in old age by the wonderful

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mental alertness and physical activity he preserved. When far advanced in the 'eighties he was still as keenly interested in matters relating to game and poultry as he had been in his prime, and was capable of physical exertion which might have been envied by men twenty-five years younger.

I recall an incident which serves to illustrate his mental and bodily activity in his eighty-fifth year. Shooting men will remember the unusual mortality among the young pheasants during the summer of 1901. Disease was rife all over the kingdom, and Tegetmeier, at the *Field* office, was overwhelmed with dead chicks and inquiries concerning cause and remedy. At Elsenham we had enjoyed comparative immunity from disease; there had been the usual mortality but nothing of which to complain, and Tegetmeier, in search of an estate where the birds were healthy, proposed one of his ever-welcome visits; his purpose being to investigate the system pursued by my then head keeper.

He arrived in the evening, sat up late with the rest, and after breakfast next morning set out with the keeper to go round the coverts and rearing grounds, returning to lunch, and spending the afternoon in the same way as in the morning. He must have spent at least seven hours walking and scrambling about the woods, examining the keeper on his methods of management and

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feeding, as he went: and the same night after dinner, he sat down to put the fruits of his day's work on paper.

I think I may boast that I was the only one who ever persuaded him to take a holiday, when I induced him to join me on one of the visits it was my habit to pay to Loudenne in the Médoc, during the vintage. Tegetmeier called it a holiday, but brain or hand, or both, were always busy; it might be the method of breaking bullocks to the yoke, or the capacities of the draught dogs which are used by some of the peasants in that district—but there was always something to arrest his attention and provoke detailed inquiry. It was impossible for him to be idle.

I recollect one night at Loudenne, after dinner when the rest of the party were playing cards or billiards, that Tegetmeier, breaking off in a discussion of some topic, suddenly sat up in his chair to listen intently, commanding silence with the autocracy permitted to age. Another moment and he was on his feet and through the window that opens on the terrace. Loudenne happens to lie in the track followed by birds on their southward migration, and Tegetmeier's quick ear had caught some note he could not at once identify. I have forgotten what he determined to be the species whose voices had caught his ear; but the incident struck me at the time as one more proof of my

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old friend's exceptional alertness in matters that appealed to him.

During his long and industrious life he had accumulated an enormous fund of information on various subjects and, endowed with a splendid memory, he was a singularly interesting and informing companion. It would be difficult to mention a subject upon which he was ignorant ; and his information was as accurate as it was extensive.

I found common ground with him in our ideas on the best method of treating game and poultry—live stock of all kinds, in fact. He was, like myself, a convinced believer in the wisdom of allowing bird and animal to lead, as far as possible, a life that conforms to natural conditions. I think the method pursued at Elsenham with turkeys, birds generally considered delicate and difficult to rear, was the first point of the kind that revealed the identity of our views. The practice at Elsenham has always been to let the turkeys run in the pheasant coverts where they nest and hatch out their eggs without artificial shelter, roosting in the trees all the year round, leading thus a natural life. Compared with the turkey reared in the farmyard, we get birds plumper, and with better developed breasts ; the latter, as Tegetmeier at once pointed out, a result of the greater use they make of their wings under these conditions.

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His interest in the fancy points of poultry and pigeons was kept alive for a time by the nature of his work with Darwin; when the scientific interest of variations in shape and plumage had been exhausted they became trifles; and he then devoted himself to the promotion of utility poultry and utility pigeons. The domestic fowl was to be encouraged for the table and as a layer, without regard to external points, save as indicative of breed. The only pigeon in which he preserved his interest was that which had been the hobby of his youthful days, the Homer; but the bird which had been his plaything as a boy was made to reveal valuable uses by Tegetmeier in manhood. He did more than anyone in the kingdom to open the eyes of the public to the value of the services the Homer could be made to give. During the 'seventies he was much before the public as the organiser of great flights of birds from the Crystal Palace. These public displays were regarded by him simply as means to the end he had in view. Knowing what Continental nations were doing with the Homer in connection with military work, his aim was to awaken general interest and to persuade our own military authorities to make similar use of the abundant material that was ready to their hands; and he worked at the business by public demonstration, by writing and by lecture, with his usual tireless energy.

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For many years he was my regular companion at the Bishop's Stortford Flower Show, where a "toss" of Homers was a feature of the gathering. It was a great day for Tegetmeier when our late King, at my request, graciously allowed a number of the Sandringham birds to be brought to the Flower Show and thence "tossed."

His impatience of shams and impostures went far, I think, to gain for him the name of "Teggy the Fighter," by which he was known to his intimates. Nothing roused his ordinarily placid temper like endeavour to misrepresent or deceive. This trait came out very clearly in his attitude towards so-called poultry farming. He may at one time have thought it possible to make the rearing of poultry, as an independent industry, pay; he never condemned enterprise or experiment without full and impartial investigation; but after long and patient examination he collected an amount of evidence disproving the possibility of making fowls pay on land solely devoted to them; and thenceforward he was merciless to those who might try to mislead the public into putting money into such enterprises. It is due very largely to his remorseless exposures that we hear little nowadays of the poultry-farm myth.

Tegetmeier's services to the poultry interest would be impossible to over-estimate; and they serve, perhaps more than any other branch of

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his work, to show the unflinching courage and honesty of the man. He began his career as a judge of the poultry classes at agricultural shows in the 'fifties, when the moral standard of exhibitors was very different from that prevailing now. "Improving" birds, to use the misnomer in vogue, was rife; and these doings were tacitly ignored by the judges of those days. The honest exhibitor who refrained from "improving" on nature, had no chance; and Tegetmeier made it his aim to bring about a better state of affairs.

He had an uphill task before him; dishonest exhibitors were of course his enemies from the outset, and he obtained small assistance, at first, from the officials, who feared empty benches as a result of his methods. But Tegetmeier was never to be moved by discouragement or open hostility; he never shirked a fight, and he carried it on single-handed until he won. He was bound to win, and he knew it as well as his opponents: his principles courted the light of day, whereas their practices shunned it. He made good use of the power his position on the *Field* gave him in these matters, and helped to make the great reputation of that journal, as well as his own.

His practical good sense and exhaustive knowledge of poultry made him an invaluable colleague when there was work to be done in this department, as I had reason to know when I was engaged in promoting shows of table

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poultry at the "Royal" and at Islington. The project involved details of which he was a master, and he entered upon the task of criticising and amending the scheme for classes and prizes with eager helpfulness. The practical side of his character showed very distinctly in this task; he had always before his mind the fundamental aims of the "Royal" and the Smithfield Shows, and his most reasonable view was that the schedule of poultry classes should be framed in accordance with the principles of the Society promoting them. Had it been allowed, I think he would have struck out all prizes for birds which were not "utility" in the fullest sense of the term. He required that farmers' poultry should serve only practical uses. His views in this regard harmonized with those he had been urging throughout his career.

To few men is it granted to enjoy possession of health and faculties unimpaired, to the great age reached by Tegetmeier; and it may truly be said that few men have made better use of their gifts and opportunities than did the subject of Mr. Richardson's biography. If the reward he sought was the esteem, respect, and affection of all who knew him, he received it in full measure.

WALTER GILBEY.

PREFACE.

IN attempting to give an outline and impression of the life and work of my late father-in-law—for in so long a life and with so many blanks in its records it is impossible to do more—I have borne in mind the words of Plutarch in his “Life” of Alexander the Great: “We are not writing histories but lives.” This biographical notice, therefore, of Mr. Tegetmeier, deals not so much with dates and events (which correspond with the lengths of reigns and dates of battles in history) as with the character and traits, the experience and work of this great student of Nature, lover of Right, and worshipper of Truth. My excuse for writing it (and none realizes better than I my unworthiness for so doing) is firstly, my great respect for Mr. Tegetmeier’s scientific knowledge and force of character; secondly, my sympathy with his love of Nature; thirdly, my personal knowledge of him, dating back some thirty years, and my association with him at the Savage Club, and in certain journalistic work, and lastly, my constant intercourse with him brought about by my marriage with his youngest daughter. As references to this last will be found in the chapter on “Family Life,” which shows something of

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the regard in which I am glad to believe Mr. Tegetmeier held me, there is no need for me to dwell on that head here. Suffice it to say that my father-in-law, recognizing my interest in him and his work, gave me during his life not only copies of his works but his dearly-prized sets of the *Train*, of the *Savage Club Papers*, and other books, documents, articles, and pictures illustrative of his career.

Although the temptation to do so was great, I have not reprinted many extracts from Mr. Tegetmeier's books or articles in the *Field* and the *Queen*, and elsewhere. For one thing, many quotations would have made the book unwieldy, and for another, could they not be read in the original by those interested in any particular subject on which he was an authority? My object has been rather to supply information, personal details, etc., concerning the old naturalist not hitherto published. That Mr. Tegetmeier had vague thoughts of writing some sort of Reminiscences, is shown by the fact that among his papers was a set of half-sheets pinned together, each having a title descriptive of some phase or period of his life or experience, such as "Journalistic," "Legal," "Medical," "Artistic," "Scientific," etc. Alas! few were the notes he made under these headings, and in several cases the page was left a blank. Other evidence to this effect lies before me in the shape of a

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partly filled-in Life-History Album, that had been sent him for review. It is the second edition of the late Dr. Mahomed's *Life History Album*, rearranged by Francis Galton, of Eugenics fame. Had all the tables been filled up by the owner, easy would have been the task of the biographer. However, the "Genealogy" has many important particulars, filled in by his own hand, concerning Tegetmeier's family and life, which have been of use to me in patching together the many scraps of evidence throwing light on his long and interesting career. No Diary appears to have been kept by him, although he had the habit of keeping newspaper cuttings, portraits, and pictures, and all sorts of memoranda referring to himself, his writings, his work, and his recreation.

Fortunately however, for the world and me, my father-in-law wrote so many books and articles in which his learning, experience, and character are necessarily exhibited, that there is but little need of a Diary for the purpose of forming a very good estimate of the man—at any rate in his capacity as scientist, author, journalist, and Bohemian. Tegetmeier's life-work is preserved in his numerous publications, and almost literally may be applied to him the words of Wren's famous epitaph in St. Paul's Cathedral—*"Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspice."* Of him it may truthfully be said, he never wrote

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a line that he did not believe to be true; he never wrote an article for "pot-boiling," nor a book solely for money.

In conclusion, I have heartily to thank many mutual friends for help given me in my task—to me a veritable labour of love. Prominent among them are Sir Walter Gilbey, Bt., Mr. E. D. Cuming, author of the *Bodley Head Natural History*, Mr. A. H. Osman, editor of the *Racing Pigeon*, Messrs. The *Field & Queen* (Horace Cox) Ltd., the Savage Club Committee, Mr. Aaron Watson and other old "Savages," and my brother-in-law, Egbert Tegetmeier. My especial thanks are due and are hereby accorded to Sir Walter Gilbey, who, on learning that I was engaged on a "Life" of my father-in-law, at once relinquished his intention of publishing a memoir of his old friend, substituting for it, at my earnest request, the charming Introduction to the "Life" which graces these pages. For all omissions from and errors in the narrative, I crave the reader's indulgence. Should the public interest in the great naturalist's "Life" warrant a new edition, I need hardly say how willingly I should redress the former and correct the latter, if those who are in a position to supply me with the requisite information would kindly do so. My only object is to furnish a truthful presentment of the life, work, and character of the faithful student of Nature and able writer on Natural

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History, who set an example of thoroughness and fearlessness, of accuracy and honesty, which might well be copied by this all too hasty and superficial generation.

E. W. R.

CHILLINGTON, KINGSBRIDGE, DEVONSHIRE.

July, 1914.

POSTSCRIPT. In consequence of the outbreak of the war, publication of this book was for a time delayed. I venture now, however, to launch the volume in the hope that it may perchance afford some little relaxation from the sad thoughts forced on us all by the terrible "struggle for life" in which we as a nation are engaged. I deeply regret that Death has taken from us, in the interval between writing and publication, Sir Walter Gilbey, the author of the "Introduction" to this book. But Death, which has alas! been busy in other directions since August 1914, may diminish also the circle of those who knew, or are interested in the life-work of, the late W. B. Tegetmeier, and I feel I ought not further to withhold this record of and tribute to one who so truly loved and so earnestly worked for England, the land of his birth.

THE AUTHOR.

THE SAVAGE CLUB, LONDON.

March, 1916.



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CHAPTER I.

THE CHILDHOOD OF A NATURALIST.

THE life of any man who was born the year after the Battle of Waterloo and who lived until the beginning of the reign of George V, must have some interest, and when the man in question was a trained observer and a skilled writer, as was the subject of this memoir, his life cannot fail to be of peculiar and absorbing interest, and its records well worthy of preservation. To naturalists, the life of the observer who discovered the cylindrical formation of the cell of the bee: to medical men, that of the anatomist who "walked the hospitals" before the days of anæsthetics: and to students of sociology, the life of the writer who witnessed hangings in public and flogging at the cart's tail, must inevitably appeal. These and many other strange happenings fell to the lot of the late W. B. Tegetmeier, who in the course of his long life witnessed so many changes in the nation's social, political, scientific, and literary life as would be almost incredible to those unacquainted with the facts. Born at the beginning of the new era dating from the French Revolution and the rise and fall of Napoleon, Tegetmeier lived to see the end of the Victorian period, and to

participate in the New Movement of the twentieth century.

William Bernhardt Tegetmeier was born on November 4th, 1816, at Colnbrook, in Buckinghamshire. His father, Godfrey Conrad Tegetmeier, was a medical man, and had served as surgeon in the Royal Navy, under George III. As a Hanoverian, Tegetmeier senior was a subject of the English sovereign, who was also King of Hanover; but he became, I understand, a naturalized British subject as well. He served as assistant surgeon on board H.M. Ship "Niobe," during the war with the United States. He also served for a short time on a Russian man-of-war, the "Venero," being apparently loaned to "His Imperial Russian Majesty," since the Lords of the Admiralty agreed (in a letter still extant) to allow him "full pay and time" for such period. The British ship on which he was serving was captured by the enemy, and he was taken prisoner to New York. The Yankees (being short, presumably, of surgeons) invited him to stay and settle in America. But he preferred the country of his adoption, and on his return to England, settled down as a general practitioner in the little Buckinghamshire town where the future naturalist was subsequently born. He had married an English wife—Sarah Luer, widow of Carl A. W. Luer, by whom she had two sons—half-brothers, of course, to William Bernhardt.



Ceryrhoe detur: ang. Esculapius to be instructed by Chiron.

*Crave puer, dabit tibi se mortalia saepe
Corpora debebunt: animas tibi reddere aptatas
Eas erit* *Cred. Med. Lib. II. P. 12.*

*These are to certify that Mr G. C. Tegetmeier, Surgeon,
has diligently attended ----- one ----- Course of
my lectures on the Theory and Practice of
Physic.*

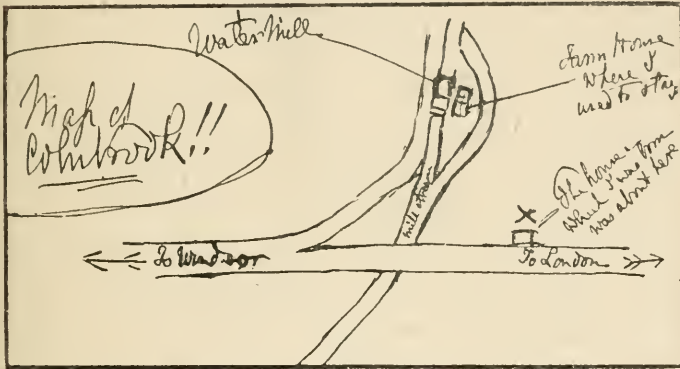
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W. Hooper. M.D.

A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF TEGETMEIER'S FATHER.



She was a daughter of Dr. Norman, of Langport in Somerset, and Tegetmeier was thus the son and the grandson of a medical man. Those interested in heredity will probably see something of the nature of cause and effect in this scientific ancestry of a scientific man. Two other sons were born to the Colnbrook surgeon and his



SKETCH MAP SHOWING TEGETMEIER'S BIRTHPLACE.

Drawn by Mr. Tegetmeier.

wife, viz. Godfrey Conrad, who died August 7th, 1887, and Henry Walter, who died on March 24th, of the same year. Tegetmeier had no sisters—an unfortunate thing in several ways.

Colnbrook is to this day a pleasant, old-fashioned town, situate on the road from London to Bath. Its main street, in which was situate the doctor's house, is still quaint and countryfied for a town so near London, and possesses many half-timbered and gabled houses. So few

alterations appear to have been made in it of recent years, that it is quite probable that Dr. Tegetmeier's house still stands where it did when our subject was born. Making a pious pilgrimage to Colnbrook a few years ago, I sent the old man a picture postcard of his natal village, and on my next visit to him, he told me he recognized the view of the High Street. He then drew me a rough plan showing the position of the house where he was born, of a water-mill and of a farmhouse on an islet opposite, "where I used to stay," he wrote on it. Although he did not tell me so expressly, it is easy to suppose that it was while staying at this farm and wandering in the fields or by the margin of the river Colne, and the looped mill-stream, that young Tegetmeier acquired that love of birds, beasts, and fishes that clung to him through life. So vividly impressed on his memory was the scene of his early boyhood, that he not only sketched the "Map of Colnbrook" here reproduced, but he could recall the name of the occupier of the mill when he was a child. As this map was drawn in the year 1908, i.e. in Tegetmeier's ninety-second year, it gives some idea of his vigour, alertness, and memory at that advanced age.

As a lad Tegetmeier showed something more than the ordinary boy's fondness for exploring hedgerows, investigating ditches, and harrying

the denizens of ponds and streams; and unquestionably, his life of steady and definite zoological research owed its origin to the development of the collecting mania shown by him while a boy, playing in the fields near his Buckinghamshire home. Nor was his love of Natural History confined to dead specimens, to bones and skulls, and scientific details: almost to his end he retained a keen interest in living birds and beasts. His friend Horace Lennard relates, in an Interview with Mr. Tegetmeier he wrote in the *World*, at the time when he was living at Fortis Green, East Finchley, how that in the wood behind the house "our naturalist" could roam and study Nature in all her natural profusion. "Through this little arcadia," he wrote, "it is pleasant to roam with a friend who can tell us the name of every shrub and flower, and distinguish the note of every bird which trills or twitters among the branches." He refers to the "almost juvenile delight" the old man took in all about him, contrasting it with his character as one of whom it was said, "he prides himself more on his enemies than his friends," and he winds up with almost a rhapsody on the old naturalist's love of and interest in the wild-life about him. Truly, of Tegetmeier it can be said, "the child is father to the man."

CHAPTER II.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION.

IN the year 1828, when Tegetmeier was twelve years old, his father left Colnbrook and took up a medical practice in London, establishing himself at No. 3 Great Ryder Street, St. James's. The budding naturalist felt the change deeply, and keenly regretted being deprived of the opportunities of studying wild-life at home in the country. This feeling was expressed in an autobiographical article he contributed some years ago to the *Tatler*, wherein he says that naturalists resemble poets in that "they also are born not made," and adds the pregnant remark that the attempt to make a naturalist out of any boy not addicted to the study of animals and plants would be a hopeless failure. "The love of animals and the desire to observe their habits and instincts are innate in the minds of some persons, and these alone can become true naturalists." The feeling of regret at having to leave the country was also expressed in an article he wrote for the *Savage Club Papers* published in 1867. In this he tells us that the desire for the practical study of Natural History, "which has been a ruling passion with me from my early youth, was sadly interfered with during

many of the years of my boyhood by a long-continued residence in the metropolis." Nevertheless, even under the disadvantages of a London life, he followed, he says, his favourite science "with zeal and devotion."

As a boy in the metropolis, Tegetmeier's earliest observations were necessarily confined to captive and domestic animals. In order to pursue his favourite hobby he obtained leave from his father, who was evidently a kind-hearted and gentle man, to construct an aviary. To make this aviary in the front area of his father's house, the boy had to learn the art of netting, for modern wire-work was then unknown. The keeping of birds in small cages did not give him any opportunity for the investigation of their actions and instincts—"which even as a boy I loved to pursue." Hence his creation of an aviary which he at once stocked with a choice selection of thrushes and other hardy British birds that "gladdened the neighbourhood with their song." Blackcaps, and other migratory species, including even nightingales, he bought to stock his aviary, from the bird-fanciers of the neighbourhood. Already, in these early days, Tegetmeier's fancy turned strongly to pigeons, and this is how he describes his first practical acquaintance with the birds through which he was destined first to become famous: "The possession of pigeons—the objects of my most

absorbing passion—was, however, forbidden. The decoration of the paternal roof with a ‘dormer,’ an ‘area,’ ‘traps,’ and all the appurtenances of pigeon-flying, so familiar to those persons who travel by the Great Eastern Railway, and from their high pre-eminence look down on the Spitalfields weavers and their birds, was not to be thought of on the residence of a respectable Surgeon, R.N., within a hundred yards of St. James’s Street. But ‘where there’s a will there’s a way.’ Our ‘doctor’s boy’ lived in Westminster, over against Tothill Fields Prison. I knew the place well; for with childish curiosity I had on several occasions followed the long string of prisoners—men, women, and even children—that, handcuffed to a chain, and under the charge of two red-waistcoated officers, passed our house every afternoon on their way from Marlborough Street Police Court to the prison. There were no police-vans with drivers in mock military uniforms in those days. Our boy was a pigeon-fancier, and had a good flight of homing birds—many of which had ‘done Gravesend,’ and some had flown back from the Nore. Here was an opportunity that could not be allowed to escape. I at once entered into a solemn league and covenant with him: I paid one shilling weekly as my share of the rent of the loft, and became the possessor of birds of my own. At times, when John was supposed to be delivering the

drugs that were to assuage the sufferings of my father's patients, we were ransacking the regions of Kent Street, Borough, or Brick Lane, Spital-fields, in search of a 'blue-beard hen,' 'grizzled dragon cock,' or 'mealy skinnum,' that was required to complete my stud."

Not all the budding fancier's time, however, was taken up with haunting the bird-dealers' shops of Westminster and Seven Dials: he had to devote a sufficiency to acquiring the general education requisite for one who was intended for the medical profession, that being the one his father meant him to follow. Accordingly, at the somewhat early age of fifteen he was apprenticed to his father for five years, to learn his art. The deed of apprenticeship, a quaint document, dated July 16th, 1831, is signed by the parties, the younger's signature being in a boyish hand, and the surname of both spelled "Tegetmeir." The fourth and final "e" was added by the naturalist some years later—evidently for the sake of accuracy, for in a document of 1810, the earliest in the family possession, the name is spelt "Tegetmeier." This document is the certificate of the elder Tegetmeier's having attended the course of lectures on the "Theory and Practice of Physic," by Professor R. Hooper, M.D., in the year 1810. As this quaint old document will have an interest in the eyes of many medical practitioners, I give a reproduction of it.

Although I have not traced the exact time at which Tegetmeier added the final "e" to the family name, it is evident that its adoption was by him decided on between his leaving college, in 1838, and his marriage, in 1845. The marriage certificate, dated December 28th of that year, bears the surname both of the bridegroom and his father, as Tegetmeier. In the same document also appears the letter "t" in the second name "Bernhardt," which was likewise added by the naturalist. I have dwelt perhaps too much on these minutiae, but at any rate, they serve to illustrate the individuality and the passion for accuracy which characterised the man throughout his life.

The wording of Tegetmeier's indenture of apprenticeship reads curiously to modern eyes, reciting, as it does, that the father covenants, promises, and agrees "to teach his said apprentice in the art of a Surgeon, Apothecary, and Accoucher," as also "to find unto the said apprentice sufficient Meat Drink Clothes Washing Lodging and all other necessaries during the said term of five years." The word Apothecary reminds me that the father afterwards, in partnership with Mr. Brande (the brother of the distinguished chemist) became Apothecary to T.M. King George III and Queen Charlotte; and it was with the famous "caraway-water" invented by Tegetmeier senior that her Majesty

used to refresh herself at the Drawing-rooms and on state occasions. The trading side of the partnership of the firm of Brande and Tegetmeier passed, I understand, to Mr. Brande and his descendants. Our embryo medico, in addition to diligently serving five years with his father, acted as dispensing assistant in the druggist-shop of Mr. Healey in St. James's Street, for over a year.

That young Tegetmeier must have worked hard at his general and professional studies is abundantly shown by the fact that he said he took out a ticket for the Reading-room at the British Museum, and entered as a student at the London University within two years of his becoming apprentice, and in the seventeenth year of his age. It was on October 2nd, 1833, that he began attending lectures on chemistry at the University College, Gower Street, under the professorship of Edward Turner. For two sessions he attended these, and took honours at the end of each. In April 1834 he took up Botany, under the great John Lindley, continuing in it until the close of 1835. Here again he took honours, and the gold medal for the second year. At an examination, open to students of all England, for prizes awarded by the Apothecaries' Society, Tegetmeier took second honours, with the silver medal, the gold being won by his fellow-student, Jenner. Besides the

famous Sir William, Professor Carpenter (at one time secretary of the Royal Society), Ray Lankester, Ericson, Sir Spencer Wells, and Seymour Haden were fellow-students and competitors with him in the examinations. In *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics* also he took honours, the only subjects in which he did not do so being *Anatomy* and *Physiology*. This is somewhat strange, considering that he studied these subjects under the professorship of that famous surgeon, Jones Quain. His attendance at University College continued until April 1837, in which year he began the next stage in his professional education by practising medicine and surgery at the University College Hospital, through which he "walked" to September 1838. Altogether, Tegetmeier took honours five times, and medals twice—no mean record for an intended follower of *Æsculapius*.

CHAPTER III.

MEDICAL EXPERIENCES.

ALTHOUGH not generally realized, perhaps, Tegetmeier's medical education and experience lasted for a period of ten years—a fact to which he himself occasionally referred. Once in explaining his reasons for forsaking medicine for the journalistic and Bohemian life he led, he wrote that as it was not held as any disgrace for barristers to wander into other pursuits—"I, as a man who spent ten years in acquiring the knowledge of my profession, may be excused for throwing physic to the dogs, and my own lot with a Bohemian coterie, and in preferring literature and poverty to riches and medical practice." Nevertheless he worked assiduously at the business while he was in it, and he always retained a vivid recollection of this phase of his career, at one time of which he acted as clinical clerk to Dr. Elliotson, when the latter was consulting physician to University College Hospital. But even in the earliest days of his medical studies Tegetmeier objected to the mechanical drudgery of the profession, to the dispensing, and especially to the commercial—the apothecary's side of the business, and the very idea of "keeping a shop" was distasteful to him.

At the time of his studying surgery the Apothecaries Act, passed in 1815, gave the regulation of the medical curriculum to the Apothecaries' Company, who, he wrote, "insisted that each medical student should undergo five years' apprenticeship to learn how to paste labels on bottles and dispense with accuracy." This disparaging comment on this, to him, distasteful aspect of the profession, occurs in an article entitled, "In the Days of my Youth," one of a series of "Chapters of Autobiography" published by the weekly paper *M.A.P.* As this gives a vivid picture of his early times and experiences in his own words, I cannot do better than quote the following extract from it.

"I well recollect," he writes, "the execution of Burke and Hare, who provided subjects for dissection in the Scottish medical schools, by the simple process of murdering their victims. This practice, inaugurated in Edinburgh, was followed by other murders in London. At a conversazione which took place some time since at the College of Surgeons, when his present Majesty (King Edward) then Prince of Wales, received his honorary degree, the portraits of the miscreants who followed the same practice in London, were on view. These were drawn by the surgeon of Newgate, himself no mean artist, after the men were executed. In Little Windmill Street, Haymarket, was, at that time, a school of anatomy and medicine, and as the bodies of murderers were given for dissection, it fell to the lot of this school to receive that of Williams, one

of the murderers. Public curiosity was satisfied by visitors being admitted by the door, passing round the dead body of this criminal, and, in order to prevent a crowd, walking out through the window, which was opened into the street for the purpose. This was during the time of the Reform agitation, when the Bishops in the House of Lords opposed that measure, to which they were the chief obstruction; and I well recollect a public dinner at which a toast was proposed that embodied in a very singular manner the names of these murderers, in conjunction with that of the ecclesiastical Conservatives. These three men, who were executed for the murder of an Italian boy, whose body they sold to King's College Medical School, were named respectively, May, Williams, and Bishop; King William IV was then the reigning monarch, and the toast ran as follows: 'May William's Bishops never Burke the British constitution.'

"My first demonstrations in anatomy were practised at another private school, that of the celebrated Carpue, a surgeon who resuscitated the Talicotian operation of restoring the lost noses which in those days not unfrequently disappeared in the service both of Mars and of Neptune. This was immortalised by Butler in his 'Hudibras' in some very strong language which is unfitted to these polite pages. Butler maintained if the lost nose was replaced from another person's body, that on the death of the person who supplied the material, the nose in its new location also decayed, and, to use his own language, 'Off dropped the sympathetic snout.' Carpue's anatomical theatre was in a locality that must be known to a large number of my readers. His dissecting room furnished

the site of Miss Kelly's theatre in Dean Street. It is a singular example of the connection of the present with the past, that Miss Kelly was an actress who performed on the stage as a child in the century before the last. She died only a few years ago, being carefully tended in her decay by my dear old friend, the late Mrs. Keeley. But medical education has changed in a most extraordinary manner during the last three score years. At that time operations were performed without the employment of any anæsthetics, and their horror need not be insisted on. I was a pupil of the celebrated surgeon Lister, and I saw the first operation that he performed under the influence of ether, the anæsthetic then used, and I also witnessed the celebrated surgeon, Baron Heurteloup, give his first public demonstration in London of lithotrity, which has saved the lives of thousands of patients."

The mention of ether reminds me that Tegetmeier could, and occasionally did, tell terrible stories of sights seen in the operating theatre during his student days. Chloroform, it scarcely needs observing, was tried experimentally as an anæsthetic only in 1847, some five or six years after he had abandoned surgery. There was practically no method of alleviating the agony of patients who had to submit to the surgeon's knife, when Tegetmeier was "walking the hospitals." I remember one tragi-comic story he was fond of relating whenever the subject of anæsthetics came up for discussion. It was about a little boy who having had his leg carelessly amputated by a country doctor, was

taken to the hospital to have another piece of bone removed. On his being brought into the theatre for the second operation, the child, with a vivid remembrance of the first one, appealed to the surgeon to postpone it. "Not to-day, Mister Lister!" he cried, "do it to-morrow, not to-day." The futility of the boy's plea struck the assembled students as so comical that they broke out into peals of laughter. I, having seen some of the clamps, vices, screws and other appliances and instruments used in the pre-chloroform days for binding the patients or fixing their limbs, must confess my sympathies went rather with the little lad than with the hilarious medicals, of whom my father-in-law was one.

Tegetmeier's first and last practical experience of doctoring was the work he undertook as assistant to a medical man practising at Brackley, a small town in Northampton, close to the Buckinghamshire border. He was not then nor ever became a fully qualified medical man; but the law governing the practice of medicine was much less strict than it has since become, and the lack of full qualifications proved no obstacle to his obtaining the post. A letter from his employer, a Mr. Frederick Gee, clears this point, and is so characteristic (of both parties and of the times) that I give an extract or two from it.

Mr. Gee, writing under date Dec. 14th, 1838, says:—

“I duly received yours yesterday morning and its contents dispose me to think you are perfectly qualified for my situation, taking an active part in my practice and . . . either for a certificated apothecary or member of the College. The acquaintance between Mr. R. and your family having been of so long standing will render unnecessary any further testimonials. My last Assistant received 25 Gns. per annum. However as £30 was mentioned I will say nothing as to the difference. You are silent as to age, however from the various situations you have occupied presume it cannot be less than three or four and twenty years.” As a matter of fact, it was exactly twenty-two, and the young medico had only ceased attending the University College Hospital in the preceding September. Mr. Gee, after suggesting that his new assistant should come down to Brackley on the Friday after Christmas Day, adds: “The conveyances hither are two coaches daily from the railroad—the Mail between four and five o’clock in the afternoon and another at eight in the evening.” But perhaps the postscript is as indicative of the period as anything else in the letter: “P.S.—If you object [to] travelling by railroad the Banbury Old Times Coach continues to run daily within two miles of this place or leaves its passengers at Buckingham for the railroad Coach to Brackley.”

Evidently, it was quite the usual thing to object to travel “per railway” in those days. In fact, an aunt of Mrs. Tegetmeier absolutely refused to travel by train to her dying day,

and always made her journeys by coach or on horseback.

The experiment of acting as assistant to a country doctor was not successful, and after a couple of years Tegetmeier gave it up. Naturally, most of the drudgery of the practice fell to the lot of the assistant, whose chief occupation was attendance on midwifery cases—work he never liked. Further, he objected to the disturbance of his night's rest occasioned thereby. And frankly, my respected father-in-law did not possess the "bedside manner" requisite to a successful medical man. Had he persevered in his profession, he might have achieved a sort of junior Abernethy fame, but he was too downright, too brusque ever to have become a fashionable physician. Besides, his real interests (those of his boyhood) were outside his professional work: he kept pigeons and poultry at Brackley, I am told, and there laid the foundation of that extensive knowledge of birds which subsequently was to stand him in such good stead. He also kept, and of course observed, bees, and spent some of his leisure among his flowers.

Of gardening he was always fond; and almost up to the last would, in his Finchley home, superintend the jobbing gardener's work, prune the fruit trees, and generally potter about among his beloved plants. He was a keen and successful grower of apples and pears, and one trick he had

I have not seen employed elsewhere. This was to encase each separate apple or pear in a gauze bag, to protect it from the attack of birds. These little covers were annually made by Mrs. Tegetmeier, and every autumn the old man would thus carefully protect the more choice specimens of his favourite varieties, such as Louise Bonne or Doyenne du Comice.

Exactly how long he stayed at Brackley I have not been able to ascertain, but from indirect evidence I gather it was about two years. At any rate, it was long enough to sicken him of the drudgery of the daily medical round which offered neither variety nor the prospect of professional advancement. The work to which he was required to devote himself was unquestionably uncongenial, and he rebelled against the calls which forced him to turn out at all hours of the day or night—to drudge through the rain or snow of a winter night to attend patients whose cases might or might not be so urgent as had been represented. Anyhow, he resolved to give up doctoring and seek some other calling.

The only other attempt to obtain medical work—it was not successful, I believe—is evidenced by a letter he wrote in the year 1845, applying for the charge of a patient. This letter is both so characteristic and informative that I print it almost *verbatim*. It will prove of the greater interest to my readers as probably so few of them

have ever heard of Tegetmeier's knowledge of and interest in mesmerism. Here is the letter, which is dated "London, January 9/45, 3, Queen Street, Golden Sq."

"My attention having been directed to an advertisement in this day's *Times*, I beg to offer my services for conducting the Mesmeric treatment of the patient alluded to. With regard to my qualifications for such a situation, allow me to state that for 10 years (*viz.*, from 1831 to 1841) I was diligently engaged in the pursuit of medical knowledge in the first medical school in this country, namely, that of University College, London. During which time I obtained medals and high certificates of honour for proficiency in various branches of medical science, and a medal was also awarded to me by the Apothecaries' Company.

"During this time I was in diligent attendance for two years on the lectures of Dr. Elliotson on the practice of Medicine, and was his clinical clerk in University College Hospital. At the time several of his patients were under Mesmeric treatment.

"My attention being thus directed to Mesmerism, I have since continued to investigate its extraordinary phenomena with diligence, and have employed it as a remedial agent with very considerable success. During the last three years I have relinquished the practice of my profession, devoting myself to scientific and literary pursuits. During this time I have been a pupil of Dr. Hoppus, Lecturer on Mental Philosophy in University College.

"My researches into the science of Mesmerism have been silent though diligent, no person more

regretting than myself the discredit brought upon the pursuit by the proceedings of various itinerant lecturers, etc. Both my name and person are unknown to the Rev. C. H. T.—but, although I have not asked his permission, I feel confident that I might refer to Dr. Elliotson, to whom I am already under obligations for life itself.

“My object in answering your advertisement is not pecuniary, for my present pursuits supply me with more than sufficient for my wants, but I desire to be instrumental in the advancement of a science that I conceive to be of immense importance to suffering humanity.”

The letter, which is signed “W. B. Tegetmeier” —for the first time so far as I can trace—gives us a veritable living picture of the man at this stage of his career, and it concludes appropriately enough, this—the medical—period of his life.

CHAPTER IV.

IN BOHEMIA.

THE two years spent at Brackley allowed for in Tegetmeier's reference to the ten years from 1831 to 1841 would end in January, 1841, and, his father dying the following month (February 11th, 1841), he undoubtedly returned to London either the first or second month of the year. Presumably the old surgeon left his three sons some money, although I do not believe the individual shares were much; but at any rate, the eldest was enabled, as he tells us, to devote himself to scientific and literary pursuits, attending lectures on mental philosophy, and making researches in mesmerism. The next three years (1841-1843) may be looked on as Tegetmeier's "wanderjahre," during which he sought and acquired experience in various by-ways of scientific, social, and literary life. Doubtless, the brilliant young scientist tried his newly-fledged wings, and flew at various sorts of game before he settled down permanently to teaching, lecturing, journalism, and literary work. It may be convenient, therefore, if I here note several of his varied experiences in the already changing order of things, social and scientific, in London life.

It was probably to this period he referred when describing public floggings and hangings, subjects interesting of course to an observant and medically-trained man. It was in the "Chapter of Autobiography" in *M.A.P.*, already referred to, that he wrote:—"Amongst some legal abominations which I have witnessed was the flogging of two men at the cart's tail, seen by me when on an early pilgrimage to the fishing waters of the Lea. The prisoners were taken from the gateway in Clerkenwell Prison, which has only been pulled down during the last few months, attached to the back of the cart and flogged into John Street, Islington." The gateway referred to was the main entrance to the old Clerkenwell House of Detention, on the site of which now stands the Mount Pleasant Parcel Post Office. Parts of the old building were for a long time utilised for the work of making the baskets then used for the parcel post, and the heavy, frowning doorway was still standing (and being used) in 1901, when I occupied a flat in Rosebery Avenue. Here my father-in-law often visited us, climbing up the five flights of stairs with the agility of a young man. On these visits he never failed to point to the old Gateway—immediately opposite our parlour windows—and dramatically tell us the story of what he had seen enacted "from that gateway!"

At this time and for many years afterwards, criminals were executed in public—until, in fact,

the year 1868, when an Act of Parliament ordered them to be conducted in private. It was, indeed, until comparatively recent times considered essential that executions, like trials, should be public, and be carried out in a manner to impress evil-doers. But the methods of execution were unseemly—as delineated in Hogarth's well-known etching of the Execution of the Idle Apprentice—and were ineffectual in reducing the bulk of crime. The many scandals attending public hangings led to an attempt to alter the law in 1841, although many protests had been made long before, notably those of Fielding. No doubt, the most forcible and effectual were those of Charles Dickens in his letters to the *Times*, written after mixing with the crowd gathered to witness the execution of the Mannings at Horsemonger Lane Gaol in 1849. At the period I am now referring to, the execution of prisoners by the half-dozen or more was, said Mr. Tegetmeier, common at the Old Bailey. "Anxious to see the effect," he wrote, "of such a sight on the assembled multitude, I went early one morning to a coffee-shop opposite the debtors' door where the executions took place, being attracted by the invitation of the owner to secure a seat on the first floor on the moderate terms of (to use his own vernacular) 'a bob a nob.'" The narrative ends here, but the old man told me personally that the scene in the Old Bailey was too horrible for description. A firm in which I

was interested published a picture postcard showing Newgate Prison at the time of its demolition in 1903, and knowing Tegetmeier's interest in the old place I sent him a copy. This he returned to me bearing a X, and marked with the following words: "X, door through which prisoners were brought for public execution on movable scaffold on wheels."

The pursuit of his favourite hobby, soon to become his chief occupation—natural history—was undoubtedly not neglected during this interval, and the following passage from the article in the *Tatler* is probably attributable to this period: "Among my other opportunities for the study of natural history after the removal of the menagerie from Exeter Change, first to the site of the National Gallery and then to the Surrey Zoological Gardens, was an exhibition in a long building which stretched far across the ground now occupied by the fountains of Trafalgar Square. This was a wooden erection in which the skeleton of a gigantic whale was exhibited. Since then I have seen living whales in London. The enterprising showman, Farini, imported one of large size which was exhibited at the Aquarium. The poor thing soon died, and I assisted the late Sir William Flower in its dissection." This was in September, 1877.

Referring to this period he wrote: "My own (subsequent) position in life was the result,



TEGETMEIER AT THE AGE OF 62.
From a re-touched photograph by Edward Draper.

[Facing p. 26.]

possibly, of my own selection. I preferred dabbling in science, devoting myself to natural history, and following the free life of a Bohemian journalist to continuing my medical career. . . . The struggle at that time was a hard one, but the life was free and uncontrolled." In those last three words lies a wealth of significance as to the man's character. Significant also is the sentence which followed: "I became one of the band of brothers who founded the Savage Club." As the club was started in 1851, and the friendships which led to it must have been formed some time before its establishment, it is obvious that this refers to the period covered by this chapter, when, as he himself tells us, he was following the life of a Bohemian journalist.

Akin to this period is the subject of cock-fighting, in which Tegetmeier took a certain amount of interest; no doubt it would appeal to his love both of Bohemianism and of science. He wrote what is described by contemporaries as a "most remarkable account" of a cock-fight for *Colman's Magazine*, in 1863. That he was not particularly anxious to be identified with the sport is shown by the fact that he did not sign the article with his proper name, but with the *nom-de-guerre* "T. Hornby"—the only occasion on which I have known him to do so. It is, however, only right I should add that the same number of this short-lived magazine contained articles by

several other fellow "Savages," including Tom Robertson, Dr. Strauss, Andrew Halliday, W. J. Prowse, and J. C. Brough, all of whom made use of fictitious names in signing their respective contributions.

It is but natural that during his bachelor period our young Bohemian would have to depend very often, like Shenstone, for his "warmest welcome at an inn," and in fact we know that the Savage Club was founded largely because the coterie of friends who formed its nucleus desired more privacy than they could ensure at the various taverns at which they were wont to meet. Of these days I have an interesting reminiscence in the shape of a sketch done for me by Mr. Tegetmeier in the year 1902, which shows the earliest English form of the "penny-in-the-slot" machine. This was a brass box used in public-houses, in the middle of the nineteenth century, for the delivery of small plugs of tobacco obtainable by the insertion of a penny in the aperture provided. Though now found only in museums or private collections, they were fairly common in the days alluded to. The sketch in question, though very rough, is so accurate in essentials that I at once recognised, from my recollection of it, one of these boxes when I saw it recently in the house of his eldest daughter. Mr. Tegetmeier made me the sketch in illustration of his referring to the old adage "there is nothing new under the sun."

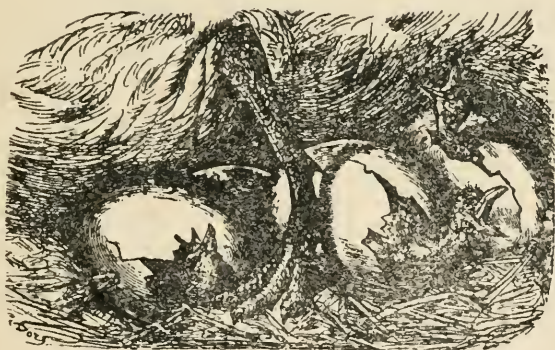
The London which Tegetmeier knew in his young days was a very different place from the Metropolis as we know it to-day: he used to say, when talking of his early surroundings, that he spoke of a world unknown to his hearers. It was the London of cobble-paving and coaches—mail, private and steam! Automobilists will be interested to know that Tegetmeier had made a journey in one of those steam-driven carriages which were fairly common sights in the 'thirties and 'forties, but which for some reason fell into disuse, and were practically unknown to the generation which saw the revival of horseless carriages in the last decade of the last century. Another link with the old times was the "New Police," which had only then been established in the place of the old-fashioned and inefficient watchmen—the "Charlies" of the eighteenth century.

These New Police were badly needed in those days: among other things for garroters, who flourished in Tegetmeier's early manhood. The "garotte," the method of executing murderers in Spain, is a machine by which the condemned is fastened to an upright post by an iron collar, and a knob, worked by a screw or lever, dislocates his spinal column; and the London street robbers were called garroters because they seized their victim from behind and throwing an arm round his neck, half-throttled him and rendered him

wholly helpless. Meanwhile, or during unconsciousness, he was robbed by the garrotter's companions. Tegetmeier's method of dealing with such gentry was—or would have been—very efficacious had he been attacked. For when walking by himself in dark and lonely streets he carried an open knife in his right hand, with which to stab his assailant in the stomach. He would have done it too, if thus attacked, for he was a man of great physical courage and quick temper.

As I shall have further to refer to Tegetmeier's love of Bohemianism in the chapter descriptive of his share in founding the Savage Club, I will end this one by referring to some of the "dodges," of which the old man told me, then in use to "cheat the postman." Before the days of the Penny Post, introduced in 1840, people (often quite respectable) used, to save the heavy postage rates then in force and payable by the addressee unless previously franked, to write messages on the covers of newspapers (which being subject to the heavy paper tax, went free through the post) in skim milk. This writing was of course invisible—until held before the fire or otherwise heated, when the secret wording would appear. Or folk would write a message in a solution of gall, and by the use of a weak solution of iron the recipient could "bring out" the lettering. Another dodge was to ink a dot over, or prick

with a pin, certain letters in the leading article, which, when copied out, would form the words of the desired message. The old man knew of many similar tricks and quaint dodges, and could, an' he would, recall a number of curious circumstances connected with the first half of the nineteenth century; and when he was in the mood to relate them, nothing could well be more interesting than to listen to him—a pleasure it was my frequent privilege to enjoy.



“OH! MOTHER.”

A GUSTAVE DORÉ TAIL-PIECE.

(From the “Savage Club Papers.”)

CHAPTER V.

TEACHING AND WRITING.

By the year 1845 (the last chapter brought us to 1844) Tegetmeier had developed into a teacher, lecturer, and writer. Already he had taught at a boys' school, one kept by a Mr. Ogle, in London. But he did not care much for teaching, although he was fond of lecturing; indeed, he lacked the patience requisite in a schoolmaster, and always hated routine and humdrum work of any sort. Lecturing on his own choice of subject, however, was another matter, and being, about this time, appointed Lecturer on Domestic Economy at the Home and Colonial Society's Training College, in Gray's Inn Lane, he found scope for his talents in this direction. It was here that he made the acquaintance of the lady who became his wife—Anne Edwards Stone, whom he married on December 28th, 1845. Miss Stone came of a Devonshire family, and was born in 1826, at Frogmore, a picturesque village on the road between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge. When the young lecturer met her she was mistress of the infant department of the Practising School attached to the College, where she had been trained. So capable a teacher was she that her services had been retained by the Society,

and so skilful was she in managing the children that when distinguished visitors were shown over the institution it was always Miss Stone who was chosen to demonstrate the system of teaching infants. Mrs. Tegetmeier, who was, of course, well educated, was of considerable assistance to her husband in his literary work. She was particularly good at spelling and punctuation, and could always be depended on for the settlement of any doubtful point in these matters, as well as for looking up dates and facts of historical or general interest. Especially useful was this devoted helpmeet when Mr. Tegetmeier came to write the leading article for the *Queen*, the woman's weekly newspaper. Nearly always the article in manuscript was submitted for her criticism or approval. On their marriage Mrs. Tegetmeier left the Training College.

His scholastic duties left Tegetmeier leisure for his other pursuits, but as his first literary efforts were devoted to school-books it shows that he took a keen interest in tuition. The first piece of work in this department I can find mention of was the preparation of a little book of Arithmetical Tables for a School Series edited by the Rev. T. Wilson. This book was the outcome of the recommendation made by a Committee of the House of Commons that the decimal system of coinage should be introduced into Great Britain. There was every intention

at the time of adopting the system, and Tegetmeier's prefatory Note indicates his own approval of the suggested innovation. In it he refers to the Privy Council circular which made compulsory in all schools connected with the Government instruction in the decimal system. Unfortunately, the contemplated change in the currency was never brought about, the coining of the florin, in 1849, being the only practical result of the recommendation. Tegetmeier's "Arithmetical Tables," like all his published work, was sound and practical: the book reached its fourth edition in 1857. His next publication was that of "a large sheet, with 60 engravings, price 1s. 6d. ; on rollers, varnished, 5s.," entitled "The Classification of Animals and Vegetables: after Cuvier and Decandolle." This is an exceedingly well-arranged, tabulated and illustrated description of the orders and classes of animals, and the tribes of vegetables. The chart is distinguished by simplicity, thoroughness and accuracy—qualities characteristic of all Tegetmeier's work.

The preface of another book, viz. "Information on Common Objects," which reached its fourth edition in 1858, evidences his knowledge and understanding of educational methods. This book, which was prepared under the direction of the Home and Colonial School Society, contains the following characteristic remark:

“Those acquainted with the minds of children, and accustomed to teach them, will know how much judgment is necessary to suit the lesson to the age and capacities of the class.” The “common objects” described in this work were, for the most part, the contents of a box which had been prepared for the Society for school use—mineral, vegetable and animal products; the book may in fact be described as a Child’s Guide to Knowledge. It reached its eighth edition in 1882.

Tegetmeier’s knowledge of botany was also utilised in the production of a text-book entitled “First Lines of Botany,” a small volume descriptive of the structure and the tribes of plants. I do not know the exact date of its publication, but I possess a copy dedicated, on August 15th, 1849, in his handwriting, “to the Rev. W. R. Dunning, Headmaster of the Training Department of the Home and Colonial School Society, London,” and bearing the additional inscription, “With sentiments of the most profound respect and unqualified admiration by his very obedient friend and servant, The Author.” The book, which is illustrated by diagrams and simple wood-cuts, is divided into Lessons, with each paragraph numbered, and has a set of questions at the end of each chapter for the guidance of the teacher. It was published by Clarke, of Raquet Court, Fleet Street. I need scarcely

say that this little book, written sixty-five years ago, with its yellowing leaves, and its faded handwriting, is highly treasured by me, and is probably a unique memorial of Tegetmeier's first literary efforts.

Another, and perhaps greater, because quainter treasure is a tiny pamphlet—it is only four and a half inches long by three wide, and has but 64 pages—entitled “The Book of One Hundred Beverages,” by “William Bernard”—presumably he thought it too small or insignificant to bear his proper name! It was published by Houlston & Stoneman, and also by Ramsay, both of Paternoster Row, London. The paper cover bears the date 1851, while the title-page has the year 1850. In addition to notes on the properties of natural waters it has recipes for various non-alcoholic beverages. So typical of the author is the Introduction, I give the best part of it. Answering the presumed question, “What can I drink instead of beer?” he replies, “Read my book,” and goes on to say: “It was written in order to supply, and by supplying to increase, the growing demand for beverages of an unintoxicating character, no work at present existing which contains practical and tried directions for their formation: and in the hope that it may prove useful to that large and increasing class who abstain from intoxicating liquors, to parents who desire to give their

children wholesome beverages adapted to the constitution of childhood, and to all who drink with the desire of allaying their thirst, and not for the purposes of excitement. No pains have been spared in its compilation, every possible authority has been consulted, and many experiments have been made to prove the value of the recipes." It is a clever little booklet, and is instinct with "the master's touch" on every page.

One of Tegetmeier's most successful books, his "Manual of Domestic Economy," was also published under the direction of the Home and Colonial School Society. It ran through fourteen large editions, and he was justly proud of its great success. This was the book to which he referred in his writings and speeches as the one that had sold by the ten thousand, and yet had not had one halfpenny spent on advertising it. For many years it was the standard work of its kind on the subject; for it was one to which he devoted great attention, and on which he was an acknowledged authority. It was designed for the use of female students in training colleges, and of the elder classes in girls' schools: it was, in fact, adopted as the text-book on domestic economy in the principal training colleges in the Kingdom, and was used in most of the large schools for females where industrial instruction was given. So valuable did it prove

that the Commissioners appointed to investigate the state of education in the mining districts made special mention of it in their Report on the Industrial School founded by Messrs. Baird at their Gartsherrie Ironworks. Speaking of this school they state that "the girls in three months can be taught plain cooking, washing, and cleaning—enough to prepare them for service, or to make them useful to their mothers at home. They are all instructed in Tegetmeier's 'Domestic Economy' at school, so that their minds have been diverted to many useful principles. On going to service after such a course, a girl would probably get £1 more wages for the first half-year's service." This last remark applies, in principle, to all Tegetmeier's books: they are so accurate, reliable and practical that one is bound to benefit from their perusal, and become thereby the richer in information, if not in cash. The 14th Edition of the "Domestic Economy," revised and enlarged, was brought out in 1894, and was the last issue of the book, which however renewed its youth, to a certain extent, in the shape of the daughter book compiled at the request of the School Board for London, and entitled, "The Handbook of Household Management and Cookery." It was issued by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., uniform with their well-known shilling series of Primers on science, history, etc. Designed to supply a want long felt by practical

teachers, viz. that of a handbook on the general principles on which the processes of cookery and the sanitary management of a home depend, it was first printed in 1876 and ran through ten editions, the last being published in 1905. It might have gone into others, but by this time Tegetmeier was getting too old to trouble about revising it. It is of interest just now to note that these two books deal with the subject of labourers' cottages, and give designs and plans for a pair of model workmen's dwellings, showing the smallest accommodation that is compatible with health. In the former book the cost of a pair of well-contrived and economical cottages for agricultural labourers is given at the low sum of £300. They were designed, and the plans, etc. prepared by Tegetmeier's life-long friend and fellow Savage, the late Thomas Cutler, architect of many well-known public buildings in the Metropolis and the Provinces.

Tegetmeier's marriage with the pet teacher of the Infants' Department, without the leave of the authorities and against the rules of the institution, gave great offence to the Home and Colonial School Society, and both the favourite mistress and the clever young lecturer were dismissed from their employ. His lectures, however, were missed; and after eating a certain amount of humble-pie, the useful young scientist was reinstated, and further, as we have seen,

commissioned to compile and write several text-books for the Society. Here it may be mentioned it was while visiting a class-room of the College in Gray's Inn Road in the dark, that he struck his face against a chair put in an unusual position ; his spectacles were broken and a piece of glass struck and permanently injured his left eye. Although the disablement did not prevent his subsequent studies or work, it was always a source of slight annoyance to him ; it was accompanied by—if not the cause of—his dislike of darkness. The loss of the two salaries, consequent on the double dismissal from the College, forced the newly-married couple to start house-keeping in a very humble way—even for the Bohemian at heart that Tegetmeier always was ; and they took up their abode in a couple of rooms in a side street near Drury Lane.

Doubtless, the young writer and lecturer had full confidence in his powers to support the newly-founded home : possibly he did not believe that the College authorities would really carry out their threat to dismiss so useful a man as he. But anyhow, characteristically enough, he took the risk at the time, and afterwards always referred to the “two rooms, a bedstead, a table and a couple of chairs” period with great jocular-ity and evident pride. The “two-room” time, as a matter of fact, lasted but a little while, I believe ; at any rate, in about a year's time we find the

young couple living in Islington, where their first child, their daughter Edith, was born. This was on March 19th, 1847, and by the time Egbert, their next child, was born, in 1852, they were living at Tottenham. The precincts of Drury Lane, and the crowded streets of London were left behind: henceforth Tegetmeier lived in one or other of the rural suburbs—mainly among the northern heights of London, as near the green fields as he could get. In 1854 we find the family at Willesden, whence they migrated to Wood Green in March, 1855, by which time his experiments in bee-keeping, breeding pigeons, poultry, etc., and his writings on those subjects had not only brought Tegetmeier into prominence in connection therewith, but had given him the recognised position of an authority on these matters.

CHAPTER VI.

THE BEE-MASTER.

IF pigeons were Tegetmeier's boyish fancy, bees may be said to have been his early manhood's love, and all his life his interest in these insects endured. For various reasons, however, he was not so identified in the public mind with bees as he was with domestic fowls, pheasants, etc., and among his obituary notices there were few which dealt with, or even touched upon this part of his life's work. But from the scientific point of view it was one of the most important, and the one of which he himself was the most proud. His friendship with Darwin, if not originated through his knowledge of bees, was certainly cemented by it. At the time Darwin was preparing his *Origin of Species* and his *Animals and Plants under Domestication*, Tegetmeier was working on the construction of the bee's cell, and his discovery of its cylindrical formation was quoted by the great naturalist in the first-named book. This discovery was made public through the medium of a paper read before the British Association at its meeting held at Leeds in October, 1858. As the matter is one of considerable interest to scientists as well as to bee-lovers, I reprint the chief passages from Tegetmeier's

paper. It is entitled *On the Formation of the Cells of Bees*, and opens with the statement that he had recently been engaged in making a series of experiments with a view to determine the typical form of bees' cells, and had arrived at some interesting results. The paper proceeds:—

“My first experiment consisted in placing a flat parallel-sided block of wax in a hive containing a recent swarm. In this, cells were excavated by the bees at irregular distances. In every case where the excavation was isolated it was *hemispherical*, and the wax excavated was added at the margin so as to constitute a *cylindrical* cell. As other excavations were made in contact with those previously formed, the cells became flat-sided, but from the irregularity of their arrangement not necessarily hexagonal. When the block was coloured with vermilion the employment of the excavated wax in the formation of the sides of the cells was rendered more evident. The experiment has been repeated with various modifications as to the size and form of the block of wax, but always with the same results—viz. that the excavations were in all cases hemispherical—that the wax excavated was always used to raise the walls of the cells—and that the cells themselves, before others were formed in contact with them, were always cylindrical. Mr. Charles Darwin, to whom I communicated these facts, has repeated the experiments with similar results. When these experiments are taken into consideration in connection with the facts that in the commencement of a comb the rudiments of the first-formed

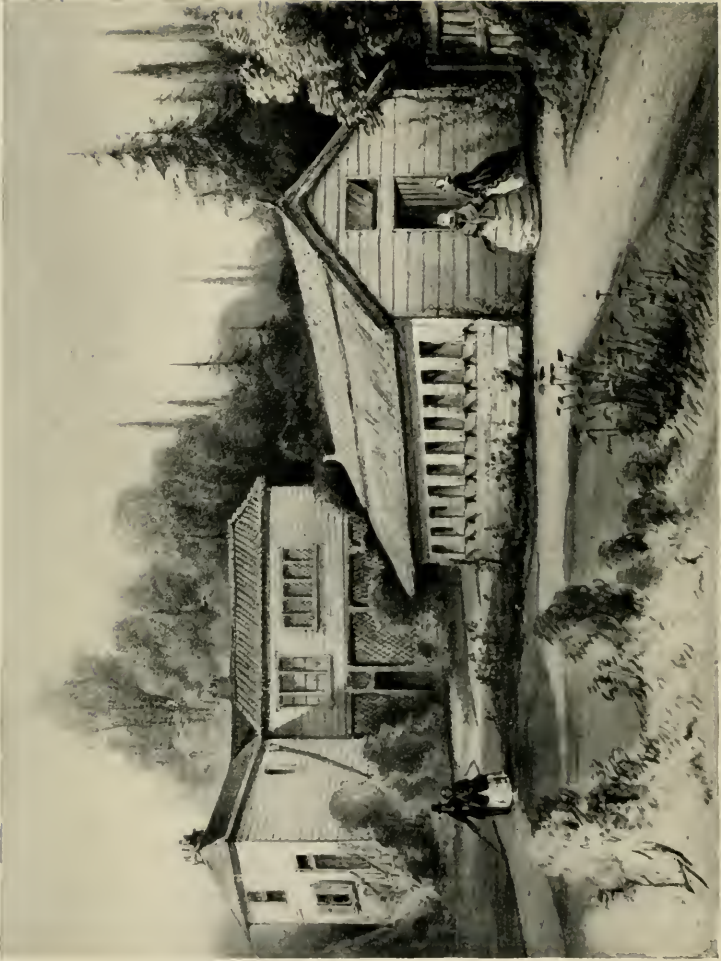
cells are always hemispherical, and that in a small extending comb the outer sides of the bases of the external cells are always circular, they appear to lead to the conclusion that the typical form of a single cell is cylindrical, with a hemispherical base; but that when the cells are raised up in contact with one another, they necessarily become polygonal, and if regularly built, hexagonal. On this supposition alone can those numerous cases be accounted for in which one-half of a cell is cylindrical, the other half polygonal. In all such cases it will be found that, in the cell adjacent to the cylindrical side, there is not room (owing to some irregularity of the comb) for a bee to work—consequently the cylindrical development is not interfered with. The formation of the small cylindrical cells surrounding the queen cell appears to admit of no other explanation. The mode in which the circular bases, situated at the thin edge of a comb in the process of enlargement, become converted into polygonal cells as new bases are formed on their outer sides, has been beautifully shown by Mr. Darwin. In repeating, with many ingenious modifications, my original experiments, he coloured with vermilion and wax the circular edges of the bases of the external cells in a small comb. On replacing this in the hive, he found that the walls of the cells were not raised directly upon these circular bases, but that as other cells were built external to them, the coloured wax was re-masticated and worked up into the polygonal sides of the cells—consequently, the colour, instead of remaining as a narrow line, became diffused over a considerable portion of the sides of the cells. These observations have been much facilitated by the

employment of a hive having each side formed of four parallel plates of glass, with thin strata of air between. As thus formed, the escape of heat is so effectually prevented that the bees work without the necessity of covering the hive with any opaque material, and thus they are always open to observation without being disturbed by the sudden admission of light into a hive previously dark."

The writer wound up by saying that these experiments appeared to him to have an important bearing upon the theory of the formation of honeycomb cells, and by expressing the desire that they might be repeated and extended by other observers. It is of interest to note that among those present at the reading of the paper, and who afterwards spoke on the subject, were "Mr. J. Lubbock" and Dr. Lankester. Tegetmeier's observations were, naturally, the subject of considerable discussion at the time of their enunciation, and though his theory was by some doubted, it has since been generally adopted by scientists. Referring to the discussion, a writer in the *Daily Telegraph* says that it had always been a favourite argument in favour of "design," that the bee, by making its cell in a hexagonal form, had achieved perfection in the adaptation of means to ends, such a shape allowing a maximum of economy in the utilisation of the wax, and that this pre-supposed an exact knowledge of mathematical laws.

“Tegetmeier succeeded in arranging such conditions as to induce a honey-bee to construct a single detached cell, and that cell was cylindrical. As six is the number of cylinders which can be placed round a seventh of equal size, all in contact with one another, the inference was obviously that originally honeycomb was composed in this manner, and that the hexagonal form had been attained by the flattening together of the convex surfaces, in a transition which did not necessarily involve any familiarity with the principles of geometry.” In short, the bees make the cells cylindrical and the pressure of circumstances (or the circumstance of pressure) makes them six-sided. Apiarists and students need hardly, I suppose, be reminded that the theory whose truth Tegetmeier demonstrated had previously been formulated by Buffon; but the French naturalist had failed to prove his point by actual demonstration, and his theory was held in scorn by the upholders of the geometrical formation of their cells by bees. Buffon endeavoured to explain the hexagonal form of the cells by the uniform pressure of a great number of bees all working at the same time, exerted equally in all directions in a limited space. He illustrated his theory by supposing a number of similar cylinders compressed together, and taking the form of hexagonal prisms by the uniform expansion of each cell. Undoubtedly Buffon was





EXPERIMENTAL BEE HOUSE, MUSWELL HILL.
(From a Coloured Lithograph published for the Apianian Society.)

right in his conception of the original form of the cell being cylindrical, but it remained for Tegetmeier, and Darwin following his example, to prove the fact by actual experiment.

In his garden at Wood Green, the bee-master had, for the purposes of experiment, erected a shed with a bench against the wall, to carry the hives which were placed with their entrances corresponding to holes cut in the planking. Thus the work of the bees could be studied without disturbing them in their incomings and outgoings. The "observation hives" described in the paper read before the British Association were perfected only after considerable pains had been taken and ingenuity exercised in their construction. Leaving Wood Green, however (in the year 1856), Tegetmeier settled at Muswell Hill, where he found more suitable premises and a more commodious garden. Here the Apiarian Society of London, of which he was then the hon. secretary, erected an "Experimental Bee House for exhibiting the working of scientific and improved hives," as the inscription to the picturesque drawing lithographed and published for the Society by T. Packer, of Hornsey, tells us. I am, fortunately, able to give a reproduction of this highly interesting old picture, which my wife tells me is decidedly too flattering to the actual aspect of the place as she remembers seeing it some years after. This Experimental

Bee House was maintained by the Apiarian Society during the years 1860-1862.

Continuing his observations of bees and his experiments with regard to the formation of the comb, etc., Tegetmeier ascertained that bees require no less than 12 to 15 lbs. of dry sugar to enable them to secrete one pound of wax. This increased the interest of his first discovery, for obviously the adoption of the six-sided form of cell saved an immense amount of work, the minimum quantity of wax being thus made to serve for the maximum number of cells. Among other curious facts in bee-life he discovered was, that when a swarm intended to take possession of an old hive which contained the remains of comb and litter, they began operations by sending in a party of workers who cleared out the rubbish and set to work to repair as far as possible the remains of the comb they found there before the swarm occupied the hive. Tegetmeier was always very cautious about reading intelligence into the actions of animals; but in this case he admitted that the bees displayed something so closely allied to reasoning power and forethought that it was hard to tell the difference.

Another of his discoveries had important bearing on the manner in which different strains or species of bees may inter-breed, and this also proved of great interest to Darwin. As most people know, the inhabitants of a hive will not

allow a member of a strange swarm to enter. Tegetmeier found that this hostility applies only to working bees, and that the drones of one hive are allowed free access to any other. Inasmuch as the race is propagated by the drones (and not the workers) the above fact has a significance Tegetmeier was quick to realise, and Darwin to apply with effect in his argument on the inter-breeding of bees.

Among Tegetmeier's voluminous writings on the subject of bees, and perhaps one of the most generally interesting, was the review of Maeterlinck's work on "The Bee," which he wrote for *Literature*, the literary organ started by the *Times* and edited by the late H. D. Traill. In this he entirely ignored the mystical aspects of the book, and treated it solely from the point of view of an expert in natural history; and, of course, he denounced a number of mistakes. His engagement to slaughter Maeterlinck's masterpiece, says a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, was "one of the practical jokes of journalism."

But perhaps Tegetmeier's connection with bees most prominent in the mind of the general public was the incident of his securing the last flight of bees that was taken in London. This is his own account of the story. Referring to Wellington Street, Strand, "where I spent many years of my life pursuing my labours in what was then

the office of the *Field* newspaper," he says he was one day called from the office to secure a swarm of bees. "These alighted, by some strange chance, over the door of the Gaiety Theatre. An enormous crowd collected in Wellington Street. The boys pelted the bees with any missiles the road afforded: the thoroughfare was well-nigh blocked. The ladies of the *corps de ballet* could not get into the theatre, and Mr. Soutar, the stage manager, came and implored my assistance to dislodge the insects and give his performers access to the theatre. I did so at considerable risk, since those who held the ladder were afraid of the bees." He had borrowed a cheese-box, a table-cloth, and a small brush from the Gaiety Restaurant, and with these secured the swarm,* which he took home with him to Finchley. His interest in bees never left him, and may be judged of by the fact that he had his monogram designed as a sort of book-plate, with the letters "W.B.T." formed in the shape of a bee with outstretched legs, the insect itself standing for the second initial. This "bee" monogram he was fond of using for stationery, etc. His last literary work on the subject was the editing, in 1876, of *The Italian System of Bee Keeping*, by Captain A. J. Danyell.

* The scene was admirably portrayed by Mr. Harry Furniss in the *Graphic*.

CHAPTER VII.

THE FATHER OF PIGEON-FANCIERS.

BY the death of Tegetmeier, who was universally recognised as a leading authority on pigeon breeding and racing, a gap was caused in connection with the sport and industry which it is impossible to fill. While others have done much for the breed and the sport, the pigeon-fanciers of to-day owe him a debt of gratitude it will never be possible to repay for his arduous efforts for the popularisation of the sport in its early days—for in his early days it was regarded as a rather low and vulgar pursuit. It was, as we have seen, the first “passion” of his life, and his first pigeon race is so graphically described in the article in the *Savage Club Papers* (1867), that it is impossible to do better than reprint his own account of it. He begins by describing the construction of his aviary, already referred to, and goes on as follows:—

“The birds kept by the class of pigeon-fanciers with whom I had become connected were those employed in flying-matches; and I need hardly state that ere long my great ambition was to become the winner of a pigeon race. To attain this end, my young birds, as soon as they were old enough, were entered in a match at a neighbouring public-house. The birds taking part in

these contests are entered soon after they are able to fly—the quill or flight feathers of the wing being stamped with the distinguishing mark of the particular race, and a fixed sum contributed weekly by the owners towards the prize which is to be competed for. As soon as the young birds can fly strongly their training commences. They are taken day after day to gradually increasing distances from home, and then liberated. In this manner both their observation and power of flight are exercised, until at last they know their way accurately and can fly back long journeys without loss of time.

“In the days I am now writing about, railways were unknown. And many and many are the long walks I have taken with a couple of birds in a brown-paper bag, with a few holes to give them air, and a little straw in the bottom to keep out the sides. On arriving at my destination the birds were set free, when they would rise in the air, and circling in gradually increasing spirals, gaze round until they descried those familiar objects that constituted the landmarks by which they directed their homeward flight.

“There are few subjects connected with the habits of animals about which more misconception prevails than respecting this homing faculty of pigeons. Authors and artists seem to have conspired to misrepresent the truth. They first tell us that pigeons return home by a peculiar instinct, and not by sight; whereas every pigeon-fancier knows that if, on their first essays, he takes his young birds long distances, so that they cannot discern any familiar objects, they will only return by chance. The writers on this subject do not bear in mind the fact that the sight of birds is infinitely more acute than that

of man; and that they possess a formation of the eyes by which they are able to adjust their sight to near or far-distant objects at will. Nor do they seem aware that a bird raised 130 yards in the air commands a panoramic view, the horizon of which is distant twenty-five miles, even when the surface is a perfect plain.

“But the artists are to be blamed as much as the writers. We are all familiar with the pretty pictures of doves flying into the bosoms of their mistresses with large packets tied under their wings. These pictures have no foundation in nature. Like the German philosopher’s idea of a camel, they are evolved out of the inner consciousness of the artists. A pigeon could not fly encumbered with a letter; and when a bird is employed for conveying a message, a narrow slip of paper is written on, rolled round its leg, and secured by a thread. As the leg and foot during flight are drawn up into the soft feathers, the paper so attached offers no impediment to the speed of the bird.

“But to return to the pigeon match. The birds entered and trained for the match are, on the day appointed, taken to some distant place, either previously fixed on, or the direction of which may be decided by lot on the morning of the race. The birds competing are then set free, and if well trained and conversant with the road, they return home with wondrous rapidity. Thus in a match which annually takes place from Southampton to London, the winning birds always perform the journey in less than an hour’s time. The competing bird, on alighting at the house of its owner, is instantly captured in one of the traps or in the ‘area’ to which I have before alluded. A fixed time is permitted each owner

to convey his bird to the rendezvous, usually the public-house where the 'fly' has been organised. This time, of course, varies with the distance. After securing the 'voyageur,' the owner loses not an instant in conveying it to the goal. Not infrequently relays of one or two quick runners are arranged, and the bird is passed from hand to hand with the greatest celerity.

"Well do I recollect my first race. The 'fly' was from Gravesend—a favourite spot in that pre-railway time, as being easy of access by steamers. There were ten competitors. The birds had been sent down the river by the first boat in the morning, in charge of three or four persons, to see fair-play. John was up in the loft on the look-out to catch my bird (the best 'grizzle skinnum' I had bred that year) as soon as he pitched. The rendezvous was about a quarter of a mile off; and he was to run with the bird half that distance, whilst I was to convey it the remainder. From the corner where I stood I could see the loft of another competitor. As I was waiting, I anxiously scanned his flight of birds that were being driven up by him with a long, light pole as they tried to settle to feed; for to get them to come into the area directly the racing bird had joined them on his return, they had been kept without food all day. At last I saw his head disappear in the 'dormer'; his flight settled. I saw the blue dragon that had returned from Gravesend. The birds all ran into the area for the handful of tares he had thrown in; the trap-door of the area closed; I knew he had caught his bird, and that in ten seconds he would burst from the door of the house, and be first at the 'Blue Lion.' And where was my bird? At that instant John



THE COSTER-GIRL.

(From an Engraving interleaved in Tegetmeier's Article, "My First Pigeon Race.")

turned the corner, running as though dear life itself depended on his speed. My skinnum was in his hand. Hurrah! the prize was mine; for living further from the rendezvous, I was allowed a minute and a half more time than my dreaded competitor, whom I had just seen catch his bird. Before John reached me my rival rushed from his door, and with a shout of triumph, as he saw me waiting, darted like an arrow on his way. In a few seconds that seemed to me an eternity, John rushed to me with my bird. I snatched it from his hands, and ran as I never ran before or since, for there was not a moment to be lost. Still, with great speed I was sure of the prize, and I need not say I did my very best. I reached the corner of the street in which the 'Blue Lion' stood, and leaned inwards, like a horse in a circus, as I turned the angle at my utmost speed. But, alas for the vanity of human hopes! An old woman, with a basket of apples suspended from her waist by a strap, was just round the corner, and I came full tilt against her. I am not very heavy, but impetus is the result of weight and velocity combined, and what I wanted in one was made up by the other; the consequence was that the old woman went over backwards, and I went over the old woman. Where the apples went to I do not know; but I believe some of the boys round about could tell better than any other persons. My best mealy-skinnum, that had virtually won the race, escaped in the collision, and went home again. I picked myself up without loss of time, and looked towards the 'Blue Lion'—only to see my detested competitor and the landlord laughing at the unlucky chance which had robbed me of the prize."

The article is not directly illustrated, but is headed with a fine woodcut of a clever drawing of a pigeon in flight, by Harrison Weir; while the frontispiece to the *Papers* is a stage and stagey group of caricatured "Savages," among whom Tegetmeier, the "pigeonist," appears with grave aspect and a pigeon balanced on his bald pate. In his own copy of the famous (and now scarce) *Savage Club Papers* for 1867, which he gave me, he had inserted a loose-leaf picture of an apple woman, with her tray of fruit depending by a cord from her waist, as described in the article. This is entitled "The Coster-Girl," from a "daguerreotype" by Beard, and is engraved by E. Whimper. As it so aptly illustrates the unintentional cause of the young fancier losing his "First Pigeon Race," and as it represents a type of London character that has practically disappeared, I give a reproduction of this interesting old print, as also one of the frontispiece to the *Savage Club Papers* referred to.

Though chronologically out of order, I cannot refrain from making here another reference to the "pigeonist" of the Savage Club, if only to notice a sketch of him and its accompanying description, by his old friend and Brother-Savage, Wallis Mackay, when on an excursion which the Club made to Boulogne in the year 1881. It appeared in *Society* for July 23rd, 1881,



FRONTISPIECE TO THE "SAVAGE CLUB PAPERS," 1867.
[By permission of The Club Committee.]

and illustrated some doggerel rhyme describing the trip, the last verse of which ran as follows :—

They went by special steamer (having left their special
train),
Their scalps were all intact and filled with (very) special
brain ;
The people, Mayor, Etablissement, the waiters, wines, and
“ grub ”
Gave one and all a welcome to our dear old Savage Club.

Underneath Mackay's sketch appeared the legend : “ Here is the veteran ‘ Savage,’ the wily science chief, W. B. Tegetmeier, despatching his trusty messengers with news of the fact that the children of nature (of whom he is the chiefest ornament) have sighted the coast of France.” The incident goes to show how, when he was interested in a subject, Tegetmeier never lost an opportunity of experimenting, observing, or practising the matter in pursuit.

The aviary started as a pastime became a scientific columbarium, in which Tegetmeier observed and made those experiments with the various species which were afterwards to afford so much evidence in support of the doctrine of evolution.

Although he made a reputation as a fancier, and turned his knowledge to useful account, the homer had always been first with him. In 1867, when he was still in close correspondence with Darwin on subjects demanding intimate acquaintance with fancy “ points,” he is to be found

“pleading guilty to a weakness for dragons,” the homing strain, whose symmetry, grace of carriage and powers of flight always appealed to him. After many years of experimental work in the rearing and management of fancy breeds, as well as “homers,” he published in 1868 a practical treatise entitled “Pigeons: their Structure, Varieties, Habits and Management,” illustrated with coloured plates by his old friend, the late Harrison Weir, himself a poultry-breeder and pigeon-fancier. Tegetmeier took the keenest interest in the doings of Belgian pigeon-flyers, who had brought their organisation to the highest pitch of any people in Europe, and he paid many visits to Belgium in connection with pigeon flying. He was present at the first banquet given at Brussels to celebrate the return of the pigeons from Rome—some 900 miles—in 1878.

Impressed, as he was, by the possibilities that lay in the homer as a messenger, the use made of pigeons by the French during the Siege of Paris in 1870 gave him an opportunity of which he was quick to profit. The carriage of birds by balloon out of Paris to return thither with messages that could not possibly be conveyed in any other way, appealed to the public imagination, and Tegetmeier, ever alert, saw and seized his chance, and organised a pigeon race from London to Brussels—the first international pigeon race organised in England. He

enlisted the aid of pigeon-flying friends in Belgium, and after considerable work succeeded in arranging for the first great pigeon race from the Crystal Palace to the Belgian capital, on June 24th, 1871. The event aroused widespread interest, and the following year he undertook the management of two great pigeon "tosses" from the Palace—one to Brussels, the other, the "All England" race, the latter being a combined show and race. The birds were divided into classes in accordance with the distance their owners lived from Sydenham, up to twenty-five miles, 25 to 50, 50 to 100, 100 to 150, and so on: and all birds whose lofts were within thirty miles of the Palace were exhibited and judged before the "toss." The several classes were released separately, each lot of birds being started as soon as the sky was clear of the former class, as it had been found that when a very large number of pigeons took the air together they got in each other's way and "got off" badly; and rapid journeying was the great point in the favour of the pigeon that Tegetmeier desired to bring home to the public.

Continually he urged the use of pigeons for military purposes in this country, as they were used by the other nations of Europe. He lectured in 1876 on the subject before the Royal Engineers' Institute at Chatham, showing what had been done with pigeons in this direction, and what

could be done with them, and insisting on the necessity of training the birds step by step. The then prevalent idea that a pigeon had only to be released at any distance from its loft to find its way back at once, he combated for years. Perhaps the best epitome of his views and the facts regarding this subject is his article on "Military Pigeon Posts" in *Nature*, of February 4th, 1892, wherein he showed how the organisation of the military pigeon post had been perfected by most of the big Continental nations, attaining to great completeness in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal. As showing their speed he instanced the release of seventy-two birds from the Crystal Palace in 1873: it was a good example to quote, since the first bird arrived in Brussels before the telegram which announced its departure. He held up as an example Belgium, which he estimated possessed over 600,000 pigeons, the property of private individuals, all at the disposal of the Government in time of need. Though several army officers were attracted by Tegetmeier's advocacy, notably the late General Hassard, R.E., but little of a practical nature was accomplished, owing to the apathy of the authorities.

Yet another great pigeon race was brought about by Tegetmeier's persistent efforts: this time—June 28th, 1875—it was held from the Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill. It was an

International All England race, with eight classes ; three were open to fanciers to race from Brussels to London, and five were from the Alexandra Palace to different parts of England. There were prizes in each section, the first being a silver cup, the second a silver medal, and the third one a bronze medal. After the races the winners were to be exhibited at the Alexandra Palace. The race and show attracted much attention in the press.

Although, even in the pre-wireless telegraphy days, the Army would not take up the pigeon post, Tegetmeier found support from and achieved success in other directions. He succeeded in interesting Trinity House in his scheme for establishing a service of pigeon messengers between the lightships round our coasts and the shore ; and in 1876, after repeated demonstrations, he had the satisfaction of seeing his plans in practical operation. It is due to the Brethren of Trinity House to record that from the first they lent a willing ear to his project, and gave him every encouragement and assistance. Tegetmeier, as usual, chose his time wisely for pressing his views. There had been numerous wrecks round the coast during the autumn and winter of 1875, and in some cases at least there had been loss of life which might have been prevented had help been more promptly forthcoming. The wreck of the steamer "Deutschland" on the Kentish





W. B. TEGETMEIER SHOWING CARRIER-PIGEON TO CHARLES SUTHERLAND.
(From an old Photograph.)

Knock, on December 6th, when some seventy lives were lost, appears to have been the incident which most inclined Trinity House to adopt Tegetmeier's scheme.

The Brethren placed at his disposal a disused lighthouse at Harwich to serve as a pigeon station, and there he established a loft of the best Belgian "homers" he could procure. His plan was to rear at this lighthouse loft the birds required for distribution among the lightships of the adjacent coast, to the end that they should be released by the lightship men in the moment of need, and return to the Harwich lighthouse loft with their messages. A code of signals was arranged by Trinity House—a series of groups of letters which could be stamped upon the wing feathers of the birds and interpreted by the men at the lighthouse. By the year 1878 Tegetmeier was ready with a large stock of birds which had been trained over the intervening distances between the various lightships and the shore. Six pigeons were allotted to each vessel, and the scheme was put in working order.

For a few years the pigeon service was maintained, and did excellent work. For example: in September 1879, two birds arrived from the Sunk lightship, their wings stamped with the letter denoting a vessel in distress. Thus warned, the lifeboat was put out in a few

minutes and sent to render the required aid. There seemed every prospect that the pigeon service would become a regular institution in the work of life-saving all round our coasts. So well pleased were the Brethren of Trinity House with the service that, in 1881, they presented the originator of it with a testimonial in the shape of a cheque for twenty-five guineas.

But the success of the first years did not continue. Tegetmeier knew more about pigeons than any other man in England—perhaps than any other man in Europe: but he did not know (how could he know?) that the birds would deteriorate under the conditions of their existence on board the lightships. Of necessity they had to be confined in their cages often for weeks together, as release meant instant departure for “home”—the lighthouse loft at Harwich: yet pigeons are kept in similar confinement on shore without hurt. This drawback of ship life was one which could not have been foreseen: the continual motion of the light-vessels proved detrimental, and the pigeons suffered from what can only be called sea-sickness, and this, with the conditions of ship-board life, made them unreliable when required to fly. Tegetmeier had warned the lighthouse authorities that the birds would be useless in foggy weather, but this discovery that

homers could not be depended on to preserve their principal quality when kept for any length of time on board ship was a great disappointment to him. Perhaps the failure of the service of which he had hoped so much was the sharpest disappointment of Tegetmeier's career. But after some years of experience (for he watched the progress of the work with all the interest of a pioneer) he was the first to recognise the gravity of the drawbacks which eventually compelled the cessation of the lightship pigeon service. It was finally abandoned in the year 1885.

Wireless telegraphy has, of course, practically supplanted the homing pigeon in the sphere of practical work in military and naval operations ; but there still remain other spheres of work in which it can be, and on the Continent is, made useful. Tegetmeier never lost his interest in carrier pigeons, and so lately as 1902 he lectured on the subject. This was at the Royal United Service Institution, and the lecture was on the land and sea services for pigeons, with examples from recent experiments. For years he was honorary secretary of the Philoperisteron Society, and hon. secretary and treasurer of the Va-Vite Club, a pigeon-flying club confined to a few rich amateurs, men of position, such as Sir Alfred Lubbock and Colonel Sutherland. It did not do much practical work, and died, I am told, of inanition years ago. The Philoperisteron

Society was a sort of club which made fancy pigeons its hobby, and dined together once a fortnight at the Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen Street, W.C., to discuss matters relating to their interest and the birds which members brought with them for exhibition in cages provided for the purpose. Tegetmeier was also president of the National Peristeronic Society, and it was his presidential address to this body, early in 1873, on "A Breeding for Colour," which formed the basis of the pamphlet "Breeding for Colour and the Physiology of Breeding," written by himself and W. W. Boulton, and published at Beverley, in Yorkshire. His writings on pigeons were voluminous, but as this chapter is already a long one, I must defer their more particular consideration to the next.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE COLOMBOPHILE.

THE employment of pigeons as letter-carriers during the war between France and Germany, and the various articles thereon which appeared in the periodicals of the day—"compiled by persons quite ignorant of the subject" on which they wrote, and the "most singular errors [that] have consequently been published," induced Tegetmeier in the year 1871 to write his popular little treatise, "The Homing or Carrier Pigeon (*Le Pigeon Voyageur*): its History, General Management and Method of Training." It was published, like his previous larger work on the subject, by Messrs. George Routledge & Sons, of London and New York. This interesting little book has long since been out of print, and I am indebted for a sight of a unique copy, annotated by the master's own hand, to the kindness of Mr. A. H. Osman, editor of the *Racing Pigeon*. To this gentleman Tegetmeier, with characteristic generosity and the propensity to put aside the evidences of *faits accomplis* when interested in other subjects, presented some years ago all his works connected with racing pigeons, including his press-cuttings album, with articles and notes referring to the early history of the sport, written

either by himself or others, and copies of the original notice by the Postmaster-General, relating to the despatch from London of letters for Paris per pigeon post. As the official documents are reprinted, and the main facts connected with the Paris pigeon post are published in Tegetmeier's book, and as they now have a distinct historic interest,—in view of wireless telegraphy one might almost say, a pre-historic interest,—I give a brief *résumé* of them here.

In August, 1870, before Paris was besieged, Tegetmeier had written in the *Field*, apropos of the French authorities having forbidden the pigeon-races from the south of France to Belgium, that “the strategic information conveyed by a single pigeon might lose a battle or an empire.” In June, 1871, he wrote in the *Homing Pigeon*: “The battles and the empire were lost, and the French, shut up in Paris, were glad to avail themselves of the services of the comparatively few homing pigeons that were flown in that city. These were sent out in balloons, and when liberated, conveyed to their homes the intelligence attached to their legs or central tail feathers.” He then quotes at length the regulations issued from the General Post Office, London, which were to the effect that every letter had to be posted “open,” and sent by registered post. It was to consist of not more than twenty words, including address and signature, and be written





A "SMERLE," OR BELGIAN HOMING PIGEON.
Bought by Mr. R. H. Artindale from Tegetmeier, One of the first Racing Pigeons in
England.
(From "The Homing or Carrier Pigeon.")

in French. The letters were to relate solely to private affairs, and no reference to the war or political allusions were allowed. The postal charge was fivepence a word, in addition to a fee of sixpence for registration. Tours, then the seat of the French Government, was the headquarters of the pigeon post, and here all letters for Paris were in the first instance photographed, on a reduced scale, on to thin sheets of paper, the original writing being preserved; but a great improvement was invented by the French photographer, M. Dagron. The communications, whether public despatches or private letters, were by his directions printed in ordinary type and then micro-photographed on thin films of collodion. These tiny pellicles measured only some $2\frac{3}{8}$ by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., yet contained reproductions of twelve to sixteen folio pages of type, conveying on an average about three thousand messages. The lightness of the film enabled the postal authorities to put on a single pigeon as many as eighteen films, having a total of more than 50,000 messages, but altogether weighing less than half a gramme. The whole series of despatches, says M. Dagron, the inventor—official and private—which he and his assistants made during the Siege of Paris to the number of about 115,000, weighed together only about one gramme, and a single pigeon could easily have carried them all.

Each despatch was repeated until its arrival had been acknowledged by balloon post; consequently many were sent off from twenty to thirty times—some were sent thirty-eight times, the average number being twenty. M. Dagron, in a brochure, published after the war, says: "If one cared now to multiply the number of despatches by the number of films supplied, he would find the result is more than two million five hundred thousand messages despatched by us during the two worst months of the year." In order to ensure their safety during transit the films were rolled up tightly and put in a small quill which was attached longitudinally to one of the tail feathers of the bird. On their arrival in Paris they were flattened out and thrown by means of an electric lantern on to a screen, copied by clerks, and sent to their destination. This method was afterwards improved on, sensitised paper being substituted for the screen, so that the enlarged letters were photographically printed at once, and then distributed. So perfectly did the system work, that postal orders even were sent by micro-photography, and the recipients were able to draw their money in Paris as in ordinary times. Those fond of figures may be interested to know that, at the rate of 50 centimes, or fivepence, a word, the postage of 200 letters on each folio would be £40, and that of the eighteen films of 16 folios each—the maximum

sent at one time by one pigeon—would amount to no less than £11,520.

The mention of money reminds me that in the *Homing Pigeon* Tegetmeier, in referring to the extensive use made of pigeons in England during the early part of the last century for the conveyance of intelligence to the newspapers and also for stock-jobbing purposes, says that but few persons would have imagined that a considerable portion of the wealth of the Rothschild family was the result of pigeon-flying, and he quotes in support from *Bell's Life in London* the following story: "Baron Rothschild, before electricity was brought into operation, had an immense quantity of pigeons for express work. And a splendid lot they were, including mealies, blues, reds, blue-pieds, etc. These birds brought the news of the state of the money markets in Paris, and frequently the Baron cleared in England, almost immediately after the news arrived, many thousands of pounds by buying stock."

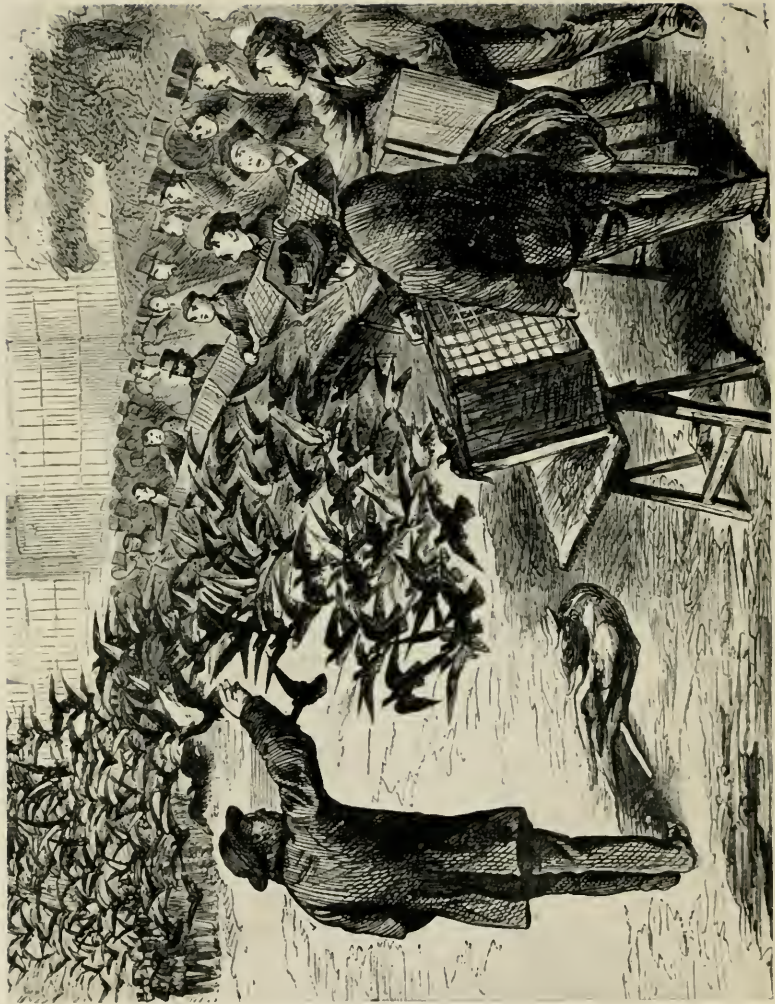
In a little popular descriptive book of the sort described there is not much scope for the display of the personality of the old pigeon-fancier, but the following passage is distinctly "Tegetmeierian" in character. Answering the question what becomes of the majority of the large number of pigeons bred, he says that the very worst are lost in training, the weakest are

struck down by the hawks, and the slowest find their way to dealers. He then goes on as follows :

“ And, during the summer season, thousands weekly are shot at the pigeon-shooting clubs in this country, where aristocratic gunners stand with double-barrelled guns, twenty-five yards from the traps, and think they are worthy of the title of sportsmen if they succeed in butchering their prey in this ignoble manner. I am no maudlin sentimentalist ; I know that Nature is prodigal of life, and that of every twenty pigeons born, not more than one can be allowed to arrive at maturity and increase its kind, or the world would soon be overstocked with pigeons, but this does not increase my respect for their slayers. I believe the best possible use you can put a deliberate murderer to is to hang him, *pour encourager les autres* ; but this belief does not raise the hangman to the dignity of a gentleman in my estimation ; nor can I see any more true sport or manly dignity in the performance of a languid swell who backs himself to kill forty-five pigeons out of fifty, his *valet-de-chambre* loading his gun, than in that of the vulgar snob who wagers that he will kill and dress a dozen sheep in less time than any other butcher—gambling, not sporting, is the aim of both.”

The book ends, too, with a characteristic touch, and as it deals with Tegetmeier's well-known advocacy of Intelligence as against Instinct in the homing faculty of pigeons, I venture to give the paragraph—the only reference to the subject for which I have space. He winds up the last chapter by saying : “ I have paid much attention





THE FIRST PIGEON RACE FROM THE CRYSTAL PALACE TO BELGIUM, 1871.
(From an illustrated newspaper of the time.)

to the subject, and have endeavoured to investigate all the cases of so-called instinctive flying that have come under my notice. I have always found them to be based on mere hearsay evidence, totally destitute of proof, and of impossible repetition—no more worthy of credence than the tricks of a contemptible conjuror, half-rogue, half-charlatan, who tells us that he subverts the laws that govern the universe, and floats in the air at will, or causes tables at command to walk up a wall." I cannot trace whether this book went into a new edition, or was revised; I am inclined to think not: the probability is it was of too "popular" a nature to appeal to its author, who was scientific rather than commercial, and was fonder of investigating fresh points than revising old and settled subjects.

Always keen on the utilisation of his pet bird for national, military and naval purposes, Tegetmeier printed, in 1877, his Lecture given before the Royal Engineers' Institute, Chatham, which published the brochure. It was entitled, "Utilization of Pigeons for Military Purposes," and it was printed for private circulation only. Two years afterwards he edited and revised John Moore's *The Columbarium*, first published in 1735. That Tegetmeier's edition was acceptable to colombophiles (as amateur pigeon-fanciers were known in those days) is shown by the fact that it was re-issued in 1887. In addition

to constant writing and lecturing, Tegetmeier procured for and supplied various Government services, including the Colonial Office for the West Coast of Africa, with homing pigeons. Thus it was through birds obtained from him that the news of the fall of Sevastopol was first conveyed to Colombo, from Point de Galle, Ceylon, where the ships to India landed their despatches. The distance is seventy miles, and presumably the telegraph wires had not then been laid. At any rate the old colombophile afterwards referred with pride to the fact that the British officers and residents in the capital of the Island received the joyful news first by means of his pigeons. In this connection it is of interest to note that the first news of Wellington's victory at Waterloo was similarly received by the British Government through the agency of pigeons. These were sent to Baron Rothschild, who was thus enabled to inform the Government—a fact mentioned by Tegetmeier in his Lecture at the Zoological Gardens in June, 1876.

Great interest in the first pigeon races from the Crystal Palace and in their originator was taken by the newspaper press of the time. The *Graphic* in particular gave good reports, and illustrated one with a half-page drawing, engraved on wood, showing the start of the birds. The since defunct *Illustrated Times*, of July 1st, 1871, also had a fine, large engraving showing

“The Flight of Carrier Pigeons at the Crystal Palace,” and another newspaper, of which unfortunately I have not the name, graphically pictured the scene, with Mr. Tegetmeier giving the signal for the liberation of the birds. I know not if I am infringing on anyone’s copyright in reproducing this illustration, but if so, I hope, in view of the great and almost historical interest of the subject, that I may be forgiven. Among other papers *Fun* reported and illustrated, *more suo*, in September, the second flight, to which it devoted a whole page and a turn-over. The drawings and article were headed “A Derby of Doves,” and the sketches illustrated three phases of the event: the names of the types of pigeons, The Start, and The Stare. The next year (February 17th, 1872) it published a fanciful picture and poem entitled “St. Valentine’s Day at Minerva House.” The illustration represented a girls’ school, with Cupid as a winged messenger at the closed front door, liberating flying love-letters to the young ladies. I quote the first six lines of the “poem”:

See—like Mr. Tegetmeier—
Love has turned a pigeon-flyer,
Letting off a score of doves,
Laden with all sorts of loves—
Tender messages and kisses
To a boarding-school of misses.

Highly indicative, however, of the regard, or rather disregard, in which “the low sport” of

pigeon-flying was generally held in those early days, was the action of the secretary of the Crystal Palace in postponing the first great race when he learned that the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII.) intended to visit the Palace on the day appointed for it. Tegetmeier never tired of telling the story how that "anything so vulgar and degrading as a pigeon-race on the same day that the Heir to the Throne appeared was not to be thought of, and he (the secretary) insisted on the flight being deferred." As there was no time then to write explaining to the Belgian competitors, Tegetmeier hastened off at an hour's notice, without even going home for his luggage, to Brussels to make the necessary arrangements for postponing the race. It came off on June 24th, 1871, and was "a great success," afterwards wrote the organiser, who added: "I believe His Royal Highness was annoyed at its being deferred, for he soon after became a flyer himself, and had many good birds at the Sandringham lofts." Tegetmeier had his revenge, for in time the pastime became not only popular but highly respectable and was indulged in by the highest in the land, and he often had the pleasure of witnessing the flight of Royal birds sent by the late and the present King to flying matches at which he officiated. Thus as late as 1900 he reported in the *Field* the sending to a horticultural exhibition held at

A DERBY OF DOVES.



1. The Pouter. 2. The Tumbler. 3. The Short-faced Tumbler. 4. The Turbit. 5. The Trumpeter. 6. The Helmet. 7. Interesting specimen of cross between The Beard and The Baldhead. 8. The Swallow. 9. The Barb. 10. The Common Carrier.



THE START.



THE STARE.

The Grange, Bishop's Stortford, of fourteen birds by the Prince of Wales, and four by the Duke of York for a pigeon race. "The first pigeon reached Sandringham at 5 h. 56 m., the liberation having been at 3 h. 26 m.—a very good performance for young birds that had been so slightly trained, the distance of about 80 miles being covered in two hours and a half." At the same show, at which he acted as starter, he records that "the unusual sight of the simultaneous liberation of 800 birds was witnessed." These were racing for prizes offered by Sir Walter Gilbey, and the old colombophile dilates with pleasure on the sight of so many birds. What would he have thought could he have witnessed the flight of the 7,863 young pigeons liberated on September 8th, 1913, at Bournemouth, on the occasion of the National Flying Club Race, of which His Majesty King George himself is president, and in which over 4,000 fanciers from all parts of Great Britain competed for prizes amounting to nearly a thousand pounds? Strange indeed seems to-day the action of the secretary of the Crystal Palace in deferring a pigeon-race on account of the late King's expected visit, now that the present King is a confirmed colombophile, and regularly enters his birds at races, and that Members of Parliament lighten their labours by sending off in competition flights of pigeons from Palace Yard, Westminster!

In an article appearing in the *Daily News* of November 8th, 1899, entitled "Her Majesty's Pigeons"—which from evidence internal and external I have every reason to believe was written by the old fancier—particulars are given of the military pigeon-posts of Europe, as well as some details of the pigeons then used in the Royal Navy. The article starts off with a reference to the official despatch from Ladysmith received at Durban, which was telegraphed to Sir Redvers Buller and re-telegraphed to the War Office. It gives credit to the "untiring efforts" of Colonel Hassard, R.E., for the fact that "we were able to read Sir George White's message, sent off from Ladysmith by pigeon-post on Friday, in the Monday morning paper." Tegetmeier, for undoubtedly it was he who penned the article, goes on to say that "It is only quite recently that our Government decided to establish a service of homing pigeons for the use of the Army, and this effort to remedy a very serious defect in our Intelligence Department did not come a moment too soon." He refers to the fact that the training of pigeons had been systematically carried out in Cape Colony, and hopes that events in South Africa will lead to the War Office doing "more to encourage pigeon flying at our foreign stations than they have done heretofore," and comments that "pigeons are capable of rendering greater service

to the British Army abroad than at home." The following extract has a certain interest, historic now, as I presume wireless telegraphy has long since superseded the pigeon-post. He wrote: "In our Navy the communication of intelligence by means of pigeons is now officially recognised as a part of the great system of signalling. In 1896 the first naval loft was established by the Admiralty at Portsmouth, and now there are two more pigeon stations, one at Sheerness and the other at Dartmouth. Experiments are made with a view to training the birds to keep up communication between ship and shore. There are over 1,000 homing pigeons on the books of the Royal Navy, and the birds are under strict discipline."

Attached to the cutting from the *Daily News* is another, stating that "the Great Barrier Pigeon Training Agency of New Zealand has offered the Government a number of homing pigeons for carrying despatches in South Africa." This local Pigeon-post (which I believe was the only regular public pigeon service then in existence) had been described by Mr. Tegetmeier in the *Field*, and by myself in the *Times*, and illustrated in the *St. James's Budget* some two months earlier. Afterwards, when I was editing the *Picture Postcard and Collectors' Chronicle*, I wrote an article in it on the subject, and also published a pictorial postcard bearing a reproduction of the first

“Pigeongram” stamp and a picture of the “Feathered Postmen” who carried the mails. As this is my sole connection with pigeons, I may perhaps be forgiven for obtruding this personal note, in defence of which, however, I can truly say that Mr. Tegetmeier was greatly interested in the postcard referred to. Apart from our articles, public attention in Great Britain was first generally called to this far-distant local service by the sending of a loyal address to the (then) Duke of York when in New Zealand on his famous Australian tour, from the inhabitants of the Great Barrier Island “per pigeon-post,” and a brief description of its origin and use may be deemed not out of place here and now.

This New Zealand pigeon-post owed its inception to the fact that the inhabitants of Great Barrier Island needed a means of communication between themselves and the mainland quicker and more frequently than the one steamer weekly which visited the island. The Government not seeing its way to make a cable connection with the island (the population of which numbered scarcely 700 souls) it was left to private enterprise to establish a speedy and inexpensive system of communication. The solution of the problem was suggested by the use of pigeons to carry dispatches to Auckland on the occasion of the wreck of “S.S. Wairarapa,” and accordingly birds were trained both ways over the sixty miles of

stormy sea between the island and Auckland, and a daily postal service was inaugurated and successfully carried on. Each bird carried four "pigeongrams" or messages. These were written or typed on pieces of tissue paper, quarto size, and bearing stamps of the value of 1s. or 6d.—the higher charge being for messages to Great Barrier Island, which lies low in the water, is often enveloped in haze, and therefore more difficult for the birds to see than the more conspicuous mainland. The letters were folded up tightly, sealed and covered with a waterproof legging and fastened to the bird's leg with a tiny india-rubber ring. The mails were made up and despatched as required daily between 9 a.m. and noon from Auckland, and between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. from the island; the birds were liberated earlier from the mainland on account of the difficulty referred to. For several years the messages were sent unstamped—the system was, of course, a private venture; but after a while it was deemed advisable to have stamps printed, sold and used. The first issue was a rather rough one, made up with printer's rule, type, and bits of ornament, including a flying bird with an enormous letter in its beak. In addition to the designation of place and value, the stamp bore the words "Special Post." On a second and more important-looking edition being issued, the postal authorities objected to



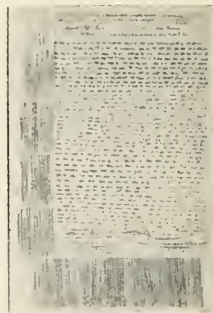
The First Pigeongram Stamp.



The Triangular Pigeongram Stamp :
Great Barrier Island.



Facsimile of English
Micro-photo Film.



A Paris
Pigeon-post Film.

PIGEON POST STAMPS AND FILMS.



the use of the word "Post," so the word "Pigeon-gram" was invented, and printed as a surcharge over the offending words "Special Post." The next issues bore the word "pigeongram" as part of the design. The triangular stamps reproduced in the *Field* and *St. James's Budget* were, I fear, made more for sale to stamp-collectors than for actual use in this unique pigeon-post. Strangely enough, in the very number of my little cartophilic magazine containing the article on the Pigeongrams appeared a paragraph to the effect that *it was said* a great English apiarist had succeeded in turning to account the homing instincts of bees for carrying messages. "He took some bees a long way from their hive, gummed to their wings a tiny micro-photographed letter, and set them loose. They all found their way safely home. In time of war these postal bees would have this advantage over carrier pigeons—it would be impossible to shoot them!" I wish I had shown this to Tegetmeier—I wonder what he would have said!

CHAPTER IX.

AS POULTRY EXPERT.

CONCURRENTLY with his keeping and studying bees and pigeons, Tegetmeier bred and studied domestic fowls, on which subject he was to become "recognized as perhaps the greatest living authority," and we must now "hark back" to the period of the early 'fifties. About the first year of that decade he was residing at Tottenham, and his early writings on poultry prove that he had been devoting close attention to the subject for several years. Perhaps it is an echo of his medical training that his first writings should have been on the diseases of fowls, but the fact remains that in the year 1853 he contributed a series of articles on that subject to a weekly journal called the *Cottage Gardener*, and, as we shall see in the next chapter, it was in 1855 that he was introduced to Darwin as one "who knows all about poultry and pigeons." It was also in the year 1853 that his first book on domestic fowls appeared. It was a modest little treatise of thirty-two pages, in paper covers, entitled "Profitable Poultry: their Management in Health and Disease," and was illustrated with three full-page drawings of fowls by Harrison Weir, with a sketch of one on front

and back covers. It was published at a shilling by Darton & Co., of Holborn Hill. In his Life History Album, Tegetmeier records its publication with the following added note: "This book received a long notice (thirteen pages) in *Frazer's Magazine*, and the edition was sold out in a few days. The notice was written by Broderip." The trace of pride which may be discerned in this note is surely easily forgivable! The little book is evidently the work of a man who wrote from a wealth of personal experience and observation, and proves conclusively that the author had already given years of study to the subject. The review in *Frazer's*, above referred to, acclaimed it as containing "more good sense than is to be found in many a more voluminous treatise," a remark which the author quoted in the new edition of the book brought out the following year. As the review was not signed, and as Tegetmeier referred to his kindly critic as "the great naturalist," many of his friends thought he meant Yarrell, but the note in his diary proves it was not so, and that it was written by Broderip.

I have said that this first book on poultry bore evidence of experience and observation: in support both of this, and as showing Tegetmeier's truly scientific caution and acuteness of observation, his modesty and willingness to be taught, and his intention of writing further on the matter,

I print a few extracts which seem interesting. Thus in his preface he says: "The object of this little work is purely practical; its aim is to place in the hands of persons who may not have had much experience a book which should contain all that is most essential to be known respecting the housing, feeding, breeding, and treatment of fowls; and to this has been added such information as the experience of the author has enabled him to give respecting the most profitable varieties viewed as agricultural stock." He then proceeds to say with regard to the diseases of fowls and the remedies suggested as far as the limits of the work would allow: "The brevity of this part the author regrets the less, as he hopes, with the co-operation of some of the leading morbid anatomists of the day, to issue in a short time a distinct work on the diseases of birds; any information on this subject he would be most happy to receive at all times." Already he had had much experience in the post-mortem examination of fowls, for on page 10 he says: "My position in connection with the *Cottage Gardener* has given me the opportunity of examining more dead and diseased fowls than perhaps ever fell to the lot of one individual: and as the most certain *result of my experience* I can state that," etc. Further on, he writes: "The plans here recommended *I have found to be more than ordinarily successful*"—and,



FROM A PAGE DRAWING BY HARRISON WEIR, ILLUSTRATING
"PROFITABLE POULTRY."



“*I have severely tested* their perfect efficiency.” Again, on page 25, he says: “Where eggs alone are required, *my experience leads me to think* that there are no fowls,” etc.,—and on page 27 he writes: “If I may state *the results of my own experience* it would be precisely opposite to this opinion. *I have found that my half-bred chickens* (of which I have *reared for curiosity* several varieties) have been less hardy,” etc. The italics are mine, and have been used to prove my point that by the year 1853 Tegetmeier had not only had considerable experience of fowl breeding, but that already he displayed some of his chief characteristics as a writer—those above mentioned and a thoroughness founded on knowledge, great practicality, and a desire to record only the truth, as well as to learn all he could of it.

By this time (1854) Tegetmeier had become recognized as an authority on poultry questions, and when the new edition of Wingfield and Johnson’s *Poultry Book* was under consideration, it was to him that the publishers applied to undertake the work of editing and re-arranging it. The book was issued in parts, with coloured plates, in 1856, but it was never completed, such portions as were published eventually forming the basis of Tegetmeier’s own more ambitious and comprehensive work of the same name. His famous *Poultry Book*, which comprised directions for the breeding and management of

profitable and ornamental poultry (each variety being dealt with by a specialist breeder) appeared in an enlarged form in 1867. And here it may perhaps prove convenient if I give some particulars of the rest of Tegetmeier's publications on the domestic fowl.

In 1865 he edited for the Poultry Club *The Standard of Excellence in Exhibition Poultry*, which was reprinted with additions and with the American Standard, in 1874. A new edition of the *Poultry Book*, which was illustrated by Harrison Weir, was brought out, enlarged, in 1873. One of his best-known books, *Poultry for the Table and Market versus Fancy Fowls, with an Exposition of the Fallacies of Poultry Farming*, was published by Horace Cox, of the *Field* office, in 1892, and was followed the next year by a new and enlarged edition. From this book some appropriate chapters were taken and remodelled as *The Cottager's Manual of Poultry-keeping*, in 1893, and re-published in 1895 and 1898. Tegetmeier also wrote the article "Poultry" in the 9th edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Among other works on the subject were *Rearing and Fattening Market and Table Poultry*, in 1855, and the article in the *Ibis* on "The Principal Modern Breeds of Domestic Fowl," which was reprinted, but for private circulation only, in 1890.

It was during the 'fifties that Tegetmeier began his career as a judge of poultry at the leading

agricultural shows, and the value attached to his opinion on utility poultry is shown by the fact that he was asked to officiate in that capacity at the Bath and West and Southern Counties Society's show in 1858, an office he held until and including the show of 1896. One such appointment led to another, and in 1859 he acted as judge for all the poultry classes except game fowls at the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Preston. For many years he judged at various poultry and pigeon shows, being much in request as a judge in all parts of the country. Unfortunately, he does not appear to have attached much importance to this part of his work, of which no record was kept by him, except that he was and had been judge at the Royal Agricultural, the Birmingham, the Crystal Palace, the Dairy Show, and other exhibitions.

As a judge of poultry, pigeons, etc., at shows, Tegetmeier was firm, impartial, and discriminating; he soon acquired a reputation as a judge who would not tolerate anything in the shape of unfair practices by exhibitors. Preparation for the show bench in those days meant, in some cases, the exercise of various arts, such as plucking superfluous feathers, judicious trimming, and even wiring the combs of cocks to make them appear upright. Some judges might be imposed upon by these tricks, and others might regard them with blind indulgence; but not so

Tegetmeier. He was neither to be deceived nor cajoled; and once sure that a bird had been improperly treated, he knew but one method of dealing with it: he put a black mark against the exhibit and passed on, continuing his scrutiny of the rest of the class. When this preliminary survey was finished he would go to the Secretary and demand "disqualification" cards for all the birds thus tampered with. There might be half-a-dozen, or there might be twenty; the improperly treated birds might belong to an unknown exhibitor or to one of the most prominent. But numbers and ownership made no difference—he unhesitatingly disqualified them all.

This unbending attitude towards malpractices did not make for present popularity. Exhibitors of the unscrupulous type—and they were many then—bitterly resented his methods. On one occasion a group of dealer-exhibitors combined to make a stand against him: they pledged themselves to refrain from exhibiting at any show where Tegetmeier was to act as judge, and signed their names to a circular in this sense and sent it to the secretaries of certain shows. It was an unfortunate step—for them! A copy of the circular fell into Tegetmeier's hands, and he forthwith published it in the *Field*, with the ironical remark that it afforded him pleasure to give the document wider publicity than those

who signed it could otherwise procure for their views. Among the first results were eager disclaimers from some of those who had signed the compromising circular ; they called or wrote to assert that their names had been attached to it without their consent or knowledge !



TEGETMEIER JUDGING FOWLS.
(From a Sketch by Albert Bryan.)

Nor were dishonest exhibitors alone opposed to the "upright judge" at first ; some of the more timid secretaries, fearful of decrease in their entries, were averse from the strictness of his methods. He was often told that he could not be allowed to disqualify in the wholesale fashion he sometimes thought necessary : that exhibitors had been allowed to do these things in the past, and had learned that judges always "winked

at” these “improvements” of exhibitors’ birds. Tegetmeier replied that the exhibitors had something to unlearn, and pursued the even tenour of his way undaunted by threat and undeterred by disapproval. He knew he was in the right, and his opponents were in the wrong: that his methods courted publicity and theirs avoided it. A radically bad system had been allowed to grow up, and only a small minority wished to see a change for the better. Tegetmeier was among that minority, and he made it his business to bring about the change despite hostility, open or covert. There can be no doubt but that his inflexible courage and honesty of purpose were largely instrumental in bringing about a more creditable state of things. Doubtless it was a hard fight; but as Tegetmeier’s reputation grew, when he became known as a careful and clever judge, who could be neither hoodwinked nor persuaded to overlook faults or deceptions, his services in this capacity were more and more in demand, and the sphere of his influence became almost daily enlarged. As Sir Walter Gilbey, who knew him well and had considerable experience of him as a judge, has a note on “Teggy, the Fighter” in his Introduction, I need not further enlarge on the point—indeed, this same spirit of hatred of shams and impostures was displayed throughout his long life, and I fear being accused of repetition in again referring to it.

As a fancier, Tegetmeier was intimately associated with the first breeders of cochins, or as they should be called, Shanghais, since they came to this country from Shanghai at the close of the Chinese War of 1843, although at the first poultry show held at the Zoological Gardens, in 1845, when prizes were offered for Asiatic breeds, no such birds were exhibited. The first examples were shown by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, at the Royal Dublin Agricultural Society's show in 1846, and the birds did not get into the possession of the public until Mr. Sturgeon obtained his stock in 1847 from a ship that came from Shanghai. Although a breeder of many varieties, Tegetmeier's views were always those of a naturalist anxious to ascertain the extent of variation, and how it could be produced and regulated, rather than those of a poultry fancier. Consequently his experiments in breeding were usually confined to new varieties made by himself.* He showed, and obtained first prizes at Anerley, Birmingham, and elsewhere for rumpless bantams of very marked formation, and at the exhibitions at Anerley, which preceded the Crystal Palace shows, he won a prize for black-crested white Polish fowls in 1856. He was also the first producer and exhibitor of brown-red game bantams, taking a prize for them at the Crystal Palace Show of 1861.

* See the *Stock-keeper* of December 25th, 1903.

Probably the subjects in connection with poultry through which Tegetmeier was best known to the general public were his antagonism to poultry farming and his advocacy of utility fowls. How far, by the year 1892, he had fallen out with and away from ordinary fanciers may be seen from the following extract which he put conspicuously on the title-page of his *Table and Market Poultry*: "As the result of my experience of nearly half a century, I do not hesitate to affirm that no one breed of fowls has been taken in hand by the fancier that has not been seriously depreciated as a useful variety of poultry." Nothing roused him to more vigorous denunciation than the subject of so-called poultry-farming, and that we hear so much less of this visionary industry than we used to is due very largely to the unflagging energy with which he exposed its fallacies when well-meaning but unpractical persons tried to encourage the establishment of farms for the exclusive rearing of chickens. As an accessory to real farming, he always readily acknowledged that a head of poultry could be and often was made fairly profitable; but he spared no effort to show that such stock cannot be made to produce a profit if the breeder is at the cost of renting land for the purpose.

At the time when poultry-farming was being advocated as a means of earning a livelihood, Tegetmeier would watch for the publication of

balance-sheets which appeared from time to time in various journals, and in the columns of the *Field* would audit them with remorseless penetration. It is doubtful if any document of this kind ever succeeded in winning even the most qualified approval: the compiler had invariably left out something which rendered his balance-sheet unreliable as a practical guide, and it was figuratively torn to tatters in protection of those who might have been misled by it. As he grew older, Tegetmeier grew more impatient of these endeavours to encourage the ignorant to farm poultry for a living—and with sound reason. For he had seen many “poultry farms” established and achieve the failure he had predicted for them; and the fact that in the early years of the present century there was not known a single establishment of the kind in existence, is sufficient proof of the accuracy of his contention. He would also watch the results of the “laying competitions” which were often organised some years ago during the winter, and carried out under impartial superintendence; the results, usually working out at an average of two eggs per pullet per month for the four winter months, furnished an argument against the fallacious industry, only second in weight to the “staling” of the land and the resultant disease. And here I may add that he was always averse from endeavours to increase the power of egg

production by artificial means; it stood condemned as unnatural, and therefore ultimately injurious.

In his advocacy of utility fowls, Tegetmeier advised the strengthening of the prize-list at shows in favour of such birds as against that shown to fancy breeds. He urged the inclusion of more classes for French fowls, "of which there are so many useful breeds"; and he advocated offering one set of prizes for table fowls of any pure breed, and another for the cross-bred birds. He condemned the offering of prizes for certain breeds which had no value as farmers' stock, and advised extension of the prize-list for turkeys, on the ground that they are pre-eminently a farmer's fowl, and both troublesome and expensive to send to shows; and lastly he represented that the prize schedule should state that the judges would be instructed to pay attention to utility as well as the fancy points in a given breed.

Everybody now knows how his views with regard to utility poultry prevailed, and how that, with Sir Walter Gilbey's influence, dead table poultry classes were included in the Royal Society's show and at that at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. Sir Walter, with his usual modesty, has made far too slight reference in the interesting Introduction he has written for me to his important and successful work in this direction, and I regret that in my ignorance of this matter I cannot do either him or my late

father-in-law justice therein. As, however, these sections, both of the Royal and the Islington shows, are now well-established features of these exhibitions, there is little practical need for me to dwell on their inception. Very briefly, the main facts are that, some time in the year 1900 there was a discussion as to the Smithfield Club taking over the Table-poultry Show, but the suggestion was declined at the time, and the Poultry Department was continued owing to the generous action of Sir Walter Gilbey, Mr. Leopold de Rothschild and Mr. Martin Sutton. After further discussion, however, the club decided to take over the Table-poultry Exhibition, and this department came under its management in December, 1901, Tegetmeier giving Sir Walter and the Committee loyal support and practical advice.

AN APPRECIATION FROM *PUNCH*.

[*In the early 'Seventies.*]

“ He could tell the names and breeding
Of the birds obscure or leading
That had ever taken prizes,
From a moa to a lark.
He could also, gentle reader,
Mention any noted breeder,
Including Mrs. Noah,
Who hatched chickens in the Ark.”

“ He knew all about their breeding
And the proper way of feeding,
And could tell the egg producer
What would make the pullets lay.
He knew what would make them fatter,
And 'twas not the slightest matter
What the question was you asked him,
He could always tell the way.”

CHAPTER X.

THE COLLABORATOR OF DARWIN.

TEGETMEIER'S association with Darwin, and his work for and with that great scientist, alone would entitle him to a niche in the Temple of Fame and an honoured place in the hearts of all who love Nature and see in it the open Book which he who runs may read—the great Book not written by human hands, the indisputable evidence of the patent handiwork of the “Great Architect of the Universe”—the Creator of the world and all that is in it. Believers in and doubters of the doctrine of evolution alike must pay a tribute to the patient investigation, the careful research work, the accurate observations, and valuable experiments carried out by Tegetmeier for the great thinker. Everybody who looks into their lives must recognise and acknowledge the absolute love of Truth which characterised both these men, between whom there was much in common. Tegetmeier, possibly, might have made a reputation in biology approaching that of Darwin, had he been placed in circumstances analogous to those of the author of the *Origin of Species*. But he had to work hard for a living, while a father's generosity provided the means for that devotion to study

and science which enabled Darwin to startle the world with his discoveries and deductions. Darwin's very lack of health tended to his enforcedly methodical habits of life and work, while Tegetmeier's vigorous constitution and love of his fellow man's society led him to the more active pursuits of observation and experiment denied to the older and greater man.

Both alike were the sons of doctors, and were intended for the medical profession, which both gave up for the pursuit of natural history and kindred branches of science. Both were living examples of the power of heredity, and one might almost say figuratively, of the force of scientific evolution; for, while Darwin was the grandson of "that great genius" Erasmus Darwin, Tegetmeier's father was evidently of an inquiring, inventive mind (and probably a man fonder of science than money), and his maternal grandfather also was a doctor. Darwin as a boy collected and was fond of beetles; Tegetmeier from a child loved birds. Both were precocious in a knowledge of their respective hobbies: Darwin wrote his first natural history paper for the Edinburgh University at the age of seventeen, and Tegetmeier built an aviary and flew pigeons at a still earlier age. Neither was a traveller, for, with the exception of the long cruise in the "Beagle" (which of itself was a great advantage for the richer man), Darwin, it is believed, never

left Great Britain; and Tegetmeier visited no other foreign countries but France, Belgium, and Holland. Both were distinguished by "a pure and disinterested love of science," but Darwin enjoyed a competence, while Tegetmeier had little but his brains and education with which to start on the struggle for life.

The introduction of the younger to the older naturalist was brought about through Tegetmeier's friendship with Yarrell, the author of the well-known and beautifully-illustrated volumes on British birds and fishes. Yarrell was then a news vendor, living at the corner of Ryder Street and Bury Street, St. James's, and he was the landlord of the house in which the Tegetmeiers lived. "He took me by the hand," says Tegetmeier, "and as a visitor I frequented, in the 'thirties of the last century, the meetings of the recently instituted Zoological Society, which met then over a bookseller's shop in Pall Mall, opposite Marlborough House. My friendship with Yarrell ended only with his life,* and to him I owe my personal introduction to Darwin." This is from the *Tatler* article referred to, and I could not do better than quote the rest of the passage describing this incident in the writer's own words:

"Continuing my love for pigeons, I became the secretary of the most exclusive pigeon

* The author of the *History of British Fishes* (1836), and the *History of British Birds* (1843), died on September 1st, 1856.

association, the Philoperisteron Society, which held its annual meetings in the great hall of the Freemasons' Tavern. At one of these exhibitions I heard a voice which said, 'Oh, here's Tegetmeier; he will tell you all about these birds better than I can.' I turned round, and saw Yarrell



TEGETMEIER CARICATURED AS A POUTER PIGEON BY
JACK BROUGH.

with a stranger, whom he introduced as Mr. Darwin. I had not before known him personally, although he had done me the distinguished honour of quoting in his *Origin of Species* some of my observations on the formation of the cells made by the honey-bee, a distinction of which I am indeed proud. Dr. Wallace, the eminent traveller and naturalist, and myself are

the only two men now living amongst those mentioned by Darwin in the first edition of that important book. Darwin was at that time accumulating evidence for his large work on the *Variation of Animals*. He was surprised and gratified when he found that so humble and obscure an individual as myself had been working at the same subject for some years, and had collected and prepared with his own hands a large number of skulls and anatomical specimens bearing on the subject. How eagerly he embraced the opportunity of adding to his materials may be inferred from the fact that the next morning brought him to my little country cottage at Wood Green. When he went away he took with him a box of skulls and other specimens, many of which have been engraved in his well-known volumes on variation, and this led to a friendship which lasted until his death."

The autobiographical article in the *Tatler* was written in 1904, and the old man's recollection was a trifle at fault, for in the Life History he made this entry: "Darwin's first letter to me, making appointment to come to Wood Green on Thursday, November — to see my collection of skulls, etc. Letter dated Nov. 16th, 1855." As this was evidently written up from Darwin's correspondence, it is undoubtedly correct; the article was only of a light nature, adapted for a weekly illustrated paper. November 1855 was, then, the date of the first meeting "in the flesh" of these two interesting men. The next and the only other reference in the diary to Darwin

is as follows: "Paper on the formation of the cells of bees read at British Association, quoted by Darwin, 'Origin of Species,' 1st Edition, 1859, page 228." As, however, Tegetmeier carefully collected and treasured Darwin's letters to him up to within a few years ago, there was little need for him to make notes in the diary on that subject. Unfortunately for us, these letters, to the number of 160, were sold through Mr. Quaritch, to a collector in America. It was one of Tegetmeier's proudest boasts in after years that he had been instrumental in furthering the researches of the great naturalist, and that his co-operation had been handsomely acknowledged, and he always referred with pride and pleasure to the connection in any subsequent speeches, articles of reminiscence, or interviews for the Press.

The letters, however, though interesting from a biological point of view, are not important from a biographical one, and they were not included in the *Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, published by his son Francis, in which the biographer wrote that the letters consisted almost entirely of series of questions relating to the different breeds of fowls, pigeons, etc. In this book Mr. Francis Darwin says: "To Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, the well-known writer on poultry, etc., he was indebted for constant advice and co-operation. Their correspondence began in 1855

and lasted to 1881,* when my father wrote: 'I can assure you that I often look back with pleasure to the old days when I attended to pigeons, fowls, etc., and when you gave me such valuable assistance. I not rarely regret that I have had so little strength that I have not been able to keep up old acquaintances and friendships.'” Mr. Francis Darwin adds: “In reading through the pile of letters one is much struck by the diligence of the writer’s search for facts, and it is made clear that Mr. Tegetmeier’s knowledge and judgment were completely trusted and highly valued by him. Numerous phrases, such as ‘your note is a mine of wealth to me,’ occur expressing his sense of the value of Mr. Tegetmeier’s help, as well as words expressing his warm appreciation of Mr. Tegetmeier’s unstinting zeal and kindness, or his ‘pure and disinterested love of science.’”

The value to Darwin of Tegetmeier’s “minute accuracy of observation” referred to by Sir Walter Gilbey, is clearly shown in the many curious details with which he furnished the great thinker. Thus, we find him writing that among twenty Barb pigeons the males generally have the larger eye-wattles: that young pigeons, which at maturity become white, yellow, silver (i.e. very pale blue) or dun-coloured, are born almost naked, whereas those of other colours are

* Darwin died on April 19th, 1882.

born well clothed with down. The application of these facts and countless similar ones is of no concern to us here; they are cited merely to show the extreme exactness of Tegetmeier's observation, and the seemingly insignificant trifles he noticed while engaged in breeding birds. The information contained in the following passage from Darwin's "Variation" is an example of this trait: "Mr. Tegetmeier informs me that when distinct breeds are crossed, fowls are frequently produced with feathers marked or pencilled by narrow, transverse lines of a darker colour." This would be of interest to Darwin as indicating the tendency to revert to the original parent form of fowl. Tegetmeier was able to tell him also that although there is so great a variety of pigeons, none is known to possess pencilled or spangled feathers—a fact of equal interest to his correspondent, inasmuch as neither the wild rock pigeon—the parent form—nor any closely allied species has such feathers.

The two naturalists worked together in many breeding experiments. Darwin, for instance, having tried the crossing of several varieties of domestic pigeon and found their progeny fertile, appealed to Tegetmeier to repeat the experiment independently and inform him of the result. So with fowls: when Darwin had made his own breeding experiment with a Spanish cock and a Silk hen, he asked Tegetmeier to repeat it. He

placed absolute reliance upon his accuracy of observation and the exactness with which he would always report results. Tegetmeier's share in collecting facts for the work on "Variation" was no small one; on March 22nd, 1861, Darwin writes to congratulate him on his success in breeding pouters, and adds, "you have every right to be proud of your accuracy of eye and judgment." He goes on to ask Tegetmeier to look over his manuscript for him. "For my object of treating poultry I must give a sketch of several breeds with remarks on various points. I do not feel strong on the subject. Now, when my MS. is fairly copied in an excellent handwriting, would you read it over, which would take you at most an hour or two to do? This would be of great assistance to me, more especially if you would allow me to put a note stating that you, a distinguished judge and fancier, had read it over." Darwin goes on to say that Tegetmeier will probably find little that is new to him in the MS.—"but if by chance you used any of my facts or conclusions before I published, I should wish you to state that they were on my authority; otherwise I shall be accused of stealing from you."

The request clearly shows Darwin's sense of indebtedness to Tegetmeier; he had indeed received so much help from him in his work, readers might well imagine that any fact or

deduction relating to fowls or pigeons was derived from Tegetmeier. But the great naturalist's invariable practice of acknowledging the source of any information he might use in his works made it, as Tegetmeier always maintained, a privilege to co-operate with him. He may fairly be called Darwin's right-hand man in this connection, for the minuteness of Darwin's inquiries on some points is exactly matched by the minuteness of Tegetmeier's information thereon. Thus, when writing his *Expression of the Emotions*, he cites Tegetmeier as his authority for stating that with game cocks the erection of the feathers of the head is recognised as a sign of cowardice: that if pigeons are reared exclusively on small grain they will starve before they eat beans, but that if, while hungry, a bean-eating pigeon is put among them they will follow its example, thereafter adopting the bean-eating habit; and that though the sparrow usually attacks only the yellow crocus it will (as Tegetmeier found from experiment) attack blue, purple and white crocuses, led on, he assumed, by some bolder member of the species when, after two years, no yellow crocuses were to be found in his garden. These things, though small in themselves, go far to show the value of the help received by the greater from the lesser naturalist. Moreover, whenever Darwin was in want of or in difficulties for a specimen pigeon, fowl or rabbit, skull or

skeleton, it was to Tegetmeier he applied. After his attending as a visitor, with Yarrell, the meeting of the Philoperisteron Club, Darwin became a member of it while pursuing his inquiries anent pigeon-breeding; the probability is that Tegetmeier was his proposer.

An incident which shows how nearly in the same groove the thoughts of the two naturalists ran on certain matters may be mentioned. Darwin, in the first edition of his work *The Descent of Man*, had propounded the possibility of limiting a character to one sex by process of selection, and he suggested how the thing might be done in the case of pigeons, perpetuating a distinct colour in the females only. In 1872 Tegetmeier published* a paper on "The Production of Sexual Variations in the Plumage of Birds," in which he related the facts he had ascertained by experiments carried out during the three years preceding. The colours of the cock and hen blue pigeon are normally identical; but sometimes normally coloured parents produce the pale variety of young known to fanciers as a "silver." The "silver" is almost invariably a hen; and if this silver hen be mated with a blue cock they sometimes produce a pair of blue birds, but frequently a blue and a silver. And the remarkable fact brought out by Tegetmeier is that in the great majority of cases

* The *Field*, of September 21st.

the male of such a pair of young is a blue and the female a silver ; also, that if the young are both silvers they are almost certain to be hens. Tegetmeier adds that: "It is a singular circumstance that Mr. Darwin should have suggested the possibility of modifying the sexual colours of birds by a course of artificial selection. When he did so he was in ignorance of these facts that I have related ; but it is remarkable how very closely he suggested the right methods of procedure." Darwin quoted this in the second edition of *The Descent of Man*, glad as he always was to receive the support of one whose practical knowledge and independent investigations had made his help so valuable.

It was Tegetmeier's privilege on many occasions to put the great naturalist right on points with which he was the better acquainted. For instance, we find Darwin writing to inquire whether the loss of sexual adornments, tail sickle feathers and saddle feathers, renders the gamecock less acceptable in the sight of the hen birds. It was a reasonable assumption that they would lose in attraction, and Darwin's own views on the subject of sexual adornment are set out at length in *The Descent of Man** ; but Tegetmeier, from his knowledge of game-fowl, was able to assure him that in this case at least the cock lost nothing in attractiveness ; that although disfigured by

* See Chapter XIII., "Display by the Male."

the dubbing and trimming, he was accepted as readily by the hens as a cock possessing all his natural beauties of plumage. This fact was directly opposed to the principle Darwin was seeking to establish; but it was a fact, and Tegetmeier gave it without attempt to explain or qualify. It is an example of the inflexible accuracy which made him so reliable a colleague in scientific inquiry. As to how freely Darwin drew upon the information contained in the pages of *The Poultry Book*, I simply refer my readers to his works.

But Tegetmeier was of service to Darwin in other and different directions. In addition to the above and to his observations on the formation of the cells of bees, described in the chapter dealing with those insects, he tabulated for him from the *Racing Calendar* the births of race-horses during a period of twenty-one years, and also the births of greyhounds as recorded in the *Field* for twelve years; and in the great work on variation, the whole of the engravings, as well as a considerable part of the matter, were produced under his superintendence. For the great evolutionist Tegetmeier had, I need hardly say, the highest regard and the greatest respect for his teachings and work. He possessed several portraits of Darwin, one of which always had a conspicuous place on the walls of the room in which he wrote. This was a remarque

copy of Rajon's etching after the portrait by Oules; and when he was photographed "At Home" for the *Tatler*, he took the picture from its proper place and hung it over his own portrait so that it should appear in the illustration for that journal. He was fond of telling the story of



A SAVAGE CLUB SKETCH.

how he made Darwin involuntarily perpetrate "the only pun of which, I believe, he was ever guilty." Tegetmeier had a copy of Tennyson's "In Memoriam" which he used as a sort of autograph-book for collecting the signatures of his friends. He would choose as appropriate a

passage as possible, and he asked Darwin to write his name after the following lines:—

“ So careful of the type ? But no.
 From scarp'd cliff and quarried stone
 She cries, ‘ A thousand types are gone :
 I care for nothing—all shall go.’ ”

He signed, “ C. Darwin.” It is doubtful if he ever saw—or seeing, appreciated—the joke of the pun implied in his initial—*see* Darwin ! This mention of poetry reminds me of the wonderful prophecy made by the evolutionist’s grandfather, Erasmus, in his poem, “ The Botanic Garden.” In view of the present marvellous state of efficiency attained by aeroplanes, to say nothing of motor-cars, the lines, written over a hundred years ago,* are so remarkable, I cannot resist the temptation to quote them:—

“ Soon shall thy arm, unconquered steam, afar
 Drag the slow barge, or drive the rapid car ;
 Or on wide waving wings expanded bear
 The flying-chariot through the field of air.”

* Erasmus Darwin, born 1731, died in 1802.

CHAPTER XI.

THE FATHER OF THE SAVAGE CLUB.

THE origin of the Savage Club, like that of the most heroic figures of mythology, who according to Sir Charles Wyndham* are "a little uncertain about their ancestry," is to a certain extent "wropped in myst'ry." Like Topsey, it was not so much "born" as "grewed": it grew out of that "little band of authors, journalists, and artists who felt the need of a place of reunion, where in their hours of leisure they might gather together and enjoy each other's society apart from the publicity of that which was known in Johnson's time as the 'Coffee House,' and equally apart from the chilling splendour of the modern club." Although Tegetmeier placed the birth of the club in the year 1855, officially it dates from 1857, and all the anniversary celebrations are numbered from that date. Thus the "Coming-of-Age" dinner was celebrated in 1878, and the "Jubilee" dinner on December 8th, 1907. In his speech at the latter, the chairman, Sir Charles Wyndham, said: "Our beginnings are veiled in some obscurity," and "we need not be ashamed to admit that there are conflicting rumours as to

* At the Jubilee Dinner, December 8th, 1907.

the dawn of our existence, and that we do not quite know how or by whose genial creative industry we first drew the breath of life, or even how we acquired our name." The last, he suggested, was chosen to mark the rebellion of free-lances against society, or "to emphasise the conflict between the methods of barbarism and the conventionalities of civilisation."

At the dinner held on November 10th, 1900 — the next Saturday after his eighty-fourth birthday—when he took the chair and gave the members the pamphlet of his "Reminiscences," referred to in Chapter XIV., Tegetmeier told the story of the founding of the club. This was my first attendance at one of the famous "Saturday Nights," and I well remember the occasion. Standing up with a book in his hand, he said: "In the year 1855 a number of Bohemians, of whom I was one, for I left civilised society to go into Bohemia, started a magazine that should be a republican magazine. There was to be no proprietor; they appointed their own editor and acted as their own management, spending their own money in establishing it. It was called the *Train*, and it was a 'First Class Magazine.' The first number of it was published in January, 1856, which meant that the matter it contained had been written in 1855, so this was the date of the foundation of the Savage Club"—Tegetmeier averring that the club grew



W. B. TEGETMEIER: FROM THE OIL PAINTING BY E. G. GIRARDOT.

(From "The Savage Club," by Aaron Watson.)



out of the magazine, and was started by those who contributed to it.

The *Train*, which "ran" for two and a half years—to June, 1858—was edited by Edmund Yates, and contributed to by many who became members of the Savage Club, but Yates never belonged to the club, and Tegetmeier never contributed to the *Train*. As one of its rules was that every contributor should sign his articles, and as Teg's name does not appear once in the five half-yearly volumes, I am justified in saying this. He was, however, much interested in it, and highly prized the five old-fashioned blue cloth-bound volumes up to within a few years of his death, when he confided them to my care. On looking through these venerable precursors of the modern popular monthly magazine, I came across a list in my father-in-law's writing of the contributions to the magazine by "Lewis Carroll." As Tegetmeier was an admirer of Dodgson, and possessed well-worn copies of the first editions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, I believe he had intended to write an article on the early work of this since popular writer, who was first introduced to the public by the *Train*.

At one of the places marked I found to my surprise what is evidently the original version of the song "The Aged, Aged Man" in *Through the Looking Glass*. In the *Train* the poem is

entitled "Upon the Lonely Moor," and is headed with this explanatory note: "It is always interesting to ascertain the sources from which our great poets obtained their ideas; this motive has dictated the production of the following, painful as its appearance must be to the admirers of Wordsworth and his poem of 'Resolution and Independence.'" The poem is not signed but it follows immediately after an article on poetry—"Novelty and Romancement"—by "Lewis Carroll," and some of its verses are almost identical with the corresponding ones in that in the child's book; there is thus no room for doubt as to the authorship of the original poem. By the by, in the signed article is the following passage, which to a certain extent explains the curious nonsense-rhymes of "Alice" and "Through the Looking-glass." In an assumed character Dodgson writes: "My thirst and passion from boyhood (predominating over the love of taws, and running neck and neck with my appetite for toffee) has been for poetry—for poetry in its widest and wildest sense—for poetry untrammelled by the laws of sense, rhyme or rhythm, soaring through the universe, and echoing the music of the spheres. From my youth, nay, from my very cradle, I have yearned for poetry, for beauty, for novelty, for romancement." True, in the *dénouement* of the story the lover of "romancement" finds the sign-board which at

first filled his bosom with hope really referred to a dealer in "Roman Cement," and the essay ends on a note of mingled pathos and bathos. But though exaggerated, the passage has a ring of truth about it quite in consonance with the very "untrammelled" verses in the author's delightful nursery stories of "Alice," known and loved wherever the English tongue is understood.

Photographers will be interested to learn that in Volume IV. of the *Train* is a clever parody entitled "Hiawatha's Photographing," from the pen of the same writer, who himself was an amateur photographer of no mean merit.

In conflict with Tegetmeier's *Train* theory of the founding of the Savage Club, we have the continuous official practice in regard to the keeping of anniversaries, and the explanation given in the preface to the *Savage Club Papers*, Volume I. of which was published in 1867. This preface was written by Andrew Halliday, who edited the first two volumes, and he distinctly states: "The Savage Club was founded ten years ago, to supply the want which Dr. Samuel Johnson and his friends experienced when they founded the Literary Club," thus fixing the year of its birth as 1857. He also explains the origin of the title of the club, ascribing it to the suggestion made at a meeting of some dozen of the original members, when it became a question of what the Club should be

called. One said, "The Addison," another, "The Johnson," a third "The Goldsmith," and so on. These names being thought too grand, a Member called out "The Savage," and so in a frolicsome humour our little society was christened "The Savage Club." In the preface, the editor also explains the object of the book, which was to provide relief for the widow of a fellow-member, "who wept in the anguish of sudden and unexpected bereavement," and who needed help in her time of trouble. This book, of course, was the one to which Tegetmeier contributed the story of his first pigeon race, drawn from so freely in Chapter VII. Among other contributors to Volume I., and who also contributed to the *Train*, were George Augustus Sala, William Brough, John Oxenford, Godfrey Turner, John Hollingshead, Edward Draper and Hain Friswell, while in addition the names of the following appear as contributors to Volumes I. and II. of the *Savage Club Papers*: Tom Robertson, H. J. Byron, Artemus Ward, J. C. Brough, Arthur Sketchley, W. S. Gilbert, George Gros-smith (the eldest), Walter Thornbury, Henry S. Leigh, G. Manville Fenn, German Reed, Howard Paul, Dion Boucicault, James Greenwood (the "Amateur Casual"), Sutherland Edwards, J. R. Planché, James Hannay, Tom Hood (junior), Clement Scott and Arthur W. à Beckett. Among the artist members contributing drawings and

illustrations were Harrison Weir, George Cruikshank, Fred. Barnard, Gustave Doré, Du Maurier and Ernest Griset.

Although intended to be issued yearly, the series stopped short at Number II., and only one more volume of the *Papers* has since been published. This was in the year 1897, and Number III. was edited by J. E. Preston-Muddock ("Dick Donovan") with the late Herbert Johnson as art editor, and was published by Hutchinson & Co., of Paternoster Row. The preface to this has a true "Savage" touch in the conspicuous mis-statement that the first volume was published in 1868, and the second volume in 1869. However, to correct the effect of the error in the dates, the writer in quoting alters the original phrase, "The Savage Club was founded ten years ago," to "eleven years ago," and further adds, in a footnote, the correct date, viz. "1857"—thus ultimately arriving at the truth in a characteristically "Savage" way. The list of contributors to Volume III. contains the names of, *inter alia*, G. A. Henty, Lord Charles Beresford, Charles Collette, Koulson Kernahan, G. M. Fenn, and a few others who had contributed to the previous numbers, among the artists contributing being W. H. Pike ("Olivier Pâque"), Phil May, Paul Rénouard, Bernard Gribble, T. B. Hardy, Paul Frenzeny, Yeend King, Sir James D. Linton, Harrison Weir, J. F. Sullivan, W. Ralston, and

John Procter. These, and such, were the class of men who formed the society which had so great an attraction for Tegetmeier, and who in their turn admired and respected him, and who, at the anniversary dinner referred to, hung on his lips while he spoke of the origin of the club, and cheered him to the echo at the end of his speech.

Many references to Tegetmeier are made in Aaron Watson's book, *The Savage Club: a Medley of History, Anecdote, and Reminiscence*, published in 1907, the year of the Club's Jubilee, and to this carefully compiled, richly illustrated, and altogether delightful book,* I would commend all interested in this now famous club to turn, for it is an interesting and, so far as I can judge, an accurate account of the life-history of the club. The only error I have found occurs on page 32, where he writes that Tegetmeier "became sole honorary secretary when Halliday died, in 1859." This is, however, an obvious slip, for on page 97 the real date of his decease is given, viz. April 10th, 1877. We "Savages," truly, are very human, and though we worship Truth, we are as liable to error as are the civilised scribes!

Passing by such stories as that told in the *New York Herald*, to the effect that the first club dinners consisted of "bread and cheese 2d.,

* Published by T. Fisher Unwin at £1 1s. net.



W. B. TEGETMEIER AND ANDREW HALLIDAY:
THE FIRST SECRETARIES OF THE SAVAGE CLUB.

(From a Photograph taken in Manchester, 1862.)



half-pint of porter 1d., one screw of tobacco 1d. —in all 4d.," we have a more truthful description by Tegetmeier, when he said that later on, when the club had more accommodation at its command, "the dinners consisted of a joint, with a pie of some sort, the price being 1s. 6d. . . . our refreshment was beer, and our table was always set out with beer and pipes." It was in commemoration of these early times that a "churchwarden" (a long clay pipe with sealing-waxed mouth-end) was presented by the guest of the evening on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday dinner to each member and guest dining there: many of us smoked them during the evening and took them home afterward as mementoes of the man and the time: mine yet hangs on my study wall as I write. By the by, the penny "screws" of tobacco, truthfully referred to by the *New York Herald*, were obtainable in those early days from the "penny-in-the-slot" brass tobacco boxes described in the chapter "In Bohemia"; they were placed on the table after the food was cleared away, when the club dined at one of the many taverns at which it met from time to time.

The first honorary secretary was Andrew Halliday, and with him in 1859 Tegetmeier acted as joint secretary—I believe till 1864 or 1865. He himself says: "I was secretary of the club for a long time with Andrew Halliday,

but I do not remember ever having received a subscription." Probably he was "financial secretary," or honorary treasurer—a theory borne out by the following story told by Dr. G. L. M. Strauss: "When my dear old chum Tegetmeier joined the club the treasurership was entrusted to him, which simply meant that he was authorised to pay the rent of the club-room and other incidental expenses out of his own pocket, and try to get his outlay back again as best he might. When, after five or six years, he ceded his truly honorary office to Charles Milward, we presented him with a microscope in acknowledgment of his most excellent and most thoroughly disinterested services to the club. Yet such was our Savage perversity that when Charles Quin proposed 'that this testimonial be presented to W. B. Tegetmeier for having for years past embezzled the funds of the club,' the worse than ungrateful resolution was carried by acclamation." On this Aaron Watson comments: "The story is quite true, except as regards Charles Milward, who followed Chatterton as honorary treasurer, and not Tegetmeier. . . . The distinguished naturalist was no doubt a good deal out of pocket as an office-holder of the club; but he says somewhere that he received about £40 in two years, so that some of the members must have paid their subscriptions after all." Chatterton became

(the first) honorary treasurer in 1864, and James Lowe honorary secretary in 1865, so Tegetmeier's tenure of office lasted probably from 1859 to 1865.

Notwithstanding the "long clay pipes and beer," the character of the coterie, writes Tegetmeier, "induced many persons to endeavour to obtain access to the club and to become members. This position at that time was a most difficult object to attain: no one could get elected who was not known to a considerable number of the members, and it was said that it was as difficult to get into the Savage Club as the Athenæum." The first time the club came prominently before the public (it was in the year 1860) was the occasion of a benefit which they arranged for the families of "two literary gentlemen" who died in distress. The performance took place at the Lyceum Theatre, the club at that time occupying a back room on the first floor of the Lyceum Tavern, in the Strand. The performance "was graced by the presence of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and several members of the Royal Family," wrote Tegetmeier in the *Queen* in 1902. "The piece [produced] was called 'The Forty Thieves,' and each scene was written by a different member of the club. One of the principal actors was the youngest of the Brough family [Lionel, or 'Lal' Brough]. The dramatic performance was so

successful that on the occasion of the distress caused by the Cotton Famine, the club went down to Manchester and Liverpool and played for the benefit of the distressed operatives, realising a very large sum of money by their performance. They have on several occasions acted for benevolent and patriotic objects." In the same article he refers to the "miserable manner" in which journalism and theatrical authorship were then paid, and instances Andrew Halliday's getting only half-a-guinea for an article in "one of the most flourishing of the daily London papers." Further on he writes: "Of the original members two only remain, as is shown by the archives of the club, which still remain intact. These are Mr. Tegetmeier, known as a natural history writer, and Mr. E. A. Flinders."

It was on March 4th, 1860, that the Savage Club gave its "great performance" of Sheridan's "School for Scandal," followed by an entirely new version of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," no fewer than nine members contributing scenes to it; and the *Court Circular* of March 8th duly reported the attendance of Queen Victoria and the other Royalties thereat. So successful was the performance that though the club paid £75 for the use of the theatre, they cleared nearly £400 for the charity. Not long after, Robert Brough having died, leaving his family with

scanty means, the club went to Manchester and Liverpool (where the Brough family was well known) and played in those cities for the benefit of the widow and children, making over £1,000 profit thereby. The first performance for the relief of the Lancashire unemployed operatives



TEGETMEIER TRAINING THE BALLEET AT LIVERPOOL.
(A Caricature by an Unknown Artist.)

took place on September 2nd, 1862, at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. On September 23rd the club repeated their "show" at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool. Both of the honorary secretaries acted in the burlesque of "Valentine and Orson: or the Cub and Sorcerer," Tegetmeier appearing under the stage name of "Mr. B.

Hunter." His part was that of the Mayor of Orleans, described on the programme as "Mayor, the leader of the van in every popular movement, but inclined to speechifying; and as mares will do, break occasionally into a *canter*." A photograph was taken of the Savage Club Amateurs in a group, in free and friendly attitudes; and another, of the two joint secretaries, was also taken. Of this Tegetmeier, when taking the chair at the house dinner, on his eighty-seventh birthday, November, 1903, gave a reproduction, with a *résumé* of the facts, to each member and guest present. In the programme of the Brough benefit performance held at Drury Lane Theatre, Tegetmeier appeared under the transparent disguise of "W. B. Tegget," though why, I do not know, as nearly all the other members acted under their proper names; perhaps he thought "play-acting" was hardly congruous with his position as lecturer to the Home and Colonial School Society, as the writer on natural history, and the co-worker in science with Darwin!

Another event of general interest in connection with the club was the election of the late King Edward VII. as honorary life member, which occurred at the twenty-fifth anniversary festival, held on February 11th, 1882. Tegetmeier was then a member of the committee, and as such signed the resolution proposing that the Prince of Wales should be so elected. The Prince's





THE SAVAGE CLUB AMATEUR ACTORS AT MANCHESTER, 1862.
(From "The Savage Club," by Aaron Watson.)

acceptance of membership was no mere formality. It was followed up by an interesting occasion when he took the chair, on February 21st, 1883. The Prince was at that time engaged in the foundation of the Royal College of Music, and he had privately made the suggestion that a Savage Club scholarship might be instituted. "When the principal Savage is the proposer, when the Chief speaks," said Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, "every Savage will rise to support him," and that they did the sequel shows. The future King made a speech advocating the founding of a scholarship; a resolution was unanimously passed instructing the committee to take all necessary steps, and another that the said resolution be entered on the minutes of the club. This, proposed by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Tegetmeier, was equally carried by a unanimous vote. So far so good; but the question of "ways and means" remained. Accordingly, a brilliant idea was brilliantly carried out, and a gorgeous fancy dress ball, at the Royal Albert Hall, was organised by the club and held under the patronage of T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were both present at the dance. The entertainment was held on July 11th, 1883, and was a great success, an "event of surprising magnitude." Many special trains were run for the occasion, and in addition to the Savages there were present some four

thousand visitors and spectators. The object of the costume ball was achieved, and the Savage Club scholarship was duly founded. Fortunately, I am enabled to give a portrait of Tegetmeier, taken in the dress he wore at the ball. The costume, which was a genuine one, was that of a Japanese damio, and was obtained for him through the kindness of his Brother-Savage, the late Thomas Cutler, a great authority on Japanese art and architecture.

In Chapter VII.—that on Tegetmeier as a pigeon-fancier—I have referred to the club's trip to Boulogne in July, 1881, and I mention it now as one of the occasions when the Savage Club was the means of securing a compliment to the nation at large. It was first designed as a club picnic, but, says Mr. Watson, in his book *The Savage Club*, the idea "was so heartily taken up that the original scheme had to be abandoned, and preparations made on a much larger scale than was at first intended. It was still a purely private affair, however, and would have remained such had it not been for the citizens of Boulogne, who, hearing of the projected visit, took matters into their own hands and converted the occasion into a public fête. Gambetta, Edmond About, and Victor Hugo wrote to Sir Philip Cunliffe-Owen, who presided over the excursion, regretting their inability to attend, and Paris sent distinguished deputations



TEGETMEIER AS A DAMIO
(at Albert Hall Fancy Dress Ball, 1888).

[Facing p. 128.]

to represent literature and the arts." This is the occasion whereon Wallis Mackay depicted the old pigeon-fancier despatching one of his birds with the news that the party had "sighted the coast of France."

Although I do not find that the Savage Club gave many or any other big benefit performances as a body, groups of members sometimes assisted at amateur "shows" for the benefit of relatives either of "Savages" or their friends. Thus, after the death (November, 1866) of Paul Gray, the talented young artist who drew the illustrations for Kingsley's *Hereward the Wake*, and a "Savage" of whom it was said "probably no other member had been quite so well beloved," a benefit matinée was given at the Haymarket Theatre on July 6th, 1867, for his widowed mother. Gray had been one of the chief illustrators of *Fun*, and the piece performed was written by contributors to that paper, among whom probably, and in the caste certainly, were several "Savages," one of them being Tegetmeier. The burlesque was entitled "Robinson Crusoe," and the part he took was that of "The Prairie Bird." He acted under his own proper name, and the next name in the caste was that of W. S. Gilbert, who played "An Invisible Black." Commenting on the wonderful list of the names of the amateur actors, the *Referee*, years afterwards said: "Arthur Locker was the

first editor of the *Graphic*. . . . Tegetmeier was not inaptly cast for a bird, for what that able journalist doesn't know about the feathered tribe is not really worth worrying about." The appearance on this programme of "W. B. Tegetmeier" after a comic part—one cannot even call it a character—in a burlesque, bears out my suggested reason why he had previously not acted under his own name; for he gave up lecturing at the Home and Colonial College in 1866, the year before. Moreover, in 1862 he had seriously thought of applying for the post of curator to the Hartley Institution: he got so far as having a set of testimonials printed, including one from Darwin, but for an unknown reason he never prosecuted his original intention by formally applying for it.

After relinquishing the post of hon. secretary to the club, Tegetmeier served as a committeeman for many years, and always he was one of the most typical and popular of members, at any rate until within the last few years, when increasing age and growing weakness made his visits of less frequent occurrence; when most of his old companions had one by one passed away, and the new generation of members regarded him more with the respect due to the "only living founder" than with the friendly familiarity characteristic of the club. Among his papers I found a list of proposers and supporters for

one of his yearly elections to the committee, kept by him doubtless for the sake of the autographs of his friends. Unfortunately it is dated merely "January 11th," but as it is on club note-paper, headed "371, Strand," I presume it belongs to one of the elections between the years 1875 and 1878, in which latter year the club removed to the Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, where "the wanderers spent three years in tolerable comfort" before opening their own suite of rooms at Lancaster House, Savoy, in April, 1881. The document bears some fifty signatures, among which are those of Robert Soutar, Savile Clarke, Henry S. Leigh, Lennox Browne, Byron Webber, Tom D. Kendal, Lionel Brough, Henry Woods, Charles Collette, Wallis Mackay, Henry Kemble, and many another interesting personality. When the club purchased its own furniture and household effects on its starting house-keeping, Tegetmeier's knowledge of domestic economy came in useful, and he helped in the selection of glass, cutlery, napery, etc.

Among the journalistic members, both writers and artists, he was very popular, and they often made "copy" out of him—his activities, his figure, and his interesting personality. I have quoted from *Fun* and *Society* already, and as instancing both his popularity and that of the club in the Press of those days, I give two more

extracts from the last-named. In *Society* of June 18th, 1881, in an illustrated article making fun of some of the pictures in the Royal Academy, Wallis Mackay, in "taking-off" No. 322, has a sketch caricaturing a large painting presumably showing "Galileo before the Inquisition," and representing Tegetmeier kneeling before the Committee. I give a reduced reproduction of the illustration, which was accompanied by the following letterpress: "Here you may observe that great and good man *Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier before the Committee of the Savage Club*. It may not generally be known that the Savage Club is an institution for the suppression of art, science, and the drama, where groups of men as prejudiced against science in such matters as ever were the crimson-cowled Inquisitors, who extracted falsehood from Galileo, meet and sit upon (metaphorically) any person or persons having the daring to propound a new idea. The justly celebrated Tegetmeier being nothing if not scientific, and mostly that where birds are concerned, has been making efforts to introduce the game of 'Chicken Hazard' into the Savage Club, and the naturally incensed committee have gathered together those of their number who happen to be in town, and the injudicious pigeon-fancier is reading them the romance of his recantation." Again, the Christmas Number of *Society* for 1882 has in its opening feature, "A Vision of Vanities,"

a long poem entitled "The Song of Savages," in the metre of "Hiawatha." It begins: "Should you ask me, whence these diners, Whence this Babel round the table, Whence these jinks and Savage revels, On the eve before the Sunday? I will answer, I will tell you, From the



"Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier before the Committee of the Savage Club (No. 322)."

A ROYAL ACADEMY CARICATURE BY WALLIS MACKAY.

(From "Society," June 18, 1881.)

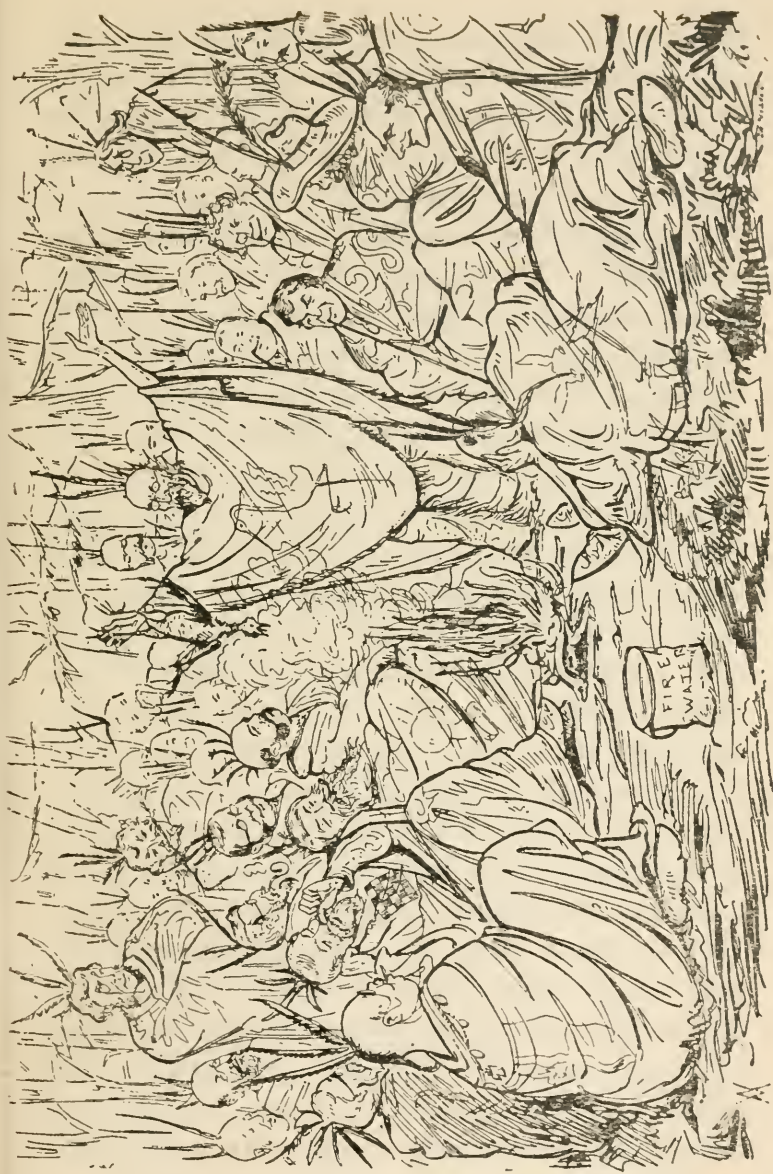
mountains of Bohemia"—and goes on to tell of their Saturday nights' entertainments. Among the first-mentioned members is "Tegetmi, the youthful Pigeon," and the poet goes on—

"Here he is, the wily Pigeon,
Tegetmi, on *Field* the bravest;
Tegetmi, the *Queen's* first favourite,
Striding steed of steel and leather,
'Nimble as a boy unbearded.'"

Opposite appears a reproduction of the full-page drawing of the "Savages at Home," in which "Tegetmi" is shown holding a fowl in triumph before the assembled "Braves"—well-known members at the time, including Henry Irving, John Toole, G. A. Henty, Hubert Herkomer, and Pinero. The outlined crane on his blanket is a happy touch, his *Natural History of Cranes* having then been recently published.

Indicative also of his popularity with the younger men of the club is the clever and witty address "To Sixty-six from Twenty-six," spoken by the writer Horace Lennard, then aged twenty-six, to the "Grand Young Man" on his sixty-sixth birthday, November 4th, 1882, when he took the chair at the house dinner. The address, which is too long to appear here, will be found, set out as originally printed, as an Appendix. Incidentally, I may say that the freedom of speech, the ironical advice, the "chaffing," but sincere good feeling running through it, and the touch of genuine sentiment at the close were, and still are, as characteristic of the Savage Club as any of its other peculiar features.

With the record of Tegetmeier's connection with the club, with the friendships made or cemented there, and his clever, caustic comments and witty sayings in the "give and take" of conversation therein; with his work on the committee, and with the events occurring in



"SAVAGES AT HOME."

From the Winter Number of "Society," December 25, 1882.)

and to the club in which he figured, this book could have been filled. But though interesting, it was only one phase of his long and varied life—the recreation of a hard worker—and I must hasten on to its close. The last big event in this connection was the dinner held on November 4th, 1905, “To congratulate W. B. Tegetmeier as a Founder of the Club on entering his ninetieth year this day”—the last time he attended the Saturday night dinners. It was a great night! The chairman was E. E. Peacock, the then hon. secretary, who, with scarce an apology for breaking the “Savage” rule of “no speeches,” made a most eloquent one eulogising “Brother Tegetmeier.” Peacock, although as secretary he must have known that the official age of the club was then only forty-eight, adopted the oldest member’s view, for that evening at least, and said that the club had been in existence fifty years, and that Tegetmeier had enjoyed fifty years’ comradeship of all that was best in literature, in art, and the drama. “What memories must come back to him as he thinks over the past! To-day, entering on his ninetieth year, he is able to say to himself, ‘I am the Father of the Savage Club,’ and he must feel proud of his parenthood.” Peacock concluded a graceful and eloquent speech by proposing Tegetmeier’s health, the toast being drunk with enthusiasm and the singing of “He’s a jolly good fellow.”

The old man, evidently touched by the compliment, said in acknowledging it, that whatever service he might have rendered the club in past years, he had done little for it of late, and the splendid reception he had met with was an ample recompense—more than he expected or deserved. Indeed, an obituary notice in one of the papers,* referring to the famous evening, said, “it was significant of the esteem and respect with which they regarded him, that on the occasion of his eighty-ninth birthday he was entertained at dinner with an amount of enthusiasm which would have gratified a victorious general or an Arctic explorer.” The same notice spoke of his astonishing speech, of the admirable self-control, and the unexpected fluency with which he entertained his hearers with his reminiscences of the days before many of them were born. The speech, which gave his version of the founding of the club, was practically the same which he made at his birthday dinner in 1900, except for his reference to the election of Tom Hood (the younger) and his showing of the original nomination paper, and reading out some of the names of Hood’s supporters. The special illustrated menu, which was drawn by W. H. Pike (the Olivier Pâque of the *Graphic*), represented a great gathering of the “Braves” in full war-paint, hailing their old chief, with sketches of pigeons,

*The *Field* of November 23rd, 1912.

fowls, a game-cock, etc., and the verse from "In Memoriam," quoted by him in his "Reminiscences" presented to the members in 1900, with the comment: "May I express the hope that these lines . . . may be remembered on some future anniversary:—

" 'We keep the day. With festal cheer,
With books and music, surely we
Will drink to him whate'er he be,
And sing the songs he loved to hear.' "

The quotation was a pretty and truly typical touch; and it is a sad reflection to recall that both the genial chairman and the gifted artist predeceased the guest of the evening. Another pictorial compliment, kept as a souvenir by the old man, was the postcard drawn in colours by Charles Collette, and sent by him to the chairman. It bore a caricature of himself weeping copiously because he could not come to the dinner. The deservedly popular actor wrote: "I am very sorry I cannot possibly get to the club to-night: see, I have wept a bucketful of tears and to overflowing. Please make my excuses to dear old 'Teg.'" The guest of the evening left before the close of the entertainment. I believe we all stood up as the frail-looking figure slowly passed from the chairman's table to the door, and many of us wondered if we should ever see him in similar circumstances again: we never did. His portrait, painted for



SAVAGE CLUB DINNER

SAT. NOV. 4th 1905

TO CONGRATULATE
W-B-TEGETMEIER AS A FOUNDER
 OF THE CLUB
 ON ENTERING HIS 90th YEAR
 THIS DAY

E-E-PEACOCK, HM. SEC.
 IN THE
 CHAIR

WE ALEP THEGAY WITH BESTAL CUEP
 WITH BOMBS AND PUICE SHALT FAY HE RE,
 WILL COME AND WEAVE THE WYAL
 AND TAKE THE SORCE HE LIVES THE ALAR.

THE MAY PARADE

MENU

FISH
 TURBOT

SAUCE
 HOLLANDAISE
 ENTREE

CHICKEN
 A LA LEFOURNE

JOINT - SINGIN OFISE - AMIRADON
 SAUCE -

SWEETS - MISCENUES - CARAMEL
 SAVOIR - PATHEMAN STRIPS - JULIENS

THE SAVAGE CLUB MENU ON TEGETMEIER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY.
 (From "The Savage Club," by Aaron Watson; London, T. Fisher Unwin.)

the club by his Fellow-Savage, E. G. Girardot, and presented to it in 1888 (in which year it was shown "on the line" at the Royal Academy), hung then and still hangs in the most conspicuous place on the walls of the large dining-room. He is represented in the jacket and knickerbockers he used to wear when riding his tricycle, in a natural and easy attitude: he himself much liked the picture and commissioned the artist to paint the replica which hung in his chief room at home. Tegetmeier was made a life member (that is, one exempt from payment of subscription) of the club on his eighty-fourth birthday, in 1900, under Rule 4, which confers such membership upon ordinary members who have rendered special services to the club. Although anticipating events, I think I cannot better end this chapter of his life than by quoting the following extract from the Annual Report for the year 1912. "The Committee regret to record the deaths of fourteen members, including W. S. Penley, Whitelaw Reid, Dr. R. Ramsey, George Rignold, Captain Robert F. Scott, Edward Terry, W. B. Tegetmeier and Dr. C. J. Wells." In life Tegetmeier was surrounded by good company in the Savage Club, and in death he was not unaccompanied by the same.

CHAPTER XII.

ON THE "FIELD" AND "QUEEN."

TEGETMEIER'S half-century-long connection with the *Field* and the house of Horace Cox began when he was living at Muswell Hill, breeding and studying bees, poultry and pigeons, and writing books and articles for the newspaper press. It was in 1858 that he removed to his first house in Muswell Hill, the one depicted in the old lithograph reproduced as an illustration in the chapter on "The Bee-master," and his first ascertained contribution to the *Field*, published in the issue of January 22nd, 1859, was on the subject of bees. In the following month his name appears in the paper as that of the judge for poultry at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Preston. After this he became a constant contributor to the natural history columns, and in due course was appointed editor of the Poultry and Pigeon Department of the paper. It was, however, as an authority on bees that he established that connection with the well-known sporting and scientific weekly, destined for well-nigh fifty years to have one or more contributions over his name or from his pen every week—articles and reviews which, if now collected, would fill many goodly volumes.

The family—there were by now three daughters and one son born to the Tegetmeiers—remained some five years in the old, weather-boarded house at the bottom of St. James's Lane, with the big garden Tegetmeier required for his work among bees, poultry, etc., removing in 1863 to another house in the same road. Their stay here was only for about three years: this was the era of railway extension, and the line projected by the Great Northern Railway ran right over the site of the house. The property was acquired by the Railway Company, and Tegetmeier was forced to leave in December, 1867. He took another old-fashioned house in Fortis Green, East Finchley, and in the Finchley district he remained for the rest of his life. The only item of interest connected with the demolished house that I can find, and that is mainly a personal one, is that it was there that Tegetmeier's youngest daughter, and my wife, was born. It was at Muswell Hill too, and about the year 1860, I estimate, that Tegetmeier wrote the letterpress of an illustrated guide-book or souvenir of the district, entitled "Hornsey and the Surrounding Neighbourhood," containing "six tinted lithographs and several engravings on wood drawn from nature by Thomas Packer," and published jointly by the artist and Stannard and Dixon. All I have of this forgotten book, alas! is a worn and faded proof, undated, but

bearing one characteristic touch of the writer's hand. The proof has on the title-page the words: "The Description by W. B. Tegetmeier, Esq.," and the author has vigorously deleted the "Esq." I mention this "unknown work" as evidence both of Tegetmeier's versatility and of the fact that he was, while busy studying natural history and working on the *Field*, not above earning a few guineas by writing descriptive matter for a book of views. I have only to add that the "Description," like all his work, was very well done.

The subject of bees continued, as we have seen, to occupy Tegetmeier's thoughts for a good many years, but he was of an inquiring mind, and when he had learned all he could by first-hand observation he was prone to seek new fields of study; and by degrees apiarian topics ceased to figure among his contributions, although, as the early numbers of the *Field* prove, he was regarded as one of the first authorities of the day on the subject. It was in or about the year 1865 that Dr. Walsh ("Stonehenge") then editor of the *Field*, invited him to assume charge of the Poultry Department of that paper, an appointment no man then living was better qualified to fill. "Dr. Walsh's choice was in every way a fortunate one," writes one who knows whereof he speaks, "it gave a strong and impartial authority wider influence for good by enabling him to appeal to a much larger

audience, and it strengthened the *Field* as a journal appealing to the poultry and pigeon interest. As editor of this department, Tegetmeier found his true vocation."

His position on the *Field* necessarily brought him into closer touch with the industrial aspects of poultry-breeding, and the result before long became manifest in the revision of his views. He had been a member of the "Fancy," which bred poultry and pigeons for curious "points," and held the greatest exaggeration of fancy points the greatest beauty, or at least, the great thing at which to aim. These things were of interest in their way, and possessed a certain scientific value to the investigator of breeding problems, as Darwin found when associated with Tegetmeier in his work on Variation. But fancy points as the main object of breeding were too trivial to satisfy Tegetmeier: as he once wrote, when speaking of his career, "the bent of my inclination has always been the practical application of whatever amount of scientific knowledge I possessed." While he recognised the use these extravagances had been to the investigator of biological problems, he revolted from the school which was content to make these extravagances the main object of breeding; the exaggerated importance attached to them disgusted him, and he resolved to devote himself to the more utilitarian aspects of breeding—with the results we

have seen in the Chapter "As Poultry Expert." Poultry should be bred, he realised, with the object of improving them as layers and for the table, while pigeons, less important as an article of food, could be put to the useful purpose of carrying messages, in the various circumstances above alluded to.

As Tegetmeier's writings in the *Field* alone would fill volumes, and as his work can be seen in the back numbers of that paper, it is neither necessary nor desirable for me to attempt to enumerate the many articles and notes he wrote for it. There are, however, two or three things he did for the paper, which may not be so generally known. For instance, being very fond of art, he took a keen interest in the picture galleries, and for many years he used to visit the exhibitions at Burlington House, and then write for the *Field* an annual article on "Natural History at the Royal Academy." His criticisms of the pictures were not always acceptable to the painters of them; but they had the merit of being honest expressions of opinion, while his knowledge of anatomy often justified his strictures on faulty outlines or impossible positions in the drawing of animals. For false sentiment he had a great aversion, and the "vials of his wrath" would be poured out on untrue and impossible pictures of the sentimental order, such, for instance, as

those professing to illustrate say, the "maternal affection" of the toad, "whose young are hatched in hundreds as aquatic tadpoles and are never seen (or at any rate recognised) by the parent." Another part of his work on the *Field* was the reviewing of books on natural history and kindred subjects; and keen was his criticism and biting was his sarcasm on demonstrable mis-statement, falsely alleged facts or culpable carelessness.

Fearless in criticism and prodigal of his expression of hatred for wrong-doing or injustice, Tegetmeier was always ready for a fight when occasion arose. But he was never the aggressor without good cause, though when he took up the cudgels he fought to the last. Mr. Horace Cox has said of him that though he earned the nickname in the office of "Teggy the Fighter," he was universally liked by his colleagues, and was the easiest of men to work with. From two or three manuscripts I found among his papers I gather that occasionally his articles were too strong, or were judged to verge a little too near the line of libel to be printed. For the law of libel, which presses very hardly on honest writers, publishers and printers, is the constant bugbear of a newspaper office. One such evidently unprinted article deals with the extraordinary apparent secrecy with which the skin of the then newly-discovered Okapi was withheld

from the public and journalists by certain officials to whom it was entrusted, and who, it was alleged, had abused their position of trust by favouring their friends and even themselves writing articles about it. Chapter and verse is given in support of all Tegetmeier's statements, and I feel tempted to publish the article now, as an example of his simple, forceful manner when aroused by an injustice, but the same fear of the law of libel which evidently held the hand of the writer's "chief" is before my eyes: I lose some good copy, and my readers an interesting true tale from the wilds of Central Africa and darkest Cromwell Road.

Yet another minor but still important function Tegetmeier fulfilled on the staff of the *Country Gentleman's Newspaper* was the making of *post-mortem* examinations of birds — fowls and pheasants chiefly, which had come to an "unnatural death," i.e. they had not been killed for the table or shot for sport, and whose breeders or owners wished to know the cause of their untimely decease. To the scientific investigator the task was doubtless an interesting one; it was his colleagues or occasionally some members of his family who "usually objected" to the evidences of his dissective art; for not only would the subjects of his inquiries be kept in his room (or put perhaps on the window-sill in his absence), but when a large number was received

by one post, some would be taken home for dissection at leisure.

Another, and to his family not always much less discomposing operation, was the examining and testing for review purposes of various substances, articles or apparatus sent in to the paper for notice. Those unacquainted with the interior working of a newspaper office would hardly credit the number and variety of articles thus "sent in" to a big paper with the object of getting a favourable notice. From Christmas-cards and calendars to hand fire-extinguishers, from waterproof cloth to sparrow-traps, from patent dew-catchers (for watering pheasants in the open) to anti-tannic teapots, from tobacco and liquors to book-racks and beehives, there was scarce an article of domestic or sporting utility brought out, invented or patented, that did not come into Tegetmeier's hands for the expression of his expert opinion (and if possible praise) thereon. Very thorough were the tests to which he usually put such articles, as his family could testify; for when a thing was taken or sent home for practical trial or experiment on its alleged virtues, everything had to give way to the testing. Dining-room or kitchen, corridor, cupboard or garden, was utilised for the experiment, and woe betide the unfortunate maid or child who upset or disturbed any of papa's "subjects" of investigation. I can, from

personal knowledge, assure the makers or proprietors of any articles sent in for review to the *Field* or *Queen*, which came under the old expert's hands, that they received very thorough attention and were submitted to actual tests before receiving the praise or criticism awarded them in his conscientious notices.

At this time, and up to 1889, when the present palatial offices—printing, publishing and editorial—in Bream's Buildings, Fetter Lane, were erected, the *Field* and *Queen* offices, with those of the *Law Times* and the other publications of Messrs. Horace Cox, were situate at the corner of Wellington Street and the Strand, on a site now in the centre of the new Kingsway opposite the *Morning Post* building, and it was here that the bulk at least of Tegetmeier's work on the *Field* was done. His room was on the top floor of the old building, and if its now demolished walls could have spoken they could have told many a story of interesting visitors; of strange packages of dead birds or curious specimens; of bones and skins; of letters with foreign stamps and rare postmarks; of post-mortems and of lively fighting or critical articles. It was from here that he was hastily summoned to remove the swarm of bees from the portal of the Gaiety Theatre, as told in the chapter on "The Bee-master." Here was it that he wrote on such varied subjects as incubating pythons—the note

he wrote on one such, published March 3rd, 1862, being one of the first of his signed articles in the *Field*; as the axolotl, that strange creature with the Mexican name; as trichinæ in pigs; as albino birds; as hybrids of the rabbit and hare, and other things noted in the chapter on "Scientific Work."

Here I must hasten on to describe his writings for the *Queen*, which though not so widely known to the public as those for the *Field*, since his chief contributions to it were editorial "leaders," and therefore not signed, were nevertheless an important part of his life's work. They covered a period of nearly a quarter of a century, and as they were mainly on subjects of interest to women, and usually of a topical nature, they illustrate the man's versatility, and show him to have been a thorough journalist—alert, "up-to-date," well informed on current events, and able lucidly to express a carefully considered opinion, and a ripened judgment on most matters of general interest. The range of subject covered by these leading articles was necessarily wide, considering the limits imposed by the *Queen* being a ladies' newspaper. One could easily fill this chapter with a mere recital of the titles of these articles, which however were not always of a purely feminine interest, as for instance, those on Alien Workers, Street Collections, Volunteer Firemen, the Opium Commission, and

ghost-stories and *Psychical Research*. But again, it is unnecessary; *littera scripta manet*, and any interested persons, or those curious on the point, are referred to the bound volumes of that paper. Suffice it to say that Tegetmeier's fertility of resource in finding or adapting his subjects was amazing, and the length of time he wrote the leader for the *Queen* was one of the few subjects on which he was really vain, and which, in his later years, he allowed himself the old man's privilege somewhat to exaggerate. The period actually covered could not have been more than twenty years. According to his own statement that he had written over a thousand consecutive leaders, the time occupied would be only some twenty years, and as he gave up writing them in August, 1902, this would place the date of his beginning them about 1882. Towards the end of his life and just after his death many newspapers printed silly stories about him and his work on the *Queen*, one in particular, that ought to have known better, going so far as to say that he wrote the leaders for it from its commencement. The *Queen* was established in 1861, and Tegetmeier did not become its leader-writer for twenty years after that date.

That he was particularly well fitted for the task of writing the weekly article for the *Queen* cannot be denied, for his qualifying knowledge was extensive and peculiar. His early training

as a medical man; his work at a female teachers' training college and for education generally; his knowledge of domestic economy; his accuracy of statement and reliability for his facts, and his critical impartiality, to say nothing of his long experience of life before he began writing it, all combined to form the character and aspect of mind requisite in a leader-writer for an important woman's paper. I have previously referred to the fact that he was an acknowledged authority on domestic economy, but I have not yet recorded that in the early 'sixties Tegetmeier was one of the six specialists selected to pay visits to some of the great industrial works of the country, and write descriptive accounts of processes of manufacture. The several essays thus compiled were published in 1864 under the title of "England's Workshops"; they dealt with foundries, chemical works, breweries, candle and match factories, glass-making and such industries, in many of which women were, and still are, employed. The names of the writers are not appended to their respective articles, but having regard to Tegetmeier's interest in education, etc., it will probably be correct to assume that he wrote those in the section entitled "Domestic Workshops," which describe the making of pianofortes, furniture and other household appliances. The preface, too, of "England's

Workshops" bears traces of his hand in its directness and vigour, and especially where it says: "Ignorance is so obviously the condition of the younger portion of such an assembly (i.e. the visitors to any industrial exhibition) that surely nothing but the fear of innovation, which exercises so depressing an influence in so many of our schools, would have prevented the use of some recognised work on this subject as one of the ordinary reading books." The experience gained on this tour alone must have been of great use to a writer on a woman's paper.

To the writing of the *Queen* leader he gave considerable care and attention, and would make notes of and on subjects or ideas that struck him as appropriate. Often when in difficulty either as to choice of subject or the best way of dealing with it, he would go into the garden and dig for a time, or prune the trees, while thinking it out. On questions directly affecting women he would consult his wife, and always he would get her to read over his article before sending it to the printer. Mrs. Tegetmeier, who for many years before becoming an invalid had given over the active superintendence of household affairs to her younger sister, Elizabeth Stone, was a great reader, and would often mark items of news relating to women in the *Times*, while her memory for dates and her knowledge

of history and other matters were often of great use to her husband. In 1891 he engaged the services of a lady shorthand clerk, to whom he dictated nearly all his articles and press work. Her hand-writing was unusually legible—Tegetmeier never used nor liked the typewriter—she was a careful worker and became of great use to her employer as secretary and amanuensis. Miss E. A. Gerrard remained with him until 1909—many months after he gave up working for the press, writing his letters and attending on him more like a daughter than a clerk. He had a great regard for her, and made an entry in his diary of the time when she began her work with him—he was too old and failing to make one when she left! Yet another of Tegetmeier's functions was the reviewing for the *Queen* of books on natural history, exploration and travel, and other subjects in which he was interested. Especially did he notice books for children, and for many years he "did" the Christmas gift-books. In his old age he was fond of and kind to children, and when his youngest granddaughter was staying at Finchley, he would pet, though not spoil her. In return, she was very fond of him, and had a great regard for her "Gran'pa Teggymeier."

Those behind the scenes in a newspaper office know that there is a continual conflict between the editorial and the managerial staffs—the

eternal conflict between the ideal and the practicable; and those who knew Tegetmeier can easily imagine that occasional differences of opinion would arise between him and the commercial or advertisement department of the house, and this, of course, would be more noticeable in the case of the *Queen* than the *Field*. But everybody knew that "Old Teg's" motives were pure and disinterested: he was a journalist, and not a purveyor of printed matter dressed up to tickle the palate of the public, and everyone easily forgave him an occasional outburst, always of short duration. As one who evidently knew him well wrote in an obituary notice in a prominent provincial paper*: "Among journalists in London he was held in the highest honour. There was no more delightful or kinder colleague or companion, and out of his long experience there was always something of profit at the disposal of his friends. His memories of the Fleet Street of the nineteenth century were full of interest, for he had known in his time everyone worth knowing." A colleague at Windsor House wrote of him that he dearly loved a joke, even when made at his own expense, as when a candid friend once characterised him as "the subtlest of all the beasts of the *Field*." On another occasion, shortly after the publication of his article on the habits of the axolotl, and its

* The *Bath Herald*, November 21st, 1912.



TEGELMEIER, WITH MRS. DRAPER AND SISTER.

(From a Photograph taken in the early 'seventies by Edward Draper.)



transformation as observed in captivity (the *Field*, April 16th, 1870), a Cambridge friend referred to him in a neat paraphrase as having "the wisdom of the axolotl and the harmlessness of the homing pigeon"—a sentiment hugely enjoyed by all who heard it, and regarded by the victim as a compliment.

Referring once more to those conflicts of opinion which inevitably arose in the case of so strong-minded and strong-willed an employee as Tegetmeier, I have before me an old proof of an article on the Women's Suffrage question, which from internal evidence and the fact that it was among his papers I infer was not published, or if printed in the *Queen*, re-written towards its end, where it deals faithfully with what is described as "the worst hereditary disease that can afflict humanity." The increase of this ailment was instanced as the "most marked result of female interference and senseless, sentimental agitation." Owing to this interference of women "acting from the purest and noblest of sentiments, but without the slightest knowledge of the effect of their proceedings," he wrote, "a bitter cry has come from India," where the great majority of the army was invalided with results disastrous to the health of soldiers' wives, and of the children who suffered "unto the third and fourth generation" for the sins of the fathers. "That women and their children should

suffer owing to the ignorant, if well-meaning, sentimentality of their own sex is lamentable in the extreme; but results of this kind must necessarily arise if the business of the Empire is to be conducted after the manner of women and not after that of men"; and he winds up with the question, "What will be the future of an Empire governed after the manner of women when placed in rivalry and competition with States wise enough to remain under masculine guidance?" Years ago, Tegetmeier saw that the conferring of the franchise on women would ultimately throw the entire government of the Empire into the hands of the female sex, since they constitute the majority of the nation. Moreover, he wrote, "there is no doubt whatever that the great majority of women do not want to dabble in the dirty pool of politics." Further, they are not the breadwinners, nor the greatest workers of the community: "they could not fitly legislate for the maritime interest—the most important in the Kingdom, but one of which they practically can have no experience. Of military matters they must ever remain profoundly ignorant. With the police and the practical administration of the law they are necessarily unacquainted. Yet, if female suffrage were granted, all these matters would be removed from the control of men and be placed in that of women, they being in the majority." Had he

lived till to-day there can be no doubt as to which side of the Suffragette dispute he would have been on.

Not wishing to be deemed too hard on the little weaknesses of the great writer whom, naturally, I knew only in his later years, I will give in his own words the following "snap-shot" view of one of Tegetmeier's traits by a close friend of his, who writes: "In his later years he felt that it was his special mission in life to keep his friends right in matters of which he had special knowledge, and it is to be feared that some of them found pleasure in 'drawing' him. A frequent guest at Mr. Cox's house at Hampstead, it was only necessary to lure him into the neighbourhood of the poultry-run to play upon this little weakness. He would bear down upon the enclosures in meaning silence, investigate the fowls and their surroundings with fierce rapidity, and then let himself go! Defects, deficiencies and shortcomings would be reviewed in scathing terms, and the owner called to account without mercy. Mrs. Cox could always appease him by a tactful request for advice on some point of fowl management, and this always had the effect of allaying the storm." In June, 1877, Mrs. Serjeant Cox held a *conversazione* which he attended, as I find from an entry in Mrs. Tegetmeier's diary for that

year; another in that for 1879 records the death of Serjeant Cox under date November 24th, 1879.

The long connection with the *Field* and the *Queen* came to an end in July, 1907. For five years Tegetmeier had ceased to write the *Queen* leader, but he had at least two articles in the *Field* during that month, and he performed some score of post-mortem examinations on birds for that paper. One of his last acts before leaving was to seek the assurance of the continuance of the post of leader-writer on the *Queen* to his son-in-law, and in the letter Mr. Horace Cox wrote him reassuring Tegetmeier on that point, Mr. Cox took the opportunity of making clear the matter of the handsome pension allowed him by the firm, which began on and from August 1st, 1907, and continued until his death. Mr. Horace Cox, in the letter referred to, kindly added the following thoughtful and appreciative passage: "You will be interested to know arrangements have been completed for post-mortems and the carrying on of other work in that department which you ably and faithfully carried out for so many years; therefore there will be no occasion for you to worry about office affairs and disturb your well-earned rest." With this graceful tribute from the head of the firm with which he had been connected for well nigh

fifty years I cannot do better than close this long chapter,* except to add that years previously the house had presented Mr. Tegetmeier with a fine pianoforte, and that among other personal presents from Mr. Cox was a handsome hand-wrought lamp (given in a particularly kindly way) which burned nightly on his table as long as he lived at Finchley.

* Other references to Tegetmeier's work on the *Field* will be found in Chapters XIII. and XV.

CHAPTER XIII.

PHEASANT AND GAME PRESERVING.

To various groups of sportsmen and naturalists Tegetmeier was known as a specialist in regard to the particular bird or beast favoured by each group: to one he was the great bee-master, to another he was the father of pigeon-fanciers; to one group he was "the" authority on domestic fowls, while to yet another he was known as a great judge of cats. But, according to his own paper, the *Field*, the subject of all others by which his name became even more widely known to the public was the rearing of pheasants for coverts and aviaries, an enterprise which of late years has become an important industry, but which was still in its infancy when he published the first edition of what has proved to be the standard work on the subject, *Pheasants: their Natural History and Practical Management, or Pheasants for Coverts and Aviaries*, as it was originally called. Appearing first as a quarto volume, with full-page engravings of the principal kinds of pheasants from drawings by the late T. W. Wood, one of the best zoological artists of his day, it was subsequently re-issued in octavo, as being more suited in that form to the requirements of those for whom it was chiefly

intended. Its practical value will be apparent from the fact that only the year before his death, Tegetmeier's *Pheasants* went into a fifth edition, with beautiful coloured plates from drawings by F. W. Frohawk. The second edition, with the shorter title, was published in 1883; the third edition, enlarged and having the longer title, appeared in 1897, illustrated by J. G. Millais and P. Smit, in addition to the others mentioned; and the fourth edition, again enlarged, was issued in 1904.

Game preservers owe a debt of gratitude to Tegetmeier for his labours in connection with pheasants and grouse, and with the disease that in former years took such heavy toll of pheasant chicks in the rearing-field. It is probable that his interest in these beautiful birds was originally due to the importation of species theretofore unknown in this country, which began about the year 1869. It was mainly the interest of the student of natural history, for the arrival at the Zoological Gardens of specimens of the Argus, Soemmerring's, the Impeyan, the Amherst or other pheasant, was sure to be chronicled by him in the *Field*, with a drawing by Mr. Wood, and all the particulars his wide reading enabled him to add to his own observations. His medical training served him in valuable stead in connection with game-rearing problems, when the disease which wrought such havoc among young

pheasants began to cause anxiety. At this time he was inundated with specimens of dead pheasant chicks, with requests to examine them and report the cause of death and suggest a remedy for the evil. It were hard to say how many dissections he made while on the *Field*, but for a long series of years Tegetmeier's reports on the dead pheasants submitted to him might almost be called a feature of the paper.

He paid many visits to estates on which the disease was rife, and eventually he came to the conclusion that it was chiefly due to the overstocking which had grown up as a direct result of the craze for heavy bags of birds. Landowners and gamekeepers, without other thought than to show a large head of pheasants in the shooting season, had been rearing, or trying to rear far more birds than their land could carry, and the ground became "staled" to an extent which made disease inevitable. One hears very much less of these troubles with the young pheasants nowadays; and this, in the opinion of experts, is due largely to the sustained campaign Tegetmeier carried on against overstocking. One cannot doubt that the great secret of his success with birds, whether domestic or game, was his resolute adherence to the principle that natural methods should be followed as far as possible. This principle underlay his teaching from the beginning: it appears in his earliest book on

fowls and their treatment, written in 1853. In his *Profitable Poultry* he says of the food that fowls pick up for themselves in field and by hedgerow: "I do not think there is any other kind of food which conduces so much to their health and condition."

In pursuance of his "nature" methods Tegetmeier was not in favour of the undue "cooping" of hens when rearing either their own or pheasant chicks, and he even went so far as to advocate the rearing of those delicate birds, turkeys, in a state of freedom. In the last edition (1898) of his *Table Poultry*, he singled out the Elsenham method as an example of the best way of rearing turkeys. This plan includes the keeping of them in the pheasant coverts in which they nest and hatch out their eggs without artificial shelter of any kind, roost in the trees all the year round and generally lead as natural a life as possible. Sir Walter Gilbey refers to this in the Introduction, and he writes further on the point: "We do not keep any hen-pheasants penned; they are suffered to lay in the coverts, and the eggs are collected and hatched out under hens; and when the chicks are put out in the rearing-fields, the coops are placed at least 30 yards apart and moved very frequently to ensure fresh ground." This system of rearing pheasants received in the main Tegetmeier's commendation, but, adds Sir Walter, "it was

characteristic of the man that he should write as plainly of that which he disapproved as of that he approved. My then head-keeper, like the rest of the fraternity, had ideas of his own on the subject of rearing young pheasants, and he confided to my old friend as a valuable secret his practice of giving the chicks Friar's Balsam. This was duly recorded in the *Field*, with the candid assertion that the young birds would do quite as well without it. His medical training had given Tegetmeier knowledge of such medicaments and lent the weight of authority to his opinion on such matters."

Overstocking, whether of pheasants, poultry, or partridges, was the error he sought and fought whenever the question of disease among birds was brought to his notice; and as editor of the *Field* Poultry Department, he had larger opportunities of collecting evidence than any other man in the Kingdom. His views on the subject, arrived at after many years of experience, may be briefly summed up thus: Let the ground carry a natural head of birds; avoid high feeding as detrimental, and so far as partridges are concerned, import new blood periodically. When the advantages of crossing with Hungarian birds were being debated, he took occasion to point out that there "is no magic in Hungarian blood"; the beneficial results observed were due simply to the fact that it was fresh.

“Probably no man,” writes Sir Walter Gilbey, whose experience as a game-preserved gives weight to his dicta, has ever done so much as Tegetmeier “to promote sound and practical views on the subject of rearing game and poultry. His native commonsense and sound judgment, backed as they were by medical training and unequalled experience, gave him a unique authority: he stood alone in his particular department.”

The writer on natural history just quoted is undoubtedly correct in his view that much of Tegetmeier’s authority on game-preserving was due to his knowledge of anatomy and medicine; throughout all his work there ran the golden vein of his love of science, his worship of truth; even in his most practical books he often would “drop into” pure science. Thus, apart from many other quotations from scientific observers in his book on *Pheasants*, he twice quotes from Darwin’s *Descent of Man* passages in support of his own observation or remarks on certain points. I am tempted, especially in view of the kindness of Messrs. Horace Cox, the publishers of *Tegetmeier on Pheasants*, in allowing me to reprint the charming drawing of the Argus pheasant by the late Mr. T. W. Wood illustrating it, to give the following extract dealing with the remarkable display of plumage by the male bird when courting the female. Darwin writes (says Tegetmeier) in Vol. II., p. 91: “The immensely

developed secondary wing feathers, which are confined to the male, are ornamented with a row of from twenty to twenty-three ocelli, each above an inch in diameter. The feathers are also elegantly marked with oblique dark stripes and rows of spots like those on the skin of a tiger and leopard combined. The ocelli are so beautifully shaded that they stand out like a ball lying loosely within a socket. But when I looked at the specimen in the British Museum, which is mounted with the wings expanded and trailing downwards, I was greatly disappointed, for the ocelli appeared flat or even concave. Mr. Gould, however, soon made the case clear to me, for he had made a drawing of a male whilst he was displaying himself. At such times the long secondary feathers in both wings are vertically erected and expanded, and these, together with the enormously elongated tail feathers, make a grand semi-circular upright fan. Now as soon as the wing feathers are held in this position, and the light shines on them from above, the full effect of the shading comes out, and each ocellus resembles the ornament called the ball-and-socket. These feathers have been shown to several artists, and all have expressed their admiration at the perfect shading. The primary wing feathers, which in most gallinaceous birds are uniformly coloured, are in the Argus pheasant not less wonderful objects than the secondary



THE ARGUS PHEASANT DISPLAYING ITS PLUMAGE.
FROM "PHEASANTS: THEIR NATURAL HISTORY AND PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT."
(By courtesy of Messrs. The Field & Queen (Ince) Co., Ltd.)

wing feathers ; they are of a soft brown tint with numerous dark spots, each of which consists of two or three black dots with a surrounding dark zone. But the chief ornament is a space parallel to the dark blue shaft, which in outline forms a perfect second feather lying within the true feather. This inner part is coloured of a lighter chestnut, and is thickly dotted with minute white points. I have shown this feather to several persons, and many have admired it even more than the ball-and-socket feathers, and have declared that it was more like a work of art than of nature. Now these feathers are quite hidden on all ordinary occasions, but are fully displayed when the long secondary feathers are erected, though in a widely different manner ; for they are expanded in front like two little fans or shields, one on each side of the breast, near the ground. The case of the male Argus pheasant is eminently interesting, because it affords good evidence that the most refined beauty may serve as a charm for the female, and for no other purpose. We must conclude that this is the case, as the primary wing feathers are never displayed, and the ball-and-socket ornaments are not exhibited in full perfection except when the male assumes the attitude of courtship. The Argus pheasant does not possess brilliant colours, so that his success in courtship appears to have depended on the great size of his plumes,

and on the elaboration of the most elegant patterns. Many will declare that it is utterly incredible that a female bird should be able to appreciate fine shading and exquisite patterns. It is, undoubtedly, a marvellous fact that she should possess this almost human degree of taste, though perhaps she admires the general effect rather than each separate detail. He who thinks that he can safely gauge the discrimination and taste of the lower animals may deny that the female Argus pheasant can appreciate such refined beauty; but he will then be compelled to admit that the extraordinary attitudes assumed by the male during the act of courtship, by which the wonderful beauty of his plumage is fully displayed, are purposeless; and this is a conclusion which I for one will never admit."

Science, too, was brought to bear on such practical points as how best to kill birds and ground game—best because surest and most merciful, avoiding the cruelty of "tailing" pheasants or breaking a rabbit's hind leg and letting it die slowly in its burrow—neither pheasant nor rabbit being bagged. Thus, in an article in the *Field* on the vulnerable parts of game, Tegetmeier shows that the instantly disabling shots are those which hit the brain, spinal cord, the heart and larger arteries, or fracture the bones of the wings of the bird. The most vital parts in a flying pheasant that may be hit

by one pellet effectively are, he says, the brain, the upper part of the back of the head, the spinal column, the under part of the neck near the head (wounding one of the larger blood-vessels) and the heart. Preferring few large shot which penetrate to many smaller ones, he writes that a single pellet smashing any of the wing bones puts the whole wing out of action and brings down the bird. The *Country Gentleman*, in reprinting the points of this article, refers to it as "one of the best articles on shooting we have read for a considerable time," and adds, "Mr. Tegetmeier only gives us facts, on which he is undoubtedly the greatest living authority."

But not alone did the scientific destruction of game interest him; the preservation of a rare species would occasionally inspire his pen, as when he wrote his vigorous pamphlet on sand grouse, pleading with sportsmen to spare them. It is entitled, "Pallas's Sand Grouse: History, Habits, Food and Migrations; with Hints as to its Utility and a Plea for its Preservation." The first records of the occurrence in Great Britain of these extraordinary visitants from the Steppes of Asia, I find, are given for July and November 1859, when a few examples of the bird hitherto unknown as a British species were shot in England. In 1863 a similar invasion, on a larger scale, had taken place, when the birds were remorselessly exterminated wherever

seen. It was during the second great invasion, in 1888, that Tegetmeier made his bold bid for its protection, alleging, and rightly alleging, that the bird was ready to breed in Great Britain. That the pamphlet had weight is shown by the fact that in December of that year an Act of Parliament was passed for the protection of the bird for five years, "in order that it might, if possible, become acclimatised in the United Kingdom." Unfortunately, legislation came too late—the Act did not come into force until February, 1889, and by this time the numerous packs had been ruthlessly dissipated.

Among other works he published on game and wild birds was the revised and corrected edition (1897) of R. Beverley Morris's *British Game Birds and Wildfowl*. This was one of a series of reprints issued by the late John Nimmo and edited by Tegetmeier, another book being F. O. Morris's *Nests and Eggs of British Birds*, re-published in 1896. "With these subjects," says a colleague on the *Field*, "he unfortunately had no practical acquaintance, and the editorial supervision required of him amounted to little more than proof-reading. Nevertheless, the labour of seeing five royal octavo volumes through the press was not inconsiderable and served well enough the publishers' purpose." Incidentally, I may add that during the season for game, Tegetmeier's table was always plentifully supplied

with pheasants, grouse, partridges and the rarer among those winter visitors labelled "Various" in the game-lists, for not all the specimens sent him were for scientific purposes—their gustatory qualities were also frequently remembered by his many sporting and covert-owning friends. Naturally, he was the best carver of a fowl one ever met, and it was a treat to see him neatly, deftly and artistically cut up a well-cooked bird. He was not a large eater, and it was very little flesh-meat he consumed; but whether he ate little or none at home he always carved "the bird."

CHAPTER XIV.

AS A COLLECTOR.

A MAN of artistic tastes, a lover of poetry, possessing great general knowledge, and of Bohemian habits, it was inevitable that Tegetmeier should become a collector. Accustomed as a lad to frequent Seven Dials and similar "low neighbourhoods" in search of pigeons, he knew well the haunts of second-hand booksellers and keepers of old curiosity shops, and once he acquired the craze for collecting he pursued his hobby with characteristic assiduity. The chief objects of his collecting were rare books and engravings, and his friendship with Seymour Haden, who had been a fellow-student of his at University College, turned his attention to etching and etchers, on the subject of which he was reputed an authority. In the course of years he got together a choice collection of Seymour Haden's etchings, and amassed a large number of etchings and engravings by and after Vandyck. The story is told that about 1865 he picked up for four shillings a copy of Vandyck's "Descent from the Cross," the beauty of which so struck him that he became a Vandyck collector. The collection, which was put up to auction by Sothebys in 1900, made about 150 lots, and included

Carpenter's *Memoir of Van Dyck* and the famous *Iconographie, par Antoine Van Dyck*, and other scarce books and sketches. This was by no means his first visit to these famous auction-rooms: writing of him in 1883, Horace Lennard gives the following sketch of Tegetmeier as an art and literary collector: "Frequenters of Sotheby's and other sale-rooms must often have seen him eagerly bidding for prints and books, whose value could only be appreciated by a connoisseur. His short, thin figure, arrayed comfortably but somewhat carelessly in black, and his animated face surmounted by a black clerical wideawake, must be familiar at many gatherings besides pigeon and poultry shows."

He was a great lover of Shelley, and was fond of quoting passages, both in his writings and in conversation, from that poet's works, of which he made a very fine collection. In the article* from which I have just quoted is a reference to the collection, and as I knew but little about it personally, it would be better to give the passage from the interview. Mr. Lennard wrote: "The most valuable of Mr. Tegetmeier's books, however, will be found in his Shelley collection, which comprises several hundred volumes. These include most of the original editions. Of *Adonais* he has two copies—Leigh Hunt's and Peacock's. Each of these is worth sufficient to purchase

* From the *World*, April 11th, 1883.

a very respectable library. He has one of the few copies of *Alastor*, and a copy of *Laon and Cythna*, dated 1818, suppressed on publication and afterwards issued with alterations under the title of *The Revolt of Islam*. A short time back he picked up a copy of the exceedingly rare *Epipsychidion* for ten pounds. His collection of Shelleyana is most complete and comprises almost every word of importance ever written about the poet. All the *Quarterly Review* articles, the forged letters with Browning's Introduction, and hundreds of interesting reviews and notes are carefully treasured. In this collection is supposed to be the only copy of *The Illiberal: Verse and Prose from the North*, a satire upon *The Liberal*. There is no record of it in the British Museum, and Mr. Buxton Forman has never come across another copy, although it bears well-known publishers' names. Mr. Tegetmeier was led to collect Shelley's works purely from admiration of the poet, and the result is that he has now a most valuable library. He has a wonderful instinct for rare books, and wide experience has taught him to be a most remarkable judge. He seems to possess a keen scent for anything out of the common and his eyes have become sharp from practice. It was only a short time back that he discovered the author of *Vestiges of Creation*, and now possesses a book which contains an advertisement giving the author's

name. This book was suppressed directly after publication, and the secret Mr. Tegetmeier shares with very few people."

Mr. Lennard, however, was misinformed regarding the price Tegetmeier paid for the *Epipsyehidion*. His daughter tells me that he picked up this rarity on an old bookstall in Farringdon Road for a few pence, and she often heard him tell the story of his finding the treasure, which he eventually sold to Mr. Buxton Forman, who also "collected" Shelley, for some £30. Mr. Horace Cox has told a mutual friend how Tegetmeier would often enter the *Field* office, after one of his searches in second-hand bookshops, with a book under his arm, and saying, "I've got a real treasure here!" sit down to pore over his latest "find." Sir Walter Gilbey also tells me that he has reason to be grateful to Tegetmeier's love of old bookshops, for "he never forgot the tastes of his friends, and there are in the Elsenham Library many works which he unearthed during his explorations and secured for me. He possessed an extensive acquaintance with the writings of old authors in many departments of science and economy, and collected old books outside his natural history interests, though such were special objects of his searches."

His natural history library, it goes without saying, was remarkably complete, and included all the standard works, such as Dresser's *Birds of*

Europe and Booth's *Birds of the British Isles*—works of gigantic proportions. He had a complete set of the *Ibis*, the organ of the British Ornithologists' Union, from its first number. "For a long time," writes Mr. Lennard, "one volume was missing, and all his efforts to procure a copy were unavailing. At last he saw in the advertisement of a sale at Huddersfield some numbers of the *Ibis* mentioned among the books. No information was given as to the date or volume, but the chance was a rare one; so our collector, without a word to anyone, took the train to Huddersfield. His pluck was rewarded, for he returned to London with the missing volume." Of "Bohemian" literature also he had a wonderful collection, starting with the *Train* and the *Savage Club Papers*, and many books and pamphlets by fellow Savages, and including many rare, quaint and otherwise interesting curiosities of literature. He had a keen appreciation of the monetary value of his rare books, and would cut out and put in them extracts from dealers' catalogues giving the price current of the particular book or set. He gave my wife his Gaskell's *Life of Charlotte Brontë*, in two volumes, 1857. Inside the covers are several newspaper cuttings of reviews and articles on the subject and a cutting from a catalogue giving the last price quoted for the work.

As a frequent visitor, from my youth upwards, to the Tegetmeiers' house at Finchley, which was within a couple of miles of my father's place at Friern Barnet, I was of course familiar with the appearance of the chief rooms, and though familiarity in my case by no means bred contempt, I think it better to give a friend's impression of them rather than my own. I therefore quote the following passage from the same interview by Horace Lennard, describing Tegetmeier "At Home," in 1883. "Without any pretensions to conventional æstheticism, his rooms present a picture of combined comfort and art. The panels of several doors have been decorated by one of his daughters. On the walls, papered with some of his friend Cutler's pretty designs, hang the tokens of his judgment and taste. Over the mantel is Vandyke's 'Margaret Lemon,' surrounded by various specimens of antique pottery. On the opposite wall is a splendid copy of Paul Delaroche's 'L'Hémicycle,' from the Palais des Beaux-Arts. Here is Rajon's 'Hugo,' here a portrait of Mrs. Seymour Haden by Whistler. The portrait of the late T. W. Robertson, etched by Macbeth, the new Associate, hangs beside the door; near it is a head of Mr. Tegetmeier himself, etched by Herkomer;* also the portrait of his daughter by Herbert Johnson. Seymour Haden is numerously represented.

* Reproduced as Frontispiece.

Among the ornaments are some curious Spanish plates and two rare Dutch pots of green ware recently discovered in the neighbourhood of Rotterdam. In his study, where there is barely room to sit down, so great is the collection of miscellaneous books and papers, are several natural history specimens. In an old band-box, hidden away in a corner, is a collection of chicken bones . . .”

Though not an autograph collector in the ordinary sense, Tegetmeier in the course of his life gathered a good number of signatures of distinguished or interesting people with whom he came in contact. Of his collection of Darwin's letters to himself I have already spoken, and reference has been made to his unique collection of autographs and signed sketches in his copy of the original edition of *In Memoriam*. It was begun in 1870, and this is how he himself describes its origin, in the “Reminiscences” he gave in lieu of the usual ornamental menu, at his eighty-fourth birthday dinner at the Savage Club on November 10th, 1900: “Thirty years ago I chanced in the Club to be reading Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, when Frank Vizitelly, who died recently—it is supposed in the wilds of the Soudan—came to bid his fellow members farewell, and I asked him to sign his name on one of the numerous blank spaces of the book. He did so, and, having the name of one member of the

Savage Club, it occurred to me to use the volume as an autograph book, not only for the signatures of the members, but also for those of others of my friends and acquaintances. It contains the names of many of the most illustrious and esteemed of our scientific writers ; Darwin's only pun, and



MY FIRST APPEARANCE IN AN ORNITHOLOGICAL CHARACTER."

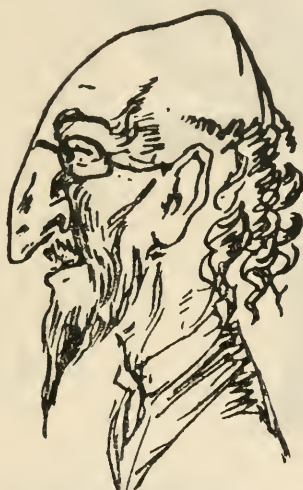
(From a Sketch by Wallis Mackay.)

Faraday's only complimentary autograph appears in its pages." Others are those of Huxley and Newton, and among those of "Savages" appear the signatures of the five Broughs, of Henry Jones ("Cavendish") and J. H. Walsh ("Stonehenge"), of John Hollingshead, John Toole, Geo. Cruikshank, Hubert Herkomer, H. J. Byron,

Edward Terry, Jeff Prowse, Artemus Ward, George Honey, Tom Hood, Paul Gray, Julian Portch, C. H. Bennett, Val Bromley, T. B. Hardy, Wallis Mackay, Hawes Craven, Harry Furniss, and many another well-known member of the Club. Among other signatures are those of Mrs. Lynn Linton, Mary Anne Keeley, Mrs. Fanny Stirling, and Ellen Terry; of Michael Faraday, A. R. Wallace, Frank Buckland and Barry Sullivan, and many another famous or interesting person.

On the numerous blank spaces on the pages of *In Memoriam*, artist friends in addition to signing their names often made drawings of a decorative or sentimental nature, or illustrative of some lines in the text, or frankly caricaturing some expression or idea. Thus Charles Bennett illustrated "that delirious man Whose fancy fuses old and new," with a grotesque sketch of a monstrosity riding a nondescript creature. Edward Draper, one of the original members, and for many years honorary solicitor to the Savage Club, who, "as an artist of the grotesque was rarely surpassed," drew an admirable likeness of himself as a young man in close proximity to that of Ben Caunt, to illustrate the words "as his unlikeness fitted mine." The late T. B. Hardy, making one of Tegetmeier's party at whist, cut out. While waiting for his turn to come into the next rubber, he asked for the book and returned

it before the end of the game, with the addition of a pretty sketch of a sailing ship. Two typical caricatures are reprinted in this book—one by John Brough of the naturalist as a pouter pigeon, and the other by Wallis Mackay, which “illustrates my first appearance in an ornithological character.” Another, a silhouette—it can

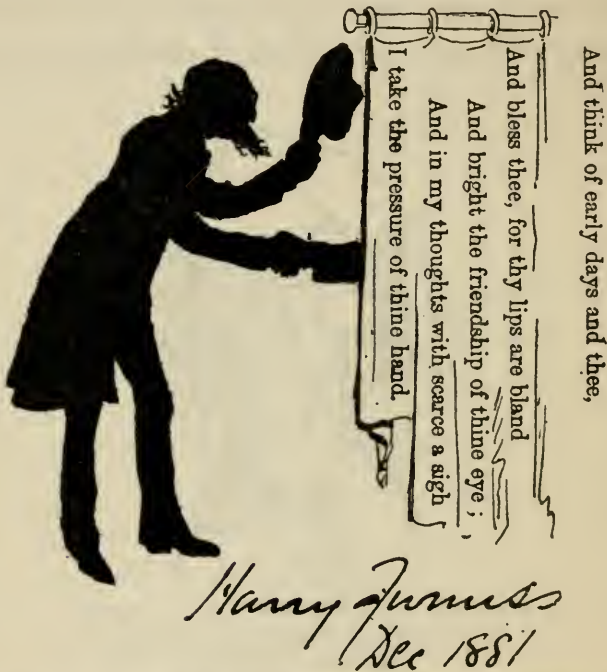


“AN EXTREMELY GROTESQUE CARICATURE.”

(By Edward Draper.)

scarcely be called a caricature—indeed, it was described by the victim as to himself, “one of the most grateful sketches in the book,” was drawn by “my old friend, Harry Furniss.” It is at the bottom of a page held sideways, and illustrates the verse beginning, “And think of early days and thee . . .”

Despite his scientific training and practical bent of mind there was a strong vein of sentiment running through Tegetmeier's nature, and though he sold the Darwin Letters (from a motive to be



AUTOGRAPH AND SKETCH FROM TEGETMEIER'S "IN MEMORIAM."

described later) he treasured up the autographs of his old friends, especially those of the early "Savages." Among his papers is a list of "Members desirous of attending the House Dinner on Saturday the 20th inst."—alas, no year is mentioned! But as Robert Brough, who

“signed on,” died on June 26th, 1860, the list must have been for some date in that year or earlier; the document is at least fifty-four years old. It is signed also by J. C. Brough, Andrew Halliday, C. W. Bennett, George A. Sala, Dr. Strauss and A. P. Flinders. Another long list of signatures treasured up by the old man was his Nomination Paper for the Committee, mentioned in Chapter XI.

CHAPTER XV.

OTHER ZOOLOGICAL WORK.

ONE of the difficulties of recording so long and varied a life as that of W. B. Tegetmeier is on the one hand to avoid the Scylla of water-tight compartments and on the other the Charybdis of over-lapping. Had I attempted to compress his forty-five years' work on the *Field* into one chapter, it would have been more unwieldy than it already is ; while if I tried to record his varied zoological work without mentioning that in the weekly paper, I should leave out many things worth recording. Without further ado then, let me say that his interest in natural history was of the widest, and that the *Field* was but one of the chief media for the outlet of his almost daily increased store of knowledge on that subject ; books followed articles, and lectures followed books. Thus the arrival of a new animal at the Zoological Gardens would be sure to be notified to him by his friend Mr. A. D. Bartlett, the genial superintendent, and the stranger—elephant, rhinoceros, penguin, sea-lion or whatever it might be—received full and graphic description from his pen in the next number of that paper. The information gathered might be extended into a book or a pamphlet, or compressed into a

lecture—given perhaps before the Zoological Society of London, or some other scientific body. Of this Society he became a Member in the year 1866, and an Honorary Fellow in 1905.

Although associated in the popular mind with bees, pigeons, poultry and pheasants, Tegetmeier was interested in almost every living thing—from axolotls to zebras—everything animate was “fish” that came to his “net.” At one time he is to be found contributing the note on the pythoress, previously referred to, which in 1862 made a mild sensation by producing and incubating her eggs in the Reptile House at “the Zoo”; at another, he is writing on hybrids and their fertility or the reverse; now on the best method of treating foreign birds whose wildness in captivity renders it difficult to observe their habits; now he takes up the question of “eccentricities in eggs”; anon he grows enthusiastic over a fine collection of specimens of skulls, antlers or skins, and again, he is interesting his readers as keenly as he himself is interested in the intelligence of performing beast or bird, or he is discussing with shrewdness and insight the capacity of animals for education. He was always ready to pay a visit of inspection to a private menagerie owned by a duke, to the back room of a live-stock dealer in the Seven Dials, or to a travelling caravan that contained an interesting or a performing animal. “Sometimes,”

he writes, "I find myself amidst a number of bird-fanciers in a not-too-respectable beershop in the purlieu of Bethnal Green"; but wherever he found himself, he brought away something worth the telling.

Anything in the shape of abnormal structure had a fascination for him, whether it were beak, bone or antler, and of variations in the plumage of birds he made a special study, as witness the already mentioned work on *Breeding for Colour*. He was the first naturalist (writes Mr. E. D. Cuming) to record the rare phenomenon of assumption of female plumage by the male bird: the converse, adds my friend, is not uncommon. Tegetmeier's writings on such topics bore some resemblance to those of his colleague Frank Buckland, but my impression is that Tegetmeier possessed a wider range and more catholic interests. He retained his interest in those curiosities which are to be found in travelling menageries and "shows" until a late period of his life. Sir Walter Gilbey tells me that once when travelling with him in France, about the year 1898, the presence of a dwarf—or a giant—in a caravan at a fair was mentioned by one of the party at dinner; the old man (for he was then eighty-two) enlisted the services of a French-speaking friend, and directly the meal was over set out to pay the caravan a visit and inspect the curiosity. As illustrating his eagerness of mind where animals

were concerned, the same kind correspondent tells me the following incident: "I recall the occasion when, staying at Loudenne" (Sir Walter Gilbey's estate in the Gironde), "a countryman appeared travelling in one of the dog-drawn carts which are still used by a few of the people in the Médoc. Tegetmeier had been very familiar with the draught-dog in England in his early days, but here was an opportunity for ascertaining facts to compare with his gleanings on the subject in Belgium. The countryman must have been puzzled by the closeness of the examination to which he was subjected regarding the draught-power, staying capacity, speed, feeding and breeding of draught-dogs. Finally we made him mount the cart himself and be photographed in it by one of the party. I say 'finally,' but it struck me as characteristic that his busy brain should have been ready with a few more questions on points which occurred to him during the operation, brief as was the time which it occupied."

It is easy to understand that many of his articles and notes in the *Field* were of a very practical nature, appealing often to industrial interests: in spite of, or rather because of his truly scientific bent of mind, everything he did had utility as its aim and end. He applied his knowledge in dissection and with the microscope, contributing thereby not a little to the sum of general information on points of moment, to the

stock-breeder and the agriculturist. He could and did deal with matters so diverse as the cultivation of silkworms and the germs of disease in domestic animals, where, again, his medical training proved of immense value to him and those for whom he worked or wrote. The fruits of much of his more serious (or purely scientific) work appeared in the papers he read before such bodies as the Zoological, Entomological and Ornithological Societies, particularly the first mentioned. The earliest of these papers—one dealing with Abnormal Plumage in the Domestic Fowl—was read in 1861; the last, so far as can be ascertained, in 1897. These papers dealt with a wide range of subject: in addition to those on bees, pigeons and other matters mentioned, we find him lecturing on salmon-breeding, on new methods of pinioning wild birds, on the great bustard, on the horns of the Cape buffalo and of the domestic goat, on hybrid wild pheasants, on the file-fish, the sternum of the tawny owl, abnormal antlers of fallow deer, the wild cat, the Sumatran rhinoceros, hybrid grouse, the rarity of rooks, and so on. Needless to say, these papers always contained something new of scientific interest, and showed Tegetmeier at his best as investigator or observer. Some of them formed texts for subsequent correspondence with Darwin, as in the case of a curious inquiry into the formation of the skull of Polish Fowl. On three

occasions he delivered Davis Lectures* at the invitation of the Zoological Society, choosing for his subjects "Homing Pigeons" (June, 1876), "Variation in Domestic Animals" (June, 1877) and "The Domestic Cat," in July, 1885. These lectures, being of a popular character, are not published in the Society's "Proceedings," but the invitation to give them is a high compliment, and requires that the lecturer be able to give scientific information in a manner acceptable to a lay audience. I might add that the late Professor Huxley gave the whole series of Davis Lectures in the year 1878. Tegetmeier was also Lecturer to the Agricultural Institute, South Kensington Museum.

Tegetmeier's medical training and his robust common-sense alike made him cautious in accepting data or alleged facts, and there were two or three subjects which acted upon him like the proverbial red rag to a bull. One was the possibility of producing what were called "Leporines," by crossing the hare with the rabbit. This mythical hybrid was firmly believed in by some people years ago, and the theory would crop up from time to time in the pages

* The "Davis Bequest" of £2,000 was left to the Zoological Society in 1870 by Mr. Alfred Davis on condition that the interest should be applied for or towards the establishment of annual prizes, or in any other way the Governing Body might deem conducive to the advancement of the objects of the Society. In 1871-73 the interest was devoted to the Zoological Record Association, to help in continuing the publication of a record of Zoological literature; from 1874 to 1890 inclusive, it was devoted to popular lectures on zoology in the Gardens.

of the *Field*, only to be mercilessly torn to shreds by the natural history editor. Another effective method of rousing him to indignation was to put the query, "Do snakes swallow their young?" The idea that the common viper and other similar reptiles take their young into their bellies in times of danger was for long, and no doubt still is, widely held, and that not only by the ignorant. Tegetmeier combated this theory for many years: it was always coming before him as a member of the *Field* staff, and as frequently being flouted. To the end of his active career as a journalist he offered a reward of £5 to anyone who should send him a viper with her young in her belly; very many snakes were sent him, but it invariably happened that the £5 reward was still to be won. The specimens were sent to the Curator of the College of Surgeons to be dissected, and his report, as that of an impartial person, would be published in the paper, with the usual intimation that the reward was still awaiting a rightful claimant.

In 1868 he was invited to be one of a committee appointed by the British Association to collect evidence and report on the practicability of establishing a close season for the preservation of our indigenous birds and animals. The committee included Frank Buckland, J. E. Harting, H. E. Dresser, and the Rev. B. Tristram, all naturalists of high repute. The Act of 1869 for

the Protection of Sea Birds was one result of the Report which was rendered to the Association early in that year. This Report shows a tenderness for certain species of bird, notably the common sparrow, which did not represent Tegetmeier's views twenty or thirty years later. In the interval he had discovered good reason to revise his opinion on this head, as appears from his vigorous pamphlet on "The House Sparrow," which he characterised as "The Avian Rat." This was published in conjunction with Miss Eleanor A. Ormerod, F.E.S., in 1899, by Messrs. Vinton & Co. Sparrows, in many parts of the country, had then become a serious pest to the farmer, and Tegetmeier vigorously preached the uses of the "Sparrow Club" as a means for the reduction of their devastating numbers. It was one thing to advocate the protection of birds as a general principle, but when a species became so numerous as to cause economic harm, the thing assumed another complexion, and the sentimentalists who urged the cause of "God's little sparrows" received small mercy at his hands. They had no answer to his pointed inquiry whether the farmer also was not the handiwork of the Almighty, and also entitled to protection?

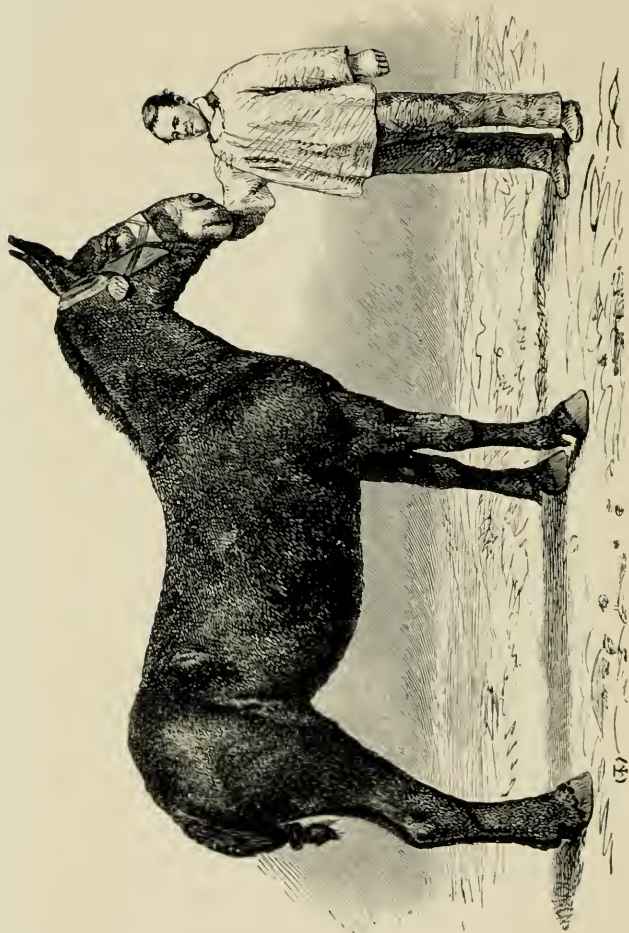
In his preface to "The Avian Rat," he states that it is computed at a very low estimate that the amount of damage done by sparrows in this

country cannot be taken at less than some millions of money per annum. This clever and informative booklet is so peculiarly characteristic of Tegetmeier at his "fighting point," that the biographer is sorely tempted to make several extracts, but space forbids and I must simply counsel readers to obtain a copy (it costs only a shilling), and content myself with two or three peculiarly Tegetmeierian remarks. Writing of the inconsistency of the defenders of the sparrow, he says they do not put their theories into action: they "would join heartily in the destruction of cobras and rattlesnakes were they inhabitants of the countries where these animals existed, and in our own climate they practise as far as possible the destruction of rats and mice amongst mammals, and of cockroaches, bugs, and other personal vermin amongst insects. . . . Some take their stand on the mention of the sparrow in the Bible, not knowing that neither the original Hebrew word *tzippor*, nor its Greek equivalent, means sparrow but any small bird," and he quotes Canon Tristram against them to the effect that the name is evidently generic, applied to all the varieties of small passerine birds. Then he demolishes a leaflet published by the Humanitarian League, and one which states that the bird is of benefit in destroying cockchafers, both in the grub and the winged state, "the writer being obviously ignorant of the fact that the

grubs of the cockchafer inhabit the ground in which the sparrow cannot pick, and that the mature insect flies about only at night, after the sparrows, which are the earliest birds to retire, have gone to roost." Then he shows the absurdity of the statement that sparrows eat the eggs of cockroaches in stables by stating that they are insects "not usually infesting stables, and whose eggs are not in a position available to the sparrow, inasmuch as they are carried in a case by the females." Lastly, referring to "the cant" that talks about protecting "God's sparrows," while it "condones and patronises the destruction of God's rats," he writes: "It is maudlin sentimentality to say that one injurious animal clothed with hair may be persecuted, but not another clothed with feathers."

It cannot truthfully be denied that Tegetmeier was combative and enjoyed a "disputation"; but he was never in haste to form an opinion, and always retained an open mind for the truth, "receiving and weighing evidence for and against with the calm impartiality of a judge on the Bench," as one says who knew him. Before he took up the case of the farmer against the over-preservation of any bird, he examined facts and allegations with scrupulous care. Thus, when the wood-pigeon was arraigned, he made examination of the crops of birds sent him by friends and by foes of the species in question,

and had his own observations confirmed by botanical experts at Kew Gardens before he gave his verdict. The results of such examinations were duly set forth in the *Field*, and if fact and logic could convince, the case was settled. His integrity and impartiality were so well known that he would be appointed arbitrator in scientific disputes, and custodian of specimens alive or dead. The Acclimatisation Society once asked him to house a pair of Wonga pigeons, and as we have seen, his services were often in request as editor to other naturalists' writings. Thus, recognising the value of a series of articles on Cranes, contributed to the *Field* by the late Edward Blyth, one of the most able zoologists of his day, some seven years after Blyth's death he reprinted the series in book form, in 1881, with some additions and many illustrations. Under the title of *The Natural History of the Cranes*, by W. B. Tegetmeier and Edward Blyth, it was published by Horace Cox at half-a-guinea, and proved a very useful monograph on this curious group of birds. It was said of him that he appeared to be largely superior to mere literary ambition, and so long as he got his facts properly established and recorded, he was quite content to let the personal credit go. "He was, indeed," says this Yorkshire writer on natural history, "an adept in finding merit in other men's work, and he would on occasion bring scattered articles



BROWN POITOU MULE.
ILLUSTRATION TO "HORSES, asses, ZEBRAS, MULES, AND MULE BREEDING."
(By courtesy of Messrs. The Field & Queen (Horace Coor), Ltd.)

together and reprint them with luminous additions of his own, as in the case of the Cranes.”

A good example of a work he wrote in collaboration with a living expert is the book on *Horses, Asses, Zebras, Mules, and Mule-breeding*, which he did with the aid of his friend Colonel Charles L. Sutherland, with whom he was brought in touch by his study of Hybridity and Cross-breeding. Colonel Sutherland was largely interested in the breeding of mules for the Army service in India, and had his advice been followed, says Tegetmeier, it would have prevented the need for the importation of some 50,000 mules from America for service in the South African War. This work, of great practical and permanent value, was the fruit of much personal research and enquiry, particularly into the methods of French mule-breeders. I am indebted to the kindness of the publishers, Messrs. Horace Cox, for leave to reprint one of the illustrations to this deeply interesting and informative book.

One of the creatures observed by Tegetmeier was the curious amphibian animal the axolotl, so common in the lakes near the city of Mexico that it is there brought regularly to market and used largely by the Mexicans as food. It was a subject of great interest to scientists, as may be judged from the fact that Cuvier thought it was a larval form which for some reason was

unable to attain the adult condition! All sorts of quaint theories were current, and interest centred in its metamorphoses. However, knowing no natural history myself, I simply quote the following passage from the article on Siredon in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*: "The metamorphosis of the true axolotl, undoubtedly obtained from the Lake of Mexico, seems to have been observed only once—namely, by Tegetmeier in London. That naturalist had five specimens, and one of them underwent the metamorphosis. In 1871 Cope stated that no one had seen the metamorphosis of the true Siredon (*S. mexicanus*), Baird, and that no *Amblystomæ* had been obtained from Mexico south of the Tropic of Cancer, while the true axolotl is found south of that line. He was unaware of Tegetmeier's observation. . . . The axolotl is an example of one of the most curious and interesting modes by which animals may be adapted to their conditions, and two species formed out of one." Into this scientific conundrum I cannot further go; all I know about "Tegetmeier's observation" is the fact that the aquarium in which his precious axolotls lived was kept for years in the dining-room at Finchley, and was considered somewhat of a nuisance by the family, especially as no one dared to interfere with its favoured position in the bow-window.

True to his boyish passion for birds, it was in ornithology that Tegetmeier aspired to be an expert and an authority ; he was prouder of being a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union than of any other scientific body to which he was elected. The letters M.B.O.U. were the only ones he took pride and pleasure in using after his name, although he would of course add the initials F.Z.S. to the author's name in any book he wrote on natural history subjects. The Ornithologists' Union was founded in 1858, and is a purely scientific society. He was elected a Member in 1873, and often contributed to the Union's quarterly journal, the *Ibis*, and he was a frequent exhibitor at the meetings of the British Ornithologists' Club. On his death the Secretary of the Union wrote his son the following appreciative letter of sympathy :—

“ I am desired by the Committee of the B.O.U. to convey to you their most sincere sympathy and condolences on the death of your father. Your father's work was always in the best and truest sense scientific, and they feel that his death removes not only their most venerable but one of their most illustrious members. Permit me, sir, to add my private appreciation of the excellent work accomplished in his time by your father. There are at the present day far too few practical scientific men, and we can ill afford to lose one of the pioneers. Although his work is done, his example will still live. Believe me, with deep sympathy, Yours faithfully,

J. LEWIS BONHOTE.”

CHAPTER XVI.

LESSER SCIENTIFIC WORK.

TEGETMEIER was in a very real sense one of the pioneers of popular science, for while he hated, and often denounced, the pseudo-scientific sentimental stuff which in those days at any rate, frequently appeared in certain philanthropical societies' publications, he himself wrote so clearly and simply that he invested his always technically accurate work with a charm and interest that made it acceptable and intelligible to general readers. Forty years ago there were not many scientific men who cared to, or could write about science in a "popular" way: Tegetmeier was one of the few who could put scientific truths in a way to be "understood of the people," and, undoubtedly, to this gift he owed much of his success. In this way he was a forerunner of the modern advocates of "Nature-study," now so popular that scarce a newspaper exists without its daily note or weekly article on some phase of natural history or botany; there is scarcely an elementary school but has Nature-study in its curriculum, and there is hardly a scholar but has its glass jam-pot "aquarium" in which to observe the metamorphosis of the

tadpole into the frog, or has its copybook of pressed botanical specimens.

Although Tegetmeier resigned his lectureship to the female students of the Home and Colonial Training College in 1866, he took to the last a keen interest in the domestic sciences and the education of women in all matters relating to the home. The Working Women's College and the Working Men's College, as well as the medical education of women, were also indebted to him for timely advice, frequent assistance and occasional lectures. He often lectured on subjects other than that of natural history. Thus so early as 1861 we find him lecturing in North London on "Lamps"—a subject on which he was a great expert, before the days of cheap gas and electric light. In 1873 he gave a lecture before the National Health Society, of Adam Street, Adelphi, on "Modern Dress in relation to Health and Taste." But, unfortunately, he appears to have thought so little of what he probably considered "hack" work, that he kept no record of his "popular" lectures, and it is from entries in Mrs. Tegetmeier's diaries that I gather he was in demand as a lecturer on popular scientific subjects well on into the 'eighties.

His lecturing, however, did not hinder his writing, and his pen was always busy either with original work or in editing scientific books.

Thus in 1864 he wrote a masterly account of the history and progress of the sewing-machine for the *Times*, and when the Willughby Society was formed by members of the British Ornithologists' Union, with the object of reprinting rare and important ornithological works, he undertook the duties of general editor, and himself contributed two volumes to the series, viz., Boddaert's *Table des Planches Enluminées d'Histoire Naturelle* (1783), and, in 1882, Lichtenstein's *Catalogus Rerum Naturalium Rarissimarum* of 1793. A previous remark of mine anent his unselfish devotion to science is borne out by the following, written by a naturalist colleague: "It was characteristic of Mr. Tegetmeier," he says, "to appraise the value of original observations made by his friends or acquaintances, and, if found of importance, to urge their publication, and even where some persuasion was needed, to assist in editing them. In this way he rendered a public service when, but for his kindly collaboration, a useful work might have remained unpublished." Another naturalist journalist wrote of him: "The work of Tegetmeier is not altogether easy to appraise. He wrote and laboured in the cause of science for a term long exceeding the span of an average life. . . . Yet it may be his writings represented the least part of the influence he actually exerted. It was as a mine of information, upon

which his contemporaries were free to draw at will, that he must be chiefly remembered. Few naturalists for the last sixty years can claim that their works owe nothing to the researches, and, in many cases, to the direct personal aid of Tegetmeier."

One of the subjects of which his knowledge is now almost forgotten was that of dogs, on which he was an authority, being especially fond of collies, which he used at one time to breed. As, however, he did not specialise in the canine species, I can find room only for the following anecdote illustrative of his fondness for exploding myths concerning birds and animals, especially those of their alleged "homing instincts." This is one of the stories he used to tell: "A Stock Exchange gentleman—let us call him Mr. Jones—living in Kensington, called upon Mr. Smith, another Stock Exchange gentleman, at his house in Dalston, when he happened to admire his friend's dog. The result was that he was presented with the animal, and later in the evening drove back with his prize to Kensington. The animal, however, turned out to be such a demon, and worried his servants so frightfully, that after a few days his new owner popped him into his carriage and directed his coachman to drive to Dalston. When they got within a couple of hundred yards of Mr. Smith's house, they pulled up, and Mr. Jones,

opening the carriage-door, expedited the exodus of the dog with his toe, and drove off again. The next day in the City, Mr. Smith came up to Mr. Jones in a highly delighted frame of mind, and said, 'Jones, you'll never see that dog again. What do you think? He's found his way home.' That," said Tegetmeier, "is a sample of the homing instinct in dogs."

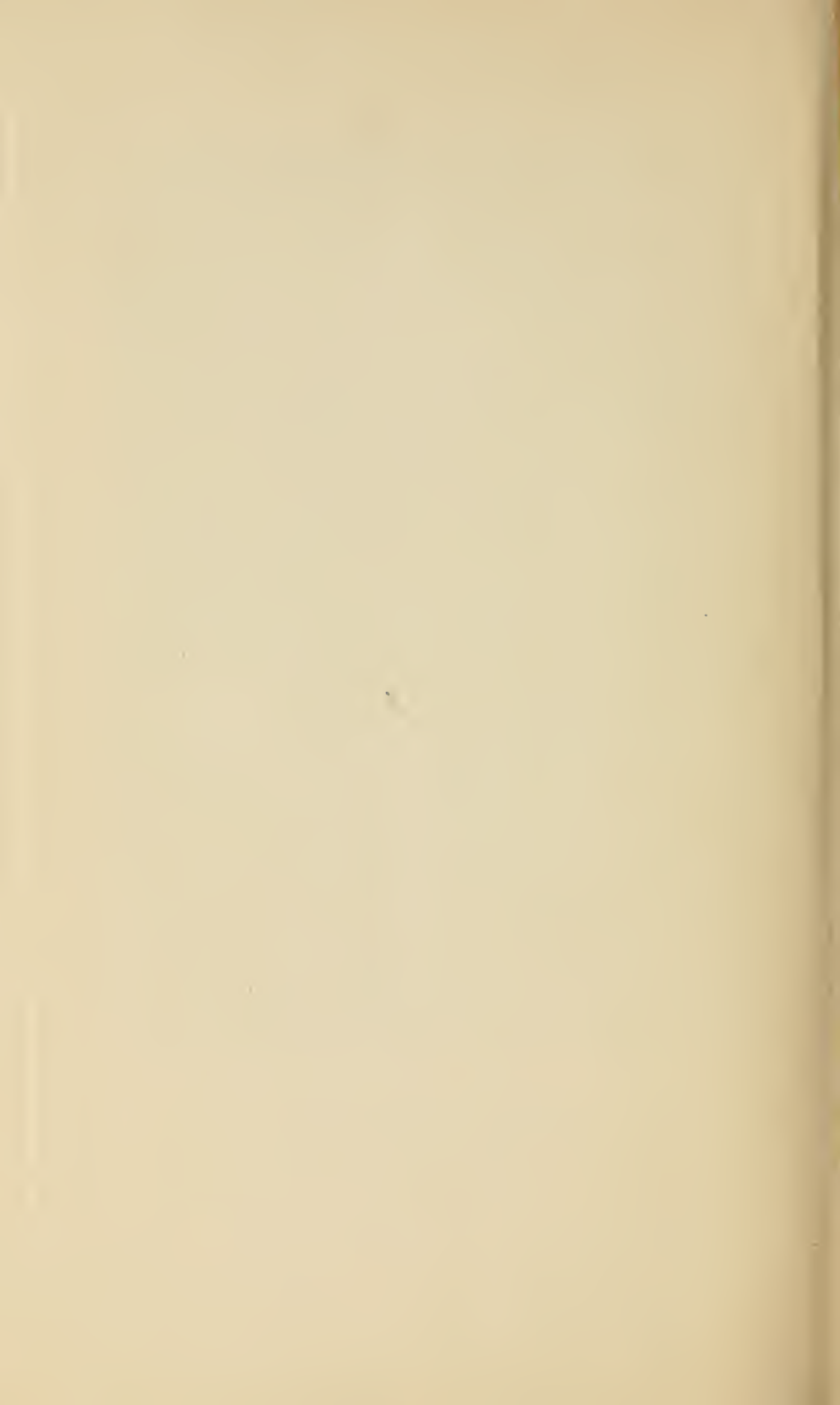
Needless to say, the only dogs he took an interest in were those of a nature useful to man, such as sheep dogs, sporting dogs, Lapland and Samoyede sledge dogs. I am not aware that he ever acted as a judge of dogs at exhibitions, but I have it on the authority of the *Illustrated Kennel News* that his was a familiar figure at the combined dog and poultry shows years ago, and that he is still held in remembrance of the older generation of canine fanciers. Of cats he was an excellent judge and acted in that capacity at many shows a generation ago. And as I have said, he lectured on the domestic variety at the Zoological Gardens in July, 1885, receiving for the lecture £10—the biggest fee he ever had from the Society for a single lecture. A typical story of his cat-judging days is told by a contributor to the *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, to the following effect: "He was a fine judge of cats, and one much in request, and I well remember being much amused on one occasion when he had disqualified a cat, he had



TEGETMEIER AT THE AGE OF 85.

Photograph by W. G. Parker & Co.

[Facing p. 202.]



placed on the pen, 'Dyed—and badly done.' That was just like 'Teg.'"

Among other subjects of a scientific nature that he studied and wrote upon may be mentioned albino birds, the great auk and its eggs, the first African elephant shown at the Zoological Gardens, the trichina in pigs, performing seals, Wonga pigeons, collared doves, the feet of the various species of birds, and, in a pamphlet privately printed in 1881, the convolutions of the trachea in birds. He issued in the *Field* in 1893, and subsequently reprinted, a chart or plan showing the actual sizes of birds' eggs, from that of the tiny humming-bird to those of the ostrich and the huge dinornis, and of the mammoth *æpyornis*—measuring some 13 in. long by 9 wide. He began, but never finished, a work on "Nets and Netting." It was to be—and would have been—an exhaustive treatise on, and manual for, net-making, mending and using, and was to have been brought out in connection with the Fisheries Exhibition at South Kensington, of 1883. The first ten or a dozen chapters were set up in type and even made up in page form, with illustrations inserted, when an incident happened which so annoyed him that he never finished the book. His daughter tells me it was through some woman writer begging the loan of a proof and then using the information thus obtained in an article, the publication of which

and the bad faith shown so upset Tegetmeier that he lost his interest in the work and never finished the book. Whatever the cause, however, his work was wasted and a splendid opportunity lost for publishing a book that is still, I am told, to seek.

In matters purely scientific, Tegetmeier was primarily and mainly an observer, an investigator of facts, and not a deducer of theories—a point referred to by the Rev. J. N. Williams, B.A., in some reminiscences of the late naturalist he wrote in *Monthly Hints on Poultry*. In these, referring to Tegetmeier's research work for Darwin, necessary before the latter could develop fully his ideas on Variation, he says: "Neither always quite hit the truth. And the theory Mr. Darwin laboured so hard to make his own, and to state at great length to the public, has been greatly discredited in the highest quarters since his day. Professor Virchow will have none of it, and he is the greatest living authority of present times. Tegetmeier, Darwin and Mendel were contemporaries. Yet it is a strange thing that Darwin never seems to have heard of Mendel, nor Mendel of Darwin. Mendelism is a fascinating study. . . . Those who have given considerable time to the study of it are in agreement with me that Tegetmeier must have crossed more varieties of poultry and pigeons than most men. I once heard it stated that the late Mr. Enoch Hutton

had crossed every kind of bird, from sparrows to ostriches. But this was palpable hyperbolism. It was quite, and altogether with a different end in view that Tegetmeier made selections, including hybrids, and mated them together with the view of ascertaining how far the different species were capable of inter-breeding. Where some mistake was made was in the final conclusion, drawn from a few matings. For after Darwin's death, hybrids that had been tried again and again by these investigators, in a hotter climate and under a different environment, after some failures, are reported to have produced at least one or two young that eventually lived."

Tegetmeier was, of course, a firm believer in Evolution, but I do not think he troubled much about theories: his life was too fully occupied with facts, with living interests—with men and women and other animals, to worry about abstruse metaphysical ideas. Agnostic he may have been called, but atheist, never—at least justly. He allowed others the same freedom of thought and belief he claimed for himself, and he never disparaged religion. His wife and family were members of the Church of England, to which he subscribed, if not in doctrine, in money, to his last days. Referring to his reputed agnosticism, I asked him once if he denied the existence of God. "My boy," he replied, "how could I, when every leaf on every tree proclaims its

Maker, and is a living witness to the power, wisdom and providence of the Creator of the leaf and of life and of all things ? ” With this I was and am content to leave Tegetmeier’s religious beliefs : they were between him and his Maker—not me and my readers.

CHAPTER XVII.

FAMILY LIFE AND CHARACTER.

LIKE that of many great or even good men, and of men far greater and better than he, Tegetmeier's domestic life was not his strongest point. The best servants of the public do not always make the best parents or heads of a household, and especially so is this possible in the case of a writer or a journalist. The demands of the printer are imperative, and the call for "copy" must receive attention before that of the journalist's family. The true journalist is like a soldier on active service; he must subordinate his private interests and inclinations to the call of duty. But unlike the soldier, the pressman's fight is never finished; directly one battle is won, that is, directly one number of his paper is out, he must think of and work for the next. And so in his early manhood and middle life Tegetmeier had little time for the display of the domestic virtues, especially at first, for when experimenting on and breeding bees, pigeons, fowls, etc., his home was also his laboratory and studio, and domestic amenities and sometimes exigencies had to give way to the insistent demands of science, study, work. His duties as judge at agricultural shows, his lecturing and his visits to game-preserving

estates, and official tours, all took him away from home a great deal, while of course they increased the pressure of his journalistic and literary work when he got back. Consequently he was not only often away, but when in town he usually returned home late at night. Thus, often the children would be in bed when he came home, and off to school before he saw them in the morning.

He was, however, an affectionate husband and father, and an indulgent grandfather. His grandchildren came late in his life, when the stress of it was over, and he had time and opportunity to display the affection and even sentiment of his nature. He gave his son and daughters an excellent education, and put them in a position to earn their own living. The four daughters were trained for and became teachers—of art, cookery, needlework and so on, and his son became a journalist, specialising in the sport of cycling, and in general natural history, on the staff of the *Field*. Two daughters predeceased their father—the eldest, Edith, who after keeping a girls' school for some time in north-west London became a hospital nurse, and Marion, the fourth child, who inherited her father's artistic gifts, and had she lived, might have developed into a very clever painter of birds and flowers. Another daughter achieved considerable success in technical education under various

public bodies in Melbourne, Australia, and the youngest acted in a similar capacity for the London, Northampton, Aberdeen and other County Councils before marrying, in 1897, her father's future biographer.

Of his son's three children and his youngest daughter's little girl, Tegetmeier was exceedingly fond, and as I have said, he was far more indulgent to his grandchildren than he had been to his own—he could not bear even to hear me reprove my little daughter for some childish misconduct for which, at her age, her mother would have been scolded by him. He had a very pleasing way with his grandchildren when little, and would often take great pains to amuse or interest them. If, for instance, he gave the small child a piece of money, he would wrap it up in many pieces of paper, or make pretence of its being a penny instead of the shilling which eventually came to light. Or, if when writing to my wife, he would enclose a gift for his grandchild, it would be inserted skilfully in a cleft piece of cardboard, under special cover addressed to the child, or in some way or another it would be disguised or tricked in a manner to enhance the pleasure of its receipt. Besides money he would give his grandchildren books at Christmas and on their birthdays. He would take his little granddaughter into the garden or the lanes and talk to her of trees and flowers and animals, and the

child, usually shy, would prattle freely with her grandfather, with whom she felt no restraint and was always "good friends." This companionship of the old scientist and the little child was very charming, and, to me at least, Tegetmeier rarely appeared to greater advantage than when sympathetically listening or gravely talking to his infant granddaughter.

His great practicality of mind was illustrated by his remark, when once I asked him to go for a stroll with me: "I never went for a walk in my life!" and this I believe was true up to the time of which I have just spoken, and on which, with a parent's pride, I have been tempted to dwell too long. And in the same sense he may be said never to have taken a holiday in his life. He went to Belgium several times in connection with pigeon-flying, and he accompanied Sir Walter Gilbey on several occasions to Loudenne, though even there he was never idle. The Riviera was the utmost limit of his journeyings from his native land—a somewhat strange fact when his interest in foreign animals and birds is considered. He "lived in and for his work," as Sir Walter says; and his judging at shows and the other expeditions he frequently had to make, seemed to give him ample change of air and scene. For now he would be at Heathfield collecting information for a Government department on the poultry industry as pursued in that district:

now in the north of England, to inspect and report on some poultry venture upon which a county council had embarked, and which, by reason of the sanguine ignorance of its promoters, was not flourishing ; and now, again, he would be visiting Ireland in connection with poultry or pheasants. But whether asked by council or landed proprietor, or whoever it was, he might be depended on for giving the unvarnished truth, for he never minced matters either in speech or writing. As Mr. T. F. Plowman, secretary of the " Bath and West " Society writes : " His sterling independence of character was always an assurance that you would have an honest opinion from him upon any subject. . . . A point which always struck me was his extraordinary versatility. He seemed to be the master of so many subjects, for whether it was a question of art, science or literature, he had always something to say worth listening to. . . . It was very delightful to find anyone, in old age, so fresh and enthusiastic as he could be in discussing topics in which he had a special interest. The society were indebted to him for many useful suggestions in connection with the poultry prize list, and in fact, some years ago we remodelled it in accordance with his suggestions, so as to make it of more practical utility."

When on the expeditions above referred to, he

did not forget his home ties, and generally wrote to his wife, if not always long letters, notes and scraps of news, especially of any jokes arising out of his situation or in conversation with his friends. A specimen of a "joint note" begun by him and finished by Sir Walter Gilbey, whose guest he was at the time, is the following, dated from the Norfolk Hotel, Brighton, November 30th, 1903—evidently one of those brief holidays which Sir Walter alone seems to have had the power of persuading him to take: "My dear Wife, I reached here alright. Sir Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Hine and a friend, are the only parties here. I propose to come home Tuesday, but shall be late. The new surroundings have made my head much better. I have been out for a drive with Sir Walter, but it was very cold, and promises to be a hard frost to-night. Sir Walter sends you his fond love . . ." The last three words are in Sir Walter's handwriting, as is the rest of the letter. "My dear Mrs. Tegetmeier, I am delighted to see your husband looking so well; he is, as usual, full of fight and nonsense,—pray do not let him prejudice you against me. I fear he has, but rest assured the bundle of papers and postcards which he receives are sent on to him, I being the medium to receive and forward them on. I am so glad to know you are getting through the wet, cold, miserable days without a cold. Unfortunately I have a nasty cough following

a bronchial attack. My daughter sends her love. Yours very sincerely, Walter Gilbey."

Tegetmeier was always exceedingly fond of joking, which he would sometimes carry to the length of teasing, and even into the giving of presents. The following epistolary joke I thought pretty good at the time—especially the accompaniment. It was my own letter to him, returned



AN 89TH BIRTHDAY CARD.

to me, with only some four words altered and written over in green ink. I happened to be interested in a friend's effort to popularise in England the Spanish claret known as Rioja, and sent Tegetmeier a bottle at Christmas, 1898, with the following note—the persons mentioned

were, of course, my infant daughter and my wife. I wrote: "Dear Father-in-law,—Will you kindly drink Sylvia's health on Christmas Day in a glass of claret,—which I hope you will like, as Sally does. With best wishes," etc. Two days after he returned the note amended to read as follows: "Dear Son-in-law,—Will you kindly drink your Mother-in-law's health on Christmas Day in a glass of champagne, which I hope you will like, as mother does. With best wishes for a Happy Christmas. Yours sincerely, W. B. Tegetmeier." Only four words and the signature altered, yet a very characteristic communication!

Up to an advanced age he hated to be thought physically weak, and indeed he always was remarkably strong in body as well as vigorous in mind. My brother John, who through his becoming acquainted with Egbert Tegetmeier in the old Finchley Cycling Club days, was the means of the original friendship between our two families, tells me that he gave Tegetmeier lessons in bicycle riding after he was seventy years old, though he did not persevere with that form of locomotion, preferring a tricycle, which he rode up to practically the age of ninety, and on which, as a man of eighty he did some wonderful work, riding out with the Finchley Tricycle Club on many a long run. Sir Walter Gilbey gives me also the following in illustration of the old man's objection to help or sympathy on account of

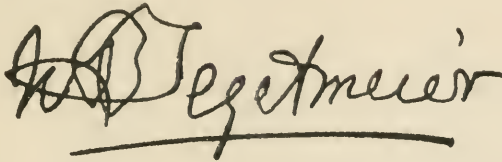
advancing age: "I well remember," he writes, "the vigorous fashion in which he fell foul of a kind but mistaken friend who attempted to relieve him of a heavy rug he was carrying one hot day, a burden for a man many years under the eighty-four years Tegetmeier had then passed; the jocular friend who came to the rescue with an appeal to him to carry a bundle of macintoshes as well, had a very different reception. Tegetmeier accepted the load at once, as a compliment to his strength."

Although he suffered from an occasional touch of gout during the last few years of his life, he remained wonderfully active, and retained his interest in many of his old pursuits. Again I am indebted to the same correspondent for an indirect illustration of this, so late as his ninety-second year, in the following letter from Sir Walter, dated October 13th, 1908: "My dear Teg.,—I am sure you must think me unkind for not writing you earlier. The fact is my house has been full of shooters and many strange, odd men; amongst them Percy Percival and Sir Richard Green Price. I regret to tell you Percival is as mad as ever—marking eggs, laying competitions, breeding for feather and other 'asinine' ideas! Sir Richard is, if anything, worse on the horse question, believing there is no other breed but Welsh cobs and Mountain ponies; worse still, he says the failure of your book *Horses, Asses*

and *Mules* is due to the fact that Welsh ponies and horses are not mentioned therein." I believe the old man hugely enjoyed the joke, for of course his book on horses, zebras, etc., had been a great success.

In his old age, at any rate, Tegetmeier lived with the greatest simplicity, eating simple food and drinking very little wine; spirits he had rarely drunk, and latterly he became, at any rate in theory, an abstainer. After his retirement from the *Field* in 1907, and especially when his eyesight became dim and he could no longer read, he began to realise that his powers were failing him, and he would often write, through his secretary, letters bewailing his infirmity, which he then characteristically enough exaggerated. In a letter to his old friend whom I have so often quoted, he wrote years before his break-up: "I am afraid I am breaking up. I am very tender-footed indeed, and getting blinder every day, but I can't expect to go on for ever." And to me he wrote in 1907, just five years before his death: "I am very much obliged to you for the cutting and your letter. I am sorry to inform you that my sight is rapidly decreasing and I feel in a very unsatisfactory condition; my mental powers are breaking up rapidly, but what can a man expect at ninety-two? Mother sends her kindest love to you all, and will be glad to see any of you at any time." The "Yours

sincerely," and the signature, were written in a firm hand which belied the infirmity alleged in the letter.



H. B. Tegetmeier

Although he made much of his growing infirmities he had no fear of death, and his object, I believe, in so often referring to them was simply to gain more sympathy, for he was, in some respects, an exceedingly sentimental man. After 1907, when he had no business to occupy his mind and time, and his weakened eyesight prevented him reading the newspaper and books, his mind naturally turned more and more on himself and his family affairs. He spent much time in discussing the provisions of his will (he had unexpectedly received a handsome legacy from a distant cousin a few years before) and in disposing of his belongings to the different members of his family. Many articles of value or interest he actually gave away, while to heavier pieces of furniture he carefully affixed labels bearing the name of the beneficiary and his signature, and sometimes that of a witness. He kept a special note-book in which he entered the names of his children and relatives and a description of the article or things chosen by

or apportioned to each. Years before this, on giving up his interest in pigeons, he presented to his friend A. H. Osman, editor of the *Racing Pigeon*, all his books on the subject, as related in Chapter VIII. So many books, curios and ornaments and other things were thus disposed of long before he left Finchley for his son's house at Hampstead, that many of the rooms at Alexandra Grove were painfully depleted of their proper contents. It often struck me as pathetic, but to his practical mind that aspect of his unselfish action never seemed to occur. It was from similar reasons, and because he knew more about their value than did we, that he disposed of his collections of Shelley, Van Dyck and the Darwin letters some considerable time before his death.

Tegetmeier was a man of great physical courage, and once when a burglar broke into the house and the old man of ninety years was awakened by the cries of his sister-in-law, he seized a sword-stick, which he kept handy in his bedroom, and rushed to attack the intruder, without waiting to don normal attire. But by this time the burglar, alarmed at the outcry, had escaped through the window he had opened to enter. Tegetmeier always kept this very effective weapon (it now hangs in my room) in his bedroom (not in the hall for the intruder to use against himself, as he said) as well as a loaded pistol, and of later



TEGETMEIER'S LAST FINCHLEY HOME:
No. 16, ALEXANDRA GROVE.



years a revolver, with which he said he would shoot at the legs of a burglar, and I am quite sure he would have done so had the occasion arisen. Although the opposite of superstitious, he objected to being in the dark, but this was, I believe, because of his defective eyesight; he would always have the lamps lighted as soon as it became dusk, and he rather liked the night-light Mrs. Tegetmeier's invalid condition too often rendered necessary.

All through his life he objected strongly to convention, fuss and ceremony, and although he became a Freemason he took no interest in the Craft, and soon left his Lodge. He was initiated in the Savage Club Lodge (No. 2190) in 1887, and was regularly received into Freemasonry on June 7th, 1888, being thus one of the earliest members, for the Lodge was only consecrated in January, 1886. I have heard it said that Tegetmeier left off attending the Lodge meetings because he objected to the continual references in the Masonic ritual to "the Great Architect of the Universe"; but this was not so, it was the ceremonial *per se* that he did not like. Nor would such an objection be consistent with his whole life, or with the remark he made to me one wet Bank Holiday, when I innocently complained of the rain falling on the people's holiday: "As if God," he said, "was going to alter His settled principles of ruling the world

for a few folks' enjoyment!" Intolerant of ignorance, impatient of opposition, he certainly was, but never intolerant of the religious beliefs of others. He was violently opposed to the Anti-Vivisection agitation, and strongly objected to most of its methods of propaganda, but he never wantonly inflicted pain on any sentient creature. Pessimistic he was in illness and towards disease, and he advocated the putting of stricken birds and animals out of their pain rather than the nursing of them back to health, especially among laymen and amateurs.

One of his strongest traits was his intense patriotism and loyalty to British institutions—his love of the land of his birth and his mother's native country. Despite his German name and possibly even Jewish ancestry, he knew no word of German, nor encouraged his children to learn it; he was conservative to Toryism, and a true "John Bull" to the tips of his fingers. Although a real "Bohemian," and not much of a politician, he deemed the Reform Bill of 1832 a harmful error, and was against the lowering of the franchise in any form. Another of his traits was a fondness for games such as whist, backgammon, chess, draughts and dominoes, at which he was very skilful, and an exigent partner and a keen opponent. In his latter days his greatest fits of depression or irritability could be instantly dissipated by the offer to play him a

game of dominoes, which he had learned from a Frenchman, and which in his hands became a veritable game of skill. At lawn-tennis, too, he had been a good player, well up into his 'sixties.

In December, 1908, his eldest daughter Edith died rather suddenly, and Mrs. Tegetmeier, who had long been failing, did not recover from the blow, and followed her first-born within three weeks, passing away on January 2nd, 1909. The death of his eldest daughter, and especially that of his wife, proved a great shock to Tegetmeier, and one from which he never really recovered. Almost at once he sank into his second childhood, with all a child's waywardness and irresponsibility. His bodily health was practically perfect, and in many respects his mental powers were as alert as ever. For some six months my wife kept house for him, and it was at this period, during which I was brought into close touch daily with the old man, that I was enabled more closely to see into his character, to glean facts and traits, and obtain glimpses into his early life and the time before I had known him. That he had his trying moments it were useless to deny: it was certainly hard at times for his erstwhile dominant mind and commanding temperament to sink into "the lean and slipper'd Pantaloon"; but he was wonderfully patient on the whole, and, as I

have said, the offer of a game of dominoes would pacify his most petulant outbreak.

In the summer of 1909 we persuaded him to leave the big (and but for his daughter and granddaughter's presence, desolate) house at Finchley, and to live with his son at Hampstead. Here he lived happily enough for nearly two and a half years, failing in mental and bodily powers so gradually that one scarcely noticed a change. Increasing infirmity, however, at last made it desirable that he should receive more skilled attention than was available in an ordinary household, and he was put under the personal care of a neighbouring medical man, with trained nurses to attend to his every want. The last time I saw him he was so (comparatively) strong that I quite anticipated his being with us for some years yet, and we spoke, more in earnest than in joke, of the likelihood of his reaching his hundredth year. And so the end came suddenly—as it nearly always does, or seems to come—and on November 19th, 1912, he passed peacefully, painlessly away; as his daughter, who was present but not recognised by him, put it, he “just drifted out of life.” He was buried in the same grave that held his wife and daughters in the Marylebone Cemetery, Finchley, on November 23rd, 1912.

By his death a valuable public servant was lost; literature and science mourned the loss of

a friend, and a gap was made in several circles, social and family, which is hard if not impossible to fill. As one has said, he was "a distinct individuality whom it was difficult to fit into any of the ready-made schemes of social classification." He might be said, in fact, to have been "a striking example of his favourite biological principle—the tendency of the individual to vary from the mean of the type." "A good specimen of that sane eccentricity which never rises to the height of genius nor sinks to the level of unamiable crankiness, he possessed the peculiarities of several of the varieties into which men may be divided without belonging definitely to any one of them. If he was not a great man, he was, at any rate, a great character."* "He had done," says a naturalist friend, "his self-appointed task with rare singleness of purpose and devotion. All that he could have asked would be that it might be of some lasting use to the world." By Tegetmeier's death the last link between the old school of ornithologists and the new was broken. For many years the race of Early-Victorian giants had been represented by his venerable figure. Darwin and Yarrell, Sir William Jenner, Dr. Lankester and Dr. W. B. Carpenter, were his friends and co-workers. Prof. Newton, Howard Saunders, Henry Seebohm, Bowdler Sharpe, Lord Lilford, all builders in the

* *The Daily Telegraph*, November 21, 1912.

walls of natural history, belonged to a later generation: yet all predeceased him. With the passing of Tegetmeier, it may be said that a great line became extinct.

In the letter of condolence from the secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, quoted at the end of Chapter XV., there are two expressions—"one of the pioneers," and "his example will live on"—which unconsciously illustrate and justify my motive in attempting this memoir of W. B. Tegetmeier. It was largely because I knew my late father-in-law was one of the most earnest and honest of pioneers in popularising a love of true natural history, and because I believed his example worthy of imitation in spirit by present writers on the "popular" aspects of that science, that I undertook the task. And in the carrying out of it I can only hope that my ignorance of this branch of science which Tegetmeier made his own, may be excused by my enthusiasm for the student and for the study of Nature, which is to me, at least, the servant of real Religion.

APPENDIX A.

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APPENDIX B.

TO SIXTY-SIX FROM TWENTY-SIX.

Lines spoken at the Savage Club House Dinner,
Saturday, November 4th, 1882.

W. B. TEGETMEIER in the Chair.

DEAR Braves and Brother Savages, here at our board to-night
Sits one of us, on whose behalf indulgence I invite;

¹ 'Tis he who occupies the chair, a youth to whom, I pray,
You'll let me give some sound advice upon his natal day.

To him I turn. Young man, I see your summers have been few,
While on my hoary head there lies the weight of '82;
This is your birthday, and I wish to warn you and advise
How you your name and future deeds may best immortalise.

² The path of youth, beset with snares, is hard to walk and rough,
Be careful when you take to drink you always—drink enough;
Keep sober—in the morning, if at night you'd be a man,
And when you meet with ladies *do* be moral—if you can.

¹ The occasion was the Chairman's birthday. Mr. Tegetmeier, one of the oldest members of the Club, was born November 4th, 1816. ² He is shockingly temperate, and most disgustingly moral.

Shun Savage Clubs ; to use them much will keep you out of bed,
 While probably next morn you'll feel the club upon your head ;
¹ On no account allow yourself to be upon Committee,
 For if you do, you'll forfeit every claim to praise and pity.

² Of poultry and of pheasants you should be extremely shy,
 And if you fancy pigeons let them be within a pie ;
³ Don't be a pouter, for to pout in young men is improper,
 Nor imitate a tumbler, or perchance you'll oome a cropper.

Have nought to do with soiled doves, and never keep a nun,
 For where, sir, could you carrier, when everything was done ?
 Some men to raise themselves in life involve themselves in chains,
⁴ But you may elevate yourself without the aid of Cranes.

I trust you will not learn to write, for that you know is wrong ;
⁵ With Fellows don't associate, nor to the Zoo belong ;
 But if to fascinations of the betting ring you yield,
⁶ You oft may land a monkey if you will but back the *Field*.

Of women I have warned you ; if my warning you defy,
 And choose to stand among them, let your aim be true and high ;
 Be pushing, bold, and resolute, and some day 'twill be seen,
⁷ Your leading article may make a column for a *Queen*.

⁸ Don't study evolution, peradventure you should find
 Your ancestors have left some long and ugly tales behind ;
 Don't be a bibliographer, leave that to older men,
⁹ Old books and prints are very well when threescore years and ten.

¹⁰ Don't try to make a bicyclist, nor ride three wheels yourself,
 A boy upon a tricycle does wrong to spend his pelf ;
¹¹ But when your hair is grey as mine, in knickerbocker dress,
 You then can dash about on wheels and be a big success.

¹² Let me conclude by hoping naughty words you ne'er will use ;
¹³ Companions wild and dissolute be careful not to choose ;
¹⁴ And learn geography, my boy, and then you will not go
 To Antwerp or to Rotterdam again to find the Po.

I trust that you will live to see in many future years
 This day return with Savage joys and never bringing tears ;
¹⁵ When you grow old, may all of us who now your features scan
 Be here to wish great happiness to you—OUR GRAND YOUNG MAN.

Horace Lennard.

¹ He is a Member of the Club Committee. ² He is the author of several books on these subjects. ³ He is the first authority on pigeons, and a well-known fancier. ⁴ He wrote "A Monograph on Cranes." ⁵ Is a prominent Fellow of the Zoological Society. ⁶ Has been on the staff of *The Field* newspaper for a quarter of a century. ⁷ Writes the leading articles in *The Queen*. ⁸ Worked with Darwin. ⁹ Has a fine collection of rare books and engravings. ¹⁰ His son won the first 100 miles bicycle race. ¹¹ He is a tricyclist himself. ¹² His language is unimpeachable. ¹³ So are his companions. ¹⁴ A recollection of a journey undertaken by six Savages during the preceding month, and of some trophies they brought home. ¹⁵ Amen.

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