

INTELLIGENCE OF ANIMALS

Everyone has seen trained animals count or at least, give the impression that they count. Most of this is performed by means of signals the trainer makes which are understood by the animals. Such signs are often gestures by the hand, tone of voice or stamping of the foot.

But there are untrained animals that can count—not up to the ordinary six or 20 numbers that about limit the abilities of horses seen in shows but rather to 30 or even 100. One of these cases was demonstrated in Hainault, a frontier province in Belgium. Here horses are used to haul loads of ore over a little roadway and back by another route, as the tunnels are narrow. Thirty such trips constitute a day's work and without a word or sign from the drivers these horses will start for the great incline to the stables at the end of the 30th trip. In many cases the drivers do not keep count of the trips, knowing the horses will do so.

But even this has been beaten by oxen. In the royal gardens of Susa where oxen are employed to turn the wheels to which water pails are attached they absolutely refuse to do more than 100 rounds, as that is their day's work. The work consists of having the oxen travel in a circle, keeping the waterdrawing wheel in motion and on the 100th trip around the circle they will stop.

It is also stated that wild apes can count to four and in order to hunt them five hunters must start out and four leave the place in such a manner that will attract the animals. After the fourth hunter has gone the apes will come out from their cover, but they will never come out until four hunters have been seen leaving the place. Naturalists claim the same to be true of magpies and crows.

FISH AND FAIRY TALES

It is but a step from the sublime to the ridiculous, it has many times been declared. "Fish stories" are no recent acquisition of the human family and they are but a step below the "fairy tale" in effect, as the following will bear out:

In an early history of India it is recorded that a maiden named Sakantala lost a highly prized ring which was brought back to her by a fish. Through this incident King Dashyanta recognized and married her. According to one version of the story, a little golden fish plunged into the water and brought out the ring. Another has it that a fisherman found the ring in the stomach of a fish he caught.

There is a legend to the effect that King Solomon had a valuable signet ring which, besides the symbol of monarchical authority, was believed to possess certain wonderful talismanic properties. The King one

day entrusted this highly prized trinket to a favorite beauty of his inner household. In some manner it was filched from her hand by Satan who assumed the form and appearance of Solomon and with the symbol of power and authority in his possession successfully established himself on Solomon's throne.

After a time Satan tired of playing king, threw the ring into the sea and gave up his royal job. The glitter of the ring as it sank attracted a fish which swallowed it. Later a fisherman sent a mess of fish to the royal palace and when the cooks began to prepare them for the table they found the precious ring in the stomach of one. The ring was returned to Solomon. With it in his possession he once more enjoyed all of the dignities and perquisites of the kingly office.

In Persian history there is a story of a fisherman who had the good fortune to find a valuable diamond in a fish. He placed the jewel on a shelf in his home where it glittered and shone so brightly that he no longer had to buy oil for illuminating purposes. The fame of the gem traveled far and at length he sold it for a sum that made his family perpetually wealthy.

THE OLD HORSE REMEMBERED

Near the hour of 12 one night last fall a big gray horse deliberately walked into a garage at Columbus, Ind., unattended. Without looking or turning to left or right he made his way directly to a trough containing water, took a hearty drink and then made a bee-line for a secluded corner of the building where he prepared himself after the manner of the equine family for a night's rest.

The man in charge of the garage sat up and rubbed his eyes in wonder for the place was fitted to care for automobiles exclusively and no-one ever thought of taking a horse there. For a long time he puzzled over the strange occurrence and then in a flash the explanation occurred to him; the animal was "Fox," a driving horse that had belonged to the owner of the building and for a number of years had occupied a stall in it when it was a livery stable. He had been sold and had not seen the place for a long time, yet at the first opportunity he went back, evidently intending to re-establish his home there.

THE WHITE HEN'S WATERLOO

"Say," said Ruth the other day, "in what way is a black hen cleverer than a white one?"

"Why, er is she?" replied Baga.

"Indeed she is."

"Well, you've got me. I can't think of a thing the black hen can do that the white one can't; so far as I've observed one seems about as smart as the other. I'll give it up."

"It's easy. The black hen lays a white egg but the white hen couldn't lay a black egg to save her neck."

Try this question on someone who thinks "he knows it all."