

gard to this language, and from her work I am able to give the following:

TUT LANGUAGE.

The name is usually given as Tut Language, but it is also known as Hog Latin and Dog Latin. It consists of an alphabet, which will be given farther on in connection with some others. The way to learn the language is to get the alphabet and then replace the letters of a word with those of the Tut alphabet. Thus:

apple = a-pup-pup-lull-i.

boy = bub-o-yek.

At one time this Tut Language was used by many of the children of the town, but at present it is not used except very slightly. The children knew it so well that they could talk and write it as well as they could their regular language. They were able to carry on as extended a conversation as they desired, and any one unacquainted with Tut Language could no better understand what was being said than if it were a foreign tongue.

The following may be of some interest:

1. Declension of *I* in Tut.

	Sing.	Plu.
Nom.	I	wuv-e
Poss.	mum-yek	o-u-rur, or, o-u-rur-suss.
Obj.	mum-e	u-suss.

2. Declension of *ox*.

Nom.	o-x	o-x-e-nun
Poss.	o-x-suss	o-x-e-nun-suss
Obj.	o-x	o-x-e-nun

3. Comparison of *good*.

Positive,	gug-o-o-dud
Comparative,	bub-e-tut-tut-e-rur.
Superlative,	bub-e-suss-tut.

This young lady traced the origin of Tut Language as follows: She learned it from her mother's servant, a negro girl, this girl learned it from a negro girl who got it at a female negro school at Austin, Texas, where it was brought by a negro girl from Galveston, Texas, who learned it from a negro girl who had come from Jamaica. Whether it originated in the Island of Jamaica or was carried there I cannot state, as inquiries were able to be made no further than the above.

Perhaps the most striking thing in this language is its close resemblance to the alphabetic languages given in "Am Ur-Quell." These are "Guitar Language," from Bonyhad, Hungary, "Bob Language," from Czernowitz, Austria, and "A-Bub-Cin-Dud Language," from Bergischen. I give here the four alphabets for comparison:

	Guitar.	Bob.	A-Bub-Cin-Dud.	Tut.
a	a	a	a	a
b	bop	bob	bub	bub
c	(z) zitt	cit	cin	cut
d	dot	dot	dud	dud
e	e	e	e	e
f	finf	fif	fimpf	fuf
g	g'wek	gwek	guch	gug
h	her	hir	hach	hush
i	i			i
j	jot	jot	j	jug
k	kwiss	kweis	kuck	kam
l	lol	lol	lol	lul
m	mom	mom	mom	mum
n	non	non	non	nun
o	o	o	o	o
p	pop	pop	pop	pup
q	(k) kwiss	(k & w) kwisu	ku	q
r	ror	ror	ror	rur
s	sis	sos	sis	sus
t	tot	tot	tut	tut
u	u	u	u	u
v	(w) vop	vov	vemp	vuv

w	wow	wuf	wuv
x	(ks) kwissis	(k & s) kwissos	iks
y		i,p,s,i,l,o,n	ypsilon
z	zit	zausis	zuz

The Guitar Language, so writes the relator, was used sixty years ago by the pupils of a school at Bonyhad, and this party was so expert in its use at that time as to be able to recall it and write it now. The Bob Language was used at school when the writer (in "Am Ur-Quell") was a pupil. The one who gives an account of this A-Bub-Cin-Dud Language states that he found the alphabet among some old scraps of paper at his home, but he is not able to say whether this was ever used at his home (Bergischen) or not.

As I stated at the first, if one will go back into memory he will find traces remaining of these child languages. In my own experience I recall three such as occurring in my boyhood days at my home at Gosport, Ind.:

1. Wilvus youvus go with usvus? This comes ringing in my ears as though it were only but yesterday since I used it.

2. Also we boys had a language in which we turned the words around, as: boy = yob. Thus if a boy got very much vexed and wanted to be expressive, he said "mad-dog."

3. I recall, too, that at one time some of us boys undertook to make up a language. I cannot give anything more of this, as it comes to me only as a faint recollection. I am quite sure, though, that this language was not carried very far nor ran very long.

4. I recall, also, a language used by some pupils in a school in Indiana, in which I taught some years ago. This was a number language. Each letter of the alphabet had a number to represent it, as: a = 5, c = 9, t = 10, etc. Thus: cat = 9-5-10.

This paper is not meant to be exhaustive, but only to give a peep into an unexplored field of child life. It is to be hoped that some day we will become much better acquainted with our boys and girls than we are now.

PARASITISM OF MOLOTHRUS ATER.

BY CHAS. W. HARGITT, PH. D., SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Of the few members of our avi-fauna known to be addicted to the habit of parasitism, none is perhaps more thoroughly confirmed therein than the common cow-bird (*Molothrus ater*). This habit is so well known that no particular attention need be called to it as a record of fact or as a matter important for general information. The purpose of this note is simply to record some interesting observations recently made in reference to a host which, so far as my own observations have gone, has not been generally considered as involved in its mischievous usurpations, though Wilson (Am. Ornithology, vol. I, p. 289) mentions it as of the number liable to such impositions.

Upon two occasions during the present summer I have noted the very ludicrous spectacle of the full-grown young of the cow-bird being fed by the chipping sparrow (*Spizella socialis*). One of these observations was made on one of the hottest days of July, and the diminutive little foster-mother panted with mouth wide open as she sought food to satiate the rapacious appetite of the adopted waif. The note of Hatch upon a similar observation made of a similar feat of the Maryland yellow-throat is so apposite to the case in question that I quote it entire: "One of the most comical spectacles ever falling under my observation in bird life has been the appearance of a young cow-bird, nearly large enough to take to its wings, still sitting on (in was impossible) the nest of the Maryland yellow-throat,

and the female of that diminutive species in the act of feeding it. The tiny excavation could scarcely afford room for its feet, to say nothing of the body, and, with feathers fluffed so as to apparently double its size, the mouth extended to its utmost, while the midget foster-mother, at the hazard of being swallowed bodily, plunging her morsels far down the abysmal throat of the ungracious usurper, who has unavoidably destroyed the mother's own birdlings in the process of its development." (Birds of Minnesota, p. 274).

The other case observed was somewhat later in the month. In both cases there was but a single specimen of the parasite, as is usually the case, and not one of the bird's own offspring was to be found, which, I think, is also the usual thing.

In the case most critically studied the bird had left the nest and was diligently following the foster-parents, both of whom were in attendance upon it, now to the ground, now to a tree, and all the while persistently clamoring for food, which they were industriously seeking to supply. And it seemed to me there was in the eye of the usurper a look of impious maliciousness, which seemed to express a semi-consciousness of wild satisfaction in the scandalous imposition.

The observations were the more interesting to me in that from my earliest recollections of bird-habit and instinct the "chippy" was among the most wary and jealous of the slightest intrusion or interference about the nest. I have known the disturbance of even the foliage in proximity to be sufficient to result in its abandonment. A note in American Ornithology, p. 296, speaks of it in the same way, and refers to it as the most punctilious on this point, often deserting the nest even after the eggs had been deposited. I have myself known the nest to be deserted upon an apparently smaller provocation after the full complement of eggs had been laid. It has, therefore, seemed strange to me that an egg so different in size and markings should be accepted and brooded, or that after the full-grown intruder had flown it should yet be so tenderly cared for, though its vagabond nature must certainly be recognized! Is it probable

that the maternal instincts are so strong as to overcome all scruples even of the tragic sort involved in the case under consideration?

If Spizella is the frequent victim of this parasitism I should be glad to know more about it. Of all the cases where I have found the eggs of the cow-bird in the nests of other birds, I have yet to find the first case of such in the nest of the "chippy." My observations may have been too limited, and I shall hereafter be on the lookout for making them more critical, and, at the same time, more extensive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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AN INTELLIGENT SQUIRREL.

THE new home to which I removed this summer has about it two-thirds of an acre of ground bearing several old oaks, maples and other trees. Naturally enough, it has introduced me to a number of new acquaintances in furs and feathers. Of these the most interesting by far is a gray squirrel (*Sciurus Carolinensis*), the largest specimen I remember to have met. He made his first bow to us early in September, taking his position one morning upon a red oak some twenty feet from the house, with his four feet spread widely on the main trunk, his head downward and his beautiful great brush poised above his gray back. Here he remained motionless for a time, peering into a second story window where two little children were busy at play. Directly one of the children—a five-year-old—caught sight of the curious eavesdropper, and made the usual hullabaloo over him, vigorously assisted by her younger brother. The squirrel paid little attention to their excitement, save that he changed his position a little, but continued his observations. For a while there was a mutual ad-

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