

THE BRAN TUB

HIDDEN CROSSWORD

EACH line of the following verse hides a four-letter word as part of two or three consecutive words. If you find the right four words they will make a miniature crossword, spelling four different words downwards.

The crimes of the thief or the robber
Always go beyond reason and rhyme,
But the deeds of a hero are famous;
His name remains bright for all time.

Answer next week

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS FURRY FORESTERS.

In the Big-woods, Don and Ann surprised a squirrel. Catching sight of the children, it raced nimbly up a huge oak and was soon lost to view.

"It was burying a nut, I believe," said Ann.

"Or digging one up," Don replied. "Jim says squirrels hide nuts and acorns in so many places that often they cannot find them again. Do they, Farmer Gray?"

"Well, squirrels' stores are often left untouched," answered the farmer. "Whether they forget, or bury more than they need, is open to conjecture."

"Perhaps a squirrel planted the very oak we are standing under," suggested Ann.

"Very likely!" said the farmer.

BEDTIME CORNER

MISSING: A MOUSE

PAUL was proudly showing Billy his new white mouse.

"Isn't it a beauty!" said Billy. "Can it do any tricks?"

"Rather!" said Paul. "He can climb right up my arms, and if I put him on my head he can balance there as I walk."

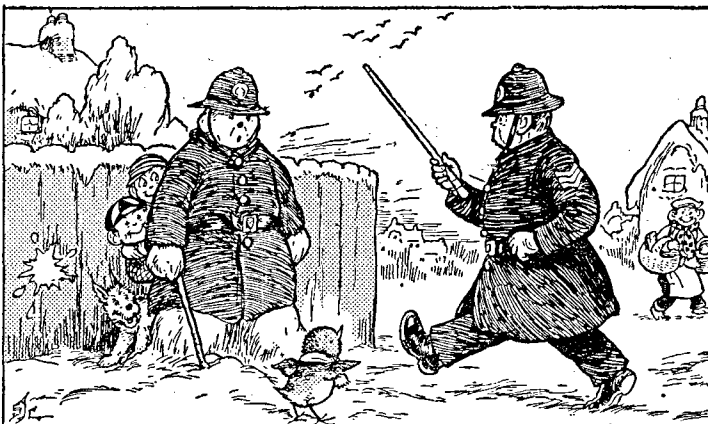
He was just about to show Billy when Mummie called from downstairs: "Would you boys like an apple?"

The answer was a rush downstairs; and when they came back to Billy's bedroom the mouse was gone!

They searched high and low, but there was no sign of him.

"I'm sure he must still be up-

JACKO AND CHIMP CAUGHT IN THE ACT



Constable Monkeyman was only too pleased to accept Mother Jacko's offer to "step inside for a cup of tea." He took off his coat and helmet and, foolishly perhaps, left them in the hall. The sight of them was too much for Jacko and Chimp, who snatched them up and smuggled them out of the house for their new snowman. They fitted perfectly. Then the Sergeant came along, and we can be quite sure that, when he had got over his surprise, he wanted an explanation from everyone concerned.

Sammy Simple

"I HEAR you have lost your dog, Sammy," said his friend. "Why doesn't your father put an advertisement in the paper?"

"That wouldn't be any good," muttered Sammy, "it can't read."

Find pussy

The following are clues to words which begin with CAT. See how many you can find?

BORDER plant; terrible happening; China's old name; complete list; this becomes a butterfly; a large church.

Answers next week

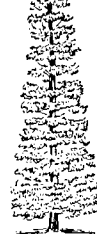
Hidden places

MY first is what we use to think. A species of my next is plane. My whole's an Essex market town. And has been such since King John's reign.

Answer next week

FAMILIAR TREES

THE Lawsonia or Lawson's Cypress usually grows in parks or gardens. Its fern-like foliage form an erect, cylindrical spire, sometimes about 100 feet high.



The evergreen leaves consist of tiny overlapping scales, growing so close to the twigs that they completely hide them. The small globular cones possess only eight scales, which form a box. As the cones ripen the scales part and the seeds drop.

In the United States it is known as Port Orford Cypress. Here the lower branches vanish at an early age, and the tree assumes far bigger proportions. It is much valued for its timber.

CHAIN QUIZ

Solutions to the following clues are linked, the last two letters of the first answer being the first two letters of the second, and so on.

1. Spanish cape which gave its name to Nelson's last and most famous victory; the battle destroyed Napoleon's sea power and saved England from invasion.

2. The ship in which Jason and his companions sailed to seek for the Golden Fleece; Jason accomplished the quest with the help of Medea.

3. Name of best-known and most dangerous sandbank round Britain; lying in the Straits of Dover, the sands are uncovered at low tide.

4. Great river of Pakistan, 2000 miles long; flows through many mouths into the Indian Ocean near Karachi.

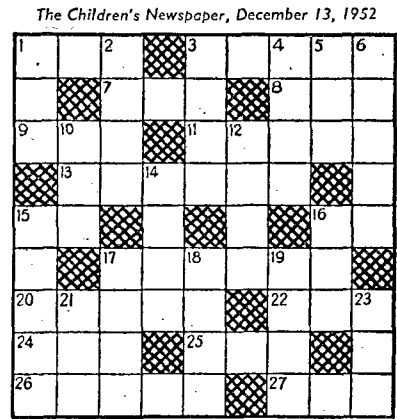
Answer next week

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Favourite. 3 Passes rapidly. 7 Mineral. 8 Used in golf. 9 Greyish brown. 11 Walk. 13 Make amends. 15 Within. 16 Upon. 17 Shout. 20 Dwelling-place. 22 To keep sheep in. 24 Used on the roads. 25 Charge. 26 Upright. 27 Fresh.

READING DOWN. 1 Cushion. 2 Musical sound. 3 Festival. 4 Article. 5 Refreshing drink. 6 Old carriage borne on poles. 10 Vase. 12 Actual. 14 Act. 15 Angry. 16 To be in debt. 17 Make a-hole. 18 Opposite of right. 19 Not shut. 21 Barrier. 23 At once.

Answer next week



Acid drops

IN cricket you're an awful mutt If you drop a catch. But, upon my soul, In a game of Rugby you're fussed and praised If you're clever enough to drop a goal.

His reason

THE office boy lived in an outlying district and, as a great snowstorm had piled deep drifts on the road to town, his employer was not surprised that the lad did not turn up for work. The next day, however, Johnny did come to work.

"Good-morning," greeted his boss. "I suppose the inclement weather kept you away yesterday." "No, sir; it was the snow."

Stung to action

WHEN a languid old man from Quebec Dived suddenly into the beck, They asked: "Did you fall?" He replied: "Not at all, But a hornet had dropped on my neck."

Shakespeare II

"WHO wrote The Merchant of Venice?" asked the teacher, fixing his gaze on a pupil in the back row.

"Please, sir, it wasn't me."

The teacher was more amused than angry, and that evening he related the incident to his wife who, at the time, was engrossed in a novel. She laughed in an absent-minded sort of manner and said: "And I expect it was him all the time."

YOUNG QUIZ—answers

- 1 On May 6, 1840.
- 2 A square tower, especially the type erected by the Normans.
- 3 Ancient Greece.
- 4 Peaceful.
- 5 Lacrosse.
- 6 Alexander Graham Bell.
- 7 The Tonga Islands.
- 8 Prince Charles.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

- Wrong letter. Clean, brass, wash, rake, patch, weed, beds, trim, mend, gate
- Chain Quiz. Danube, Belloe, octopus, Usk
- Hidden flowers. Rose, daisy, pansy, clover, pink, celandine
- Behead and curtail. Slink, link, ink, in, I

Getting ready for Christmas

IN far away Toyland, over the sea, [be, Small folk are busy as busy can For old Father Christmas they're fashioning toys, Which he will deliver to good girls and boys. There are dollies and teddy-bears, boxes of bricks, Soldiers and sailors and conjuring tricks. Noah's arks and gollywogs, clockwork toys, too, Jet planes and speed boats of silver and blue. When Christmas Eve comes, they will pile the sleigh high, And cheer as old Santa drives off through the sky.

Squirrel on the keys



Is this little squirrel playing the Nutcracker Suite?

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