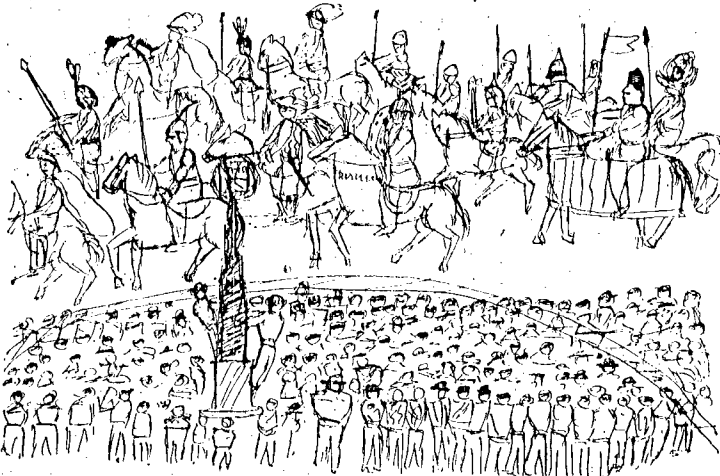


Young artists of many lands



Cavalcade, by an artist of 14 at Zagreb, Yugoslavia



Three Sisters, by a nine-year-old of Calcutta

Young artists and craftsmen of many lands have contributed to the International Exhibition of Children's Arts and Crafts which begins a nine-month tour of Britain this week.

The exhibition can be seen at St. Pancras Town Hall, London, until September 20. After that it

will visit Birkenhead, Salford, Manchester, Darlington, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, and Coventry. The news of the coming exhibition drew some 3800 entries from 30 different countries, and the selection committee finally chose about 400 pictures and 100 pieces of craft work for the show.

GOOD SAMARITAN SHIPS

Three little motor-ships built at Auckland with money given by tens of thousands of New Zealanders will lead a Good Samaritan life carrying doctors and nurses from island to island in the South West Pacific.

They will serve the Lepers' Trust Board, which looks after thousands of stricken people in the Pacific Islands between New Zealand and the Equator.

Two of the vessels have already begun their work in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. The

third is still under construction. They have something in common besides being sister ships. Their names are Fauabu Twomey, Ozama Twomey, and Mala Twomey, after Mr. P. J. Twomey, M.B.E., of Christchurch, New Zealand, who has devoted his life to founding and guiding the Lepers' Trust Board. Fauabu and Ozama are mission stations of the Solomon Islands, and Mala is a shortened version of Malaita, one of the big islands of the Solomons group.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR PETS

11. The Hamster

By Charles Trevisick, F.Z.S.

In recent years the little rodent called the Hamster has become highly popular as an indoor pet. You can get albino, piebald, and cream varieties, but perhaps the kind most in demand is the Golden Hamster, which comes chiefly from Palestine and Syria. It is a most attractive little furry animal with big, bright eyes not unlike those of the Bush Baby; and, like the Bush Baby, it is normally a creature that sleeps in the daytime (when it cannot see very well) and wakes up in the evening.

An interesting feature is a big pouch on either side of its jaw into which it puts food to carry off and store in its sleeping quarters.

In buying a hamster, try to choose a plump, healthy specimen about four to five weeks old.

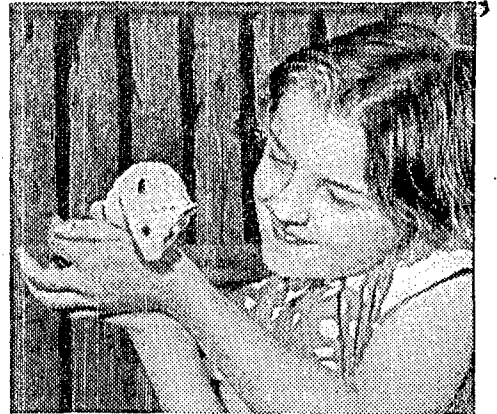
Most of them live for about three years.

It is a clean animal and does not smell, so it can be kept as an indoor pet. As it gnaws wood, it is best kept in a cage or an old aquarium tank. Generally speaking, it is best to keep only one, for they fight savagely among themselves. The hamster likes a cosy place to sleep in, and its cage should contain a small nest-box with a hole it can easily get through, and a sliding door that makes the box easy to keep clean. To make the box really snug, put in some hay or torn newspaper, or perhaps an old clean sock.

in watching it move freely about the room.

You will find that the hamster will gradually grow more active in the day, becoming less of a nocturnal creature.

The best food for a hamster is a mixture of corn, biscuit, brown bread, carrot, monkey nuts, and any kind of fruit. About a dessert-spoonful is sufficient for a day's



All eyes on the wild duck

This month hundreds of bird-watchers and amateur ornithologists all over Europe are taking up their monthly counting of the wild duck on lakes and rivers. Meanwhile, biologists are sifting the information amassed from the statistics compiled in previous years. The latest of these surveys compares the counts made in Britain, Denmark, and Germany of the common wild duck or mallard.

Reporting their results, the International Wildfowl Research Bureau state that among the mallards more drakes than ducks were noticed in spring and autumn, but in summer the proportion was deceptive because during the moulting season the drake becomes shy and is less easily seen.

During the winter migration, the females were found in a slight majority because they were probably more sensitive to frost than the drakes.

DUCKLING LOSSES

In Europe, the mallard may lay eggs from February to September, but most of the ducklings hatch in the first ten days of May. It takes the duck twelve days to lay a full clutch of a dozen eggs, June broods being smaller than those of April and May.

At first the wild duck family averages about eleven ducklings, but enemies, the weather, and other causes of loss reduce this to six or seven in the first week or two. If her brood is reduced to only one or two ducklings the mother often forsakes it and starts a new clutch of eggs. As mother duck and young are hostile to other broods of ducklings, the changelings cannot form crèches like the shelduck in summer.

The average successful mother duck rears just over five ducklings; but from 19 to 24 per cent of the wild duck in summer, do not nest at all.

E. H.

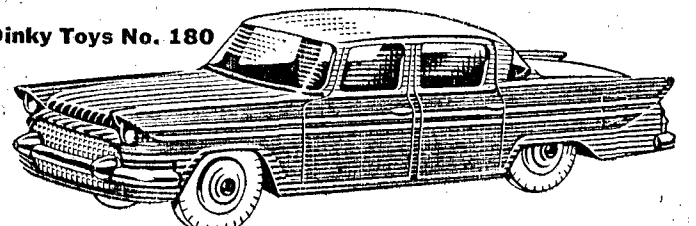
When you go to pick up a hamster for the first time be very gentle; approach it slowly and let it get used to the smell of your hand, and it will gradually gain confidence. Before long it will get on your hand and sit there. You can then let it run about a table, taking care that it does not fall off. If there is no cat or dog in the room you can also let it run about the floor; you will get a great deal of pleasure

feed. Make sure that any food remaining in the nest-box has not gone bad, as it is likely to cause stomach trouble. Some hamsters like a little milk, but in any case they should always have some clean water handy.

If you have any queries about your hamster, or any other pet, please send them (with a stamped, addressed envelope) to me at the Ilfracombe Zoo Park, North Devon.

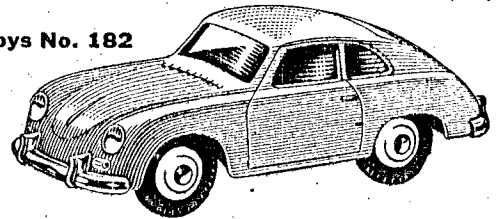
Two exciting new Dinky Toys out this month!

Dinky Toys No. 180



PACKARD CLIPPER. This model of one of America's finest cars is reproduced in amazing detail even to the twin rear lamps! Transparent windows, white tyres and two-tone body add to the interest of this magnificent model. Length: 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " Price 3/6 (inc. tax)

Dinky Toys No. 182



PORSCHE 356 COUPE. This miniature model reproduces with great accuracy the handsome lines and sleek, sturdy appearance of the rear-engined Porsche. Spin the free-running wheels, see the tread on the tyres, look through the transparent windows—this model's a marvel! Length 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Price 2/11 (inc. tax)

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