

TESS

AN EDUCATED
CHIMPANZEE



BY

MARTHA E.
BUHRE

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TESS

An Educated Chimpanzee

AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE
IN THE WILDS OF AFRICA, THE RETURN TO
AMERICA, HOW "TESS" WAS TRAINED, AND
HER MANY CUNNING WAYS

BY

MARTHA E. BUHRE

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INTRODUCTION

MY DEAR CHILDREN:—

You see here a picture of Tess, and from it you can imagine how her cousins and other relatives in Africa look as they play about among the trees. Perhaps you would like to know something of her family friends before making her acquaintance.

Chimpanzees belong to a class of animals called Man-like Apes, and are found only in Africa. They do not like to live near villages or houses, but go into the depths of the forest, and there build their homes in the trees, upon branches not far from the ground. These homes resemble nests rather than houses, being formed by twisting small branches and vines together, using the larger boughs as a sort of foundation. They often change about

from one place to another, and they do not seem to be very social in their nature, as two or more nests are seldom found in the same tree or even in adjoining trees.

Chimpanzees walk upon all fours. Their arms are long and very strong and their feet are so formed that they can grasp a bough as well with the foot as with the hand. They are fond of play and can swing themselves from tree to tree with great agility.

Chimpanzees seldom live more than three or four years when in captivity, their lungs being too delicate to endure the colder climate of Europe and North America.

In Brehm's "Life of Animals" you will find many more interesting things about Chimpanzees, and also about Monkeys, Gorillas, Lions, and other animals. Your friend,

MARTHA E. BUHRE.

TESS, AN EDUCATED CHIMPANZEE

CHIMPANZEES are found only on the west coast of Africa from Sierra Leone to Congo. Although they can stand or run erect, they usually lean forward, resting on their knuckles. They live mostly upon fruit, are active climbers, and, like the gorilla, build nests which do not shelter and are used mainly at night. When full grown the chimpanzee is about five feet in height.

In his "Life of Animals" the naturalist Brehm gives a very interesting account of these wonderful beings, perhaps the most nearly allied to man of any of the brute creation. They are not social in their nature, two or



"TESS," AGED 3 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS; HEIGHT, 34 INCHES

more nests seldom being found in the same tree or even in adjoining ones. They are nomadic in their habits, wandering from place to place in search of food, but carefully avoiding the dwellings of man. In climbing they grasp a bough as readily with the foot as with the hand, the large toe being separated from the others by a deep incision and so serving as a thumb. Brehm quotes Fr. Specht as telling the following story regarding a chimpanzee in Nill's Zoölogical Garden, Stuttgart, which, as he affirms, could laugh like a human being:

"I took notice of this, for no other animal can show its joy by loud laughter. When I would take this sympathetic fellow under the arms, throw him in the air and catch him, the cage rang with his merry peals of laughter. One day I brought a piece of chalk along and sat down on a chair. In a moment he was sitting on my knees awaiting further developments. I put the chalk in his hand, and, guiding it, drew several figures on the wall. When I let go of his

hand he started to shade the drawings with such diligence that they soon disappeared, to the great amusement of the spectators. There are now two chimpanzees in the Stuttgart Zoölogical Garden, which are the closest of friends. The female had been there before, and when the male arrived his box was put over night in her warm, roomy cage, the presentation being intended for the morrow. When the box, which, by the way, had been upholstered, was opened and the male got out, they both stood on their hind legs for a few minutes earnestly gazing at each other. Then they flew into each other's embrace and exchanged hearty and repeated kisses; and the female brought her blanket, spread it on the floor, sat down on it, and by gestures invited the male to do likewise. It makes a charming picture to see these two taking their meals at a table. They both use spoons and do not in the least interfere with each other. The female has the peculiarity of cautiously taking the male's glass and drinking a goodly portion out of that, too, after which she returns it. She evidently does not want him to drink too much. Both these animals laugh heartily when at play."

Barnum had two chimpanzees which he exhibited in various cities, but these did not

show any great amount of intelligence, neither did they acquire many accomplishments.

Two chimpanzees kept in the Zoölogical Garden at Cincinnati also learned to eat with a spoon and to drink from a cup, much as a person does; while "Mr. Crowley," the noted chimpanzee of Central Park, New York, reached a still higher degree of attainments, but was cut off in his youthful days by that dread disease, consumption, to which all animals of this class seem peculiarly susceptible.

The latest of these anthropoid apes to attract public attention is "Tess," a brief account of whose capture and life may prove of interest.

A few years ago Mr Frank C. Bostock, son of the famous English menagerie owner, was very anxious to obtain some chimpanzees and gorillas for his collection. For that purpose he



READY FOR A RIDE

sent a gentleman in his employ, Mr. Allan Rosch, to Africa, with a commission to capture some of these animals. Professor Allan, as he was commonly called, was very willing to undertake this work and he accordingly set out for South Africa, where he hoped to obtain a number of the objects of his quest. He ascended the Congo River, guided by natives, and landed on an island where he pitched his tent and began his search. He had with him a large iron cage in which to place his captives should he succeed in obtaining any, and in the meantime he used it as a shelter for himself against the attacks of the wild beasts which prowled around.

Professor Allan had brought with him an accordion upon which he was fond of playing, and many animals gathered in wonder about his cage, for most wild animals are very fond of music. For two long months he continued

his search, but without success, and he began to grow homesick and to feel lonesome and discouraged. But one evening, as he was playing his accordion, he saw two fine chimpanzees, a male and a female, approach the cage and stop, listening to the music. After a while they went away and probably told their friends about the wonderful music they had heard and the strange house they had seen, for the next day many other animals came, among them a female chimpanzee and three young ones, the youngest being a nursling which she carried in her arms. Professor Allan tried his best to get one of the older of the young chimpanzees, but they were too smart for him and kept out of his reach. They soon ran away and did not return for several days. So Professor Allan made arrangements for their capture, scattering food on the ground near the cage and playing his sweetest music.

He had several natives near at hand with ropes and blankets that they might help him to capture the animals. After a few days he saw the female and her family approaching; they came near the cage, and, seeing the fine repast he had prepared for them, they at once began to eat. Professor Allan and the natives tried to surround them, but the chimpanzees succeeded in eluding them and ran some distance, hotly pursued by the men. The mother and her little ones succeeded in reaching the tree which contained their home, into which they quickly climbed and were soon hidden from view. After waiting a short time one of the men fired off his gun, hoping to attract their attention. The female peeped out at them, and soon, growing bolder, she came down from the tree and bravely attacked the men. They drove her off, and she started to return to her little ones, so Professor Allan shot her

in the knee, thinking that if she were lamed they might be able to capture her. She reached the tree, but her lame knee hindered her so that she could not get out of the way of the men, whom she fought so savagely that they again fired, wounding her in the other knee. She could then use only her arms, and after a severe struggle they succeeded in binding her with ropes to a tree. It was out of her power to escape or to do them any harm, but she was raging with anger and resentment. The men climbed the tree and searched for the young ones. They were soon found, tied up in blankets, and carried to the cage. They then returned for the mother and took her also to the cage, but she was crazed with grief. She continued to rage all night, and the next day she killed herself by beating her head against the iron bars of the cage.

Having secured three young chimpanzees Professor Allan decided to return home as soon as possible. He first shipped his prizes to Lisbon and there remained with them for several months, that they might become accustomed to a climate cooler than that of their native Africa. But in spite of all his care one of the older apes died, leaving only the baby and one of her brothers. He next carried them to London, where they remained a long time, and then he crossed the Atlantic and brought his charges to Boston. He had named the older one Joe, but had not yet found a suitable name for the baby. Poor Joe died when he had been in Boston only three weeks, and the baby was the only member left of this interesting chimpanzee family.

Professor Allan had fed Joe on rice and fruit, but gave the little one nothing but con-

densed milk during the first few months of her life, and on this food she grew large and strong. Mr. Bostock now wished him to return to Africa and capture some more animals, but Professor Allan asked that he might stay at home and see if he could educate this young chimpanzee and then exhibit her in different cities, so as to show how much education and training would do, even for a monkey. To this plan Mr. Bostock consented.

One of the first things to be done was to select a name, and as he could think of none which seemed suitable for her little ladyship, Mr. Bostock offered a bicycle as a prize to the person who should select the best name. "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" was being played in one of the theatres in Boston at this time, and when "Tess" was suggested as a suitable name it seemed to fit so well that it was immediately adopted, and as "Tess" she

soon became known to a great number of people.

Monkeys are very fond of imitating everything they see or hear, so Mr. Bostock often



"UM-UM-UM! THAT WAS GOOD!"

allowed his little daughter Vera to play with Tess and show her how to do various things. Tess seemed very much pleased to have Vera

near her; she played games with her and imitated her in many ways, and a real friendship sprang up between them. We soon learn to love a pet dog or other animal, especially if it is bright and easily taught. So it was with Tess. Those who were with her most acquired an affection for her, and this was not at all strange, for she was very smart and intelligent.

One of the first things Professor Allan taught her was to walk upright, and it was very funny to see her try to balance herself. Her arms would fly out first in one direction and then in another, and many were the falls she received. But she was not discouraged and finally learned to walk very well, although she always "wobbled" from side to side. She was also taught how to sit at a table, use a spoon and fork, and to eat like a lady. In this Vera was a

great help to her. Tess also learned how to drink from a cup without spilling the milk. She ate bread or crackers crumbed in milk, and was very fond of fruit, especially bananas.



A PLEASANT TEA PARTY

She was very neat and orderly in all her habits, and would smooth and adjust the "tidy" on her little table when it became disarranged, and seemed to feel very proud when she succeeded.

Vera tried to teach her to write and to draw, and in one of the many photographs which have been taken of her various indus-



LIKE TO SEE THINGS NEAT

tries and sports she seems to be writing a letter to some of her relatives in Africa, telling them in monkey language what a queer

country she is in and what strange people live here!

Tess never learned to talk except to say "Whoo, whoo, whoo!" when she wanted some-



VERA TRIED TO TEACH HER TO WRITE AND TO DRAW

thing or in answer to a question, but she had many different cries or screams to express her

feelings, and she seemed to understand quite well what was said to her. When she was in Chicago a lady used to visit her very often. One day, when quite a crowd was around her,



WRITING TO HER FRIENDS

this lady came in and stood near, quietly watching her. Professor Allan saw her and thought he would see if Tess would recognize her. So he said, "Tess, do you see your friend?"

Tess immediately looked around with her sharp, bright eyes, and soon pointed her out, saying eagerly, "Whoo, whoo, whoo!" It



"A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS"

was very evident that she both^e understood Professor Allan's question and recognized her friend.

Another thing she was taught to do was to wear clothing. The climate of our country is so much colder than that of Africa that it was considered necessary to dress her very warmly. Perhaps they feared some trouble in teaching her to do this, but Tess was very fond of bright colors and she soon showed as much love for fine clothes as any lady in the land. She was especially fond of red and delighted greatly in a bright red flannel dress. She made her toilet regularly every day.

A large cage, two stories high, had been made for her use. The lower story contained her sleeping apartments; the upper one was her exhibition-room, the sides of which were made of glass, to protect her from draughts of cold air. In her sleeping-room she had a brass bed, with mattress and pillow, white blankets and sheets, all kept sweet and clean for her use. This room was separated by red

curtains from her dressing-room, which contained but little furniture except a bureau for her clothing and a mirror which hung upon the wall. Her exhibition-room was furnished with a small table, some chairs, a toy piano, an oil-stove covered with a screen to protect her from harm, and a small dresser with a glass, in which she was very fond of examining herself to see if everything was right and in proper style.

When she arose in the morning her night-cap and night-dress were first removed, her face and hands thoroughly washed with soap and water, and her entire body carefully combed and brushed. Her chest-protector of chamois-skin and red flannel was then put on, followed by a union suit of wool, with either long or short sleeves, according to the weather. Next came a small corselet to which were fastened her embroidered underclothes. Her

stockings and shoes were then put on, and she was ready for her dress, which she was allowed to select for herself. When she put on a fresh white dress it was a comical sight to see her examine it on all sides and pull it out, first on this side and then on that; then walk a few steps and adjust her pink sash or pull out some fold in the skirt, that it might hang in the most approved style. She was so neat that she could wear a white dress two days and still have it look quite clean.

Like many others of her sex Tess was very fond of jewelry, and wore finger-rings, earrings, bracelets, a breastpin, and a pin for her sash. Her breastpin was made of gold wire, with "Tess" woven in the centre, and she never failed to point to it when asked, "What is your name, dearie?"

When her dress and jewelry had been adjusted to her satisfaction she was allowed to

ascend to her exhibition-room and have her breakfast. When seated at the table a napkin was fastened around her neck, and a bowl of



BREAKFAST

bread and milk or crackers and milk was placed before her. This she ate in quite a dainty fashion, seldom spilling any of the

milk. She also ate fruit and sweetmeats of various kinds furnished by admiring friends. When she had eaten all she wished, she touched a bell and Professor Allan removed the dishes. After this she was allowed to play with Vera or to do some of the various things which had been taught her.

She had a small bicycle, and it was very amusing to see her efforts to balance herself upon it and try to ride. She never became a very rapid or graceful rider, but no one can say what she might have learned to do upon a wheel had she lived a few years longer.

Sometimes she would seat herself at the piano and Professor Allan would direct her playing. "No, no, Tess; that is too sad; give us a jolly African melody. No, that isn't right yet, it's too slow. Wake up, and show us how Paderewski plays!" Then her arms and hands would fly out wildly in all directions in a

manner that was very comical, and the music thus produced can be better imagined than described.



OUT FOR A SPIN

She liked to change her dress occasionally, and this was a constant source of amusement and pleasure to the little folks who always



GETTING READY FOR WORK

surrounded her cage. One of her costumes was a red flannel dress, an apron having a bib, and a cap, and when dressed in this man-



NAUGHTY TESS

ner she would, with tub and washboard, act the part of a little washerwoman. She usually took a few whiffs of her pipe, which Professor

Allan had taught her to use, while acting this part, and in one of her pictures we see her apparently trying to decide which to do first,—smoke or wash,—the smoke seeming to have the preference.

Occasionally Tess would misbehave and refuse to obey Professor Allan. In such cases he was obliged to punish her, using a very small switch for the purpose. She would cry and sulk for a little while, and then she would fly to her master, climb into his lap, and kiss him. He would, however, pay no attention to her until she had obeyed him by doing what he had first required of her; then they became good friends again.

At night she was undressed in the exhibition-room, as it was a source of great amusement to the children to see this done. She was very particular in this matter, always requiring that her night-dress should be put

on before removing her union suit. Her hair was carefully brushed, a night-cap put on her head, and a tie fastened around her neck to protect her throat.

Then she shook hands with her friends and disappeared for the night.

She had traveled quite extensively for one so young. Her first appearance before the public after being trained was in Boston, where she remained about six months. Then Professor Allan decided to let the little folks in Chicago see his pet, and he took her to that city. There she remained several months, winning many hearts among both children and older persons. While in that city she took a very severe cold, which settled on her lungs, causing an attack of pneumonia. Remedies were at once applied and every means used for her recovery, and she soon became much better. It was now decided to take her

to Philadelphia for exhibition, and extra care was taken not to expose her in any way during the journey, as she was not yet quite well and strong. But notwithstanding all efforts she added to her cold, although Professor Allan was not aware of it. On the first night of her performance in Philadelphia she suddenly ran to him, and asked in a way he fully understood for his handkerchief. This being given her she lay down and cried, and nothing could induce her to rise. Professor Allan saw at once that she was very ill, and he refused to have her disturbed, against the protests of those who were interested in the financial side of the entertainment. He carried her to her bed, and at once sent for a physician, who refused to come, saying it was a case for a veterinary surgeon. Another who was sent for came at once. When Tess saw him enter she looked pleadingly at him and

said, hoarsely, "Whoo, whoo, whoo!" asking in her dumb way for help. She shook hands with him and seemed to understand that he was her friend and would do all he could to make her well.

A brief examination showed him that it was too late; all he could do was to relieve her pain, and to his honor be it said he remained with her for two hours and used every means skill could suggest to help her.

About four o'clock in the morning Tess looked toward her doll lying not far away, and when Professor Allan handed it to her she kissed his hand, clasped the doll in her arms, and died. We can hardly wonder that her master and others of her friends mourned her loss.

Her body was embalmed, and, after being exhibited for ten days, it was sent to the Chicago Academy of Sciences, where it was

mounted and is now on exhibition. It is to be regretted that her life was so short, as a few more years of training might have produced still greater results.

THE END

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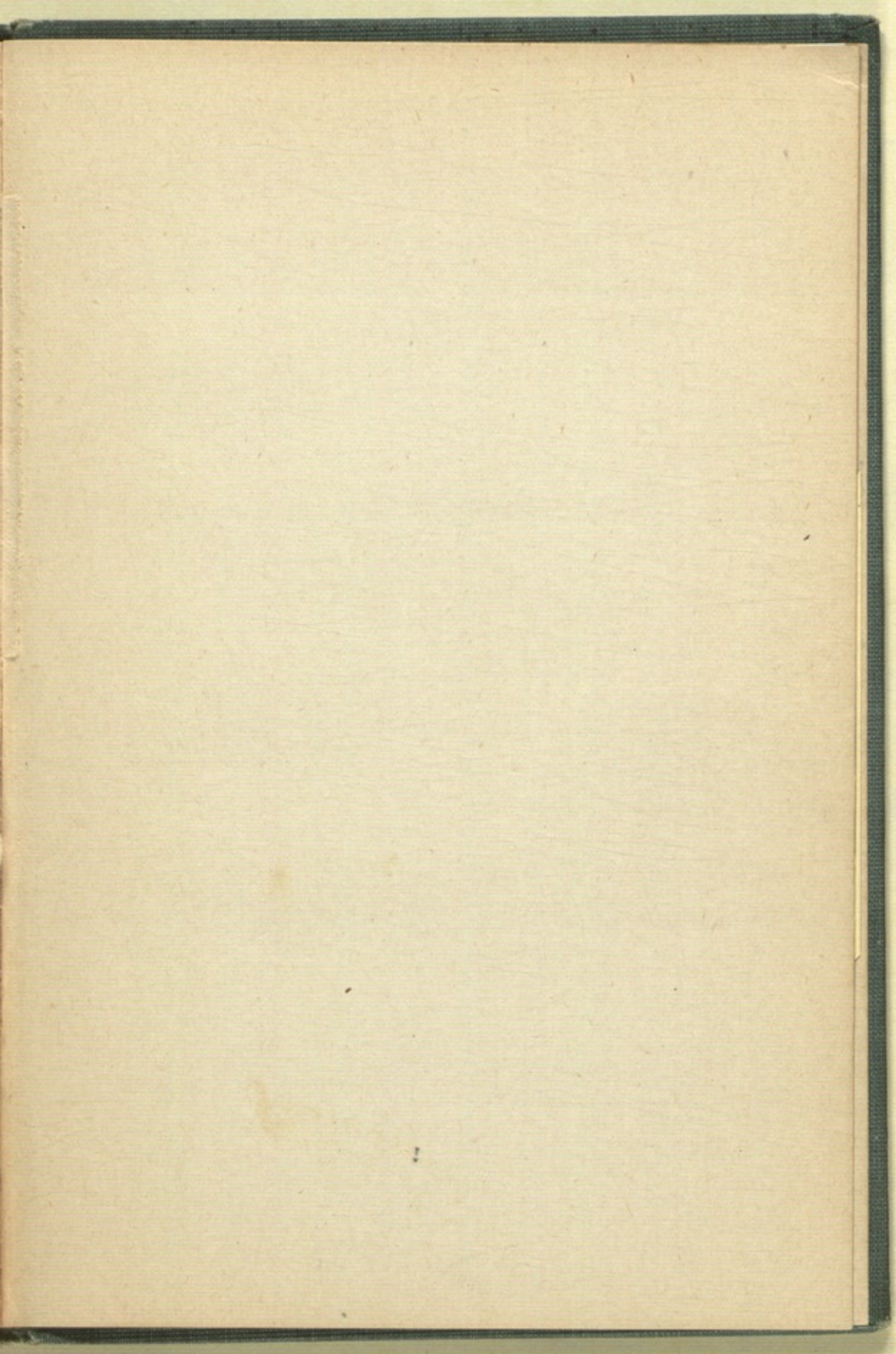
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