(continued from previous page)

their nests on the tops of huge boulders. The transport of many pounds weight of sloppy mud and grass is quite an achievement, but, once constructed, the nest and its proud occupant are away from the "madding crowd" and seem to look down disdainfully on the crowded slum-dwellers below.

Breeding in such immense numbers as they do, the mollymawks naturally suffer heavy casualties. Woe betide any parent a little careless in the guarding of any egg or young chick, for the everwatchful and rapacious skua gulls would instantly seize them. Over-zealous or clumsy parents trample some young chicks; some eggs are infertile and a few chicks are too weak to break out of the egg. There are many casualties in the breeding year, and it only takes a failure in the normal food supply to bring death from statuation to thousands of chicks.

Amenable Dispositions

Clothed in soft light grey down, with tiny black beaks and bright brown eyes, the mollymawk chicks were admired and loved by all who saw them. Like their parents, they were entirely with-out fear of mankind and, if one took a little time and gained their confidence, could be handled with ease for weighing and measuring.

The adults have a large and powerful beak which, if used in defence, would lay open a finger to the bone. But they rarely showed any tendency to use the beak for offensive purposes. All one had to do was to sit still near a nest ductor of the London Philharmonic Orand the bird, although wary and watchful at first, soon settled down and would certs in London, York, Bristol, Scotland even submit to the indignity of having | and Ireland.

its head scratched by the human inbut a few unconventional birds build truder. If not suddenly startled the mollyhawks soon went about their everyday business in a completely natural manner, and I was able to obtain hundreds of feet of movie and many excellent still pictures by using a little patience. Even chicks being fed were photographed at a distance of only two feet!

> As in most large colonies of birds, there was so much going on at the one time that one found it difficult to concentrate on individuals. Although so tolerant of human beings entering their breeding area, the mollymawks were most intolerant of other members of their own species. Any bird not using discretion in walking to its own nest along the ill-defined tracks was harassed by the other sitting birds. The latter seemed to take a keen delight in reaching out to nip at any part of the walking bird they could reach. Nor was it any use the indignant recipient retaliating, for any attempt to do so only exposed it to attack from another quarter. It paid to keep to the "straight and narrow" path.

As Good as Any

HARD-WORKING British orchestras were highly praised recently by the 34-year-old conductor Erich Leinsdorf, who said: "They have no need to be humble. Even without making allowance for the ravages of war, their playing is as good as that in any other country in the world." Leinsdorf, as guest conchestra, was engaged to conduct 12 con-



"Here's a pair that might interest you. One speaks Portuguese and the other



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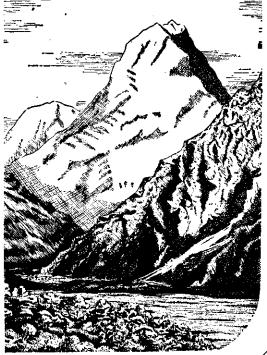
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