

(continued from previous page)

but a few unconventional birds build 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 ever-watchful 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 starvation 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 without 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 and the bird, although wary and watchful at first, soon settled down and would even submit to the indignity of having

its head scratched by the human intruder. 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 conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, was engaged to conduct 12 concerts in London, York, Bristol, Scotland and Ireland.



## Kills Germs, then Heals

Dettol Ointment is healing. It not only cools the irritation but it sinks deeply into the tissues and actively destroys the germs which cause septic infection. From the moment you apply it, it will go on working to keep you free from reinfection, while the process of clean, safe healing goes on.

Dettol Ointment is recommended specially for the treatment of **Boils, Whitlows, Carbuncles, Impetigo, Sycosis** (Barber's Rash), **Herpes** (Cold Sores) **Septic Eczema**, and **Varicose Ulcer**.

## DETTOL<sup>BRAND</sup> OINTMENT

Healing and Actively Antiseptic

RECKITT AND COLMAN (NEW ZEALAND) LTD.,  
Pharmaceutical Dept., BOND ST., DUNEDIN, D.C.



SOLID 14-CARAT GOLD NIB  
— OSMI-IRIDIUM TIPPED  
Small wonder Mentmore Auto Flow gives such smooth effortless service. Price 24/6 each.

## MENTMORE

*Auto-Flow*  
ENGLISH FOUNTAIN PENS



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

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, SEPTEMBER 20



MOUNT COOK

STABILITY  
is what  
you expect  
of a Trustee

*Appoint*

## The PUBLIC TRUSTEE

A.4.10