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THE ROYAL SCIENCE READERS

英国学生科学读本匠



[英汉双语版]



刘巍 刘嵩/译 英国托马斯-尼尔森公司/著

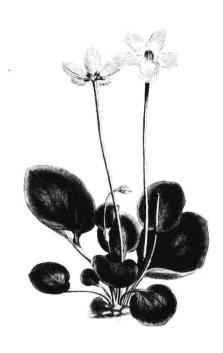
天津出版传媒集团

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译者序

孩子的眼中,一切都是新鲜有趣的。我们每个人的童年回忆,都带着挥之不去的神秘感。这种神秘感,不是来自遥远的外星球和异国他乡,而是来自我们身边见惯不惊的事物。花儿是怎么生长的? 为什么会下雪? 小猫走路为什么没有声音? 我们吃的糖、盐、巧克力,是从哪儿来的? 当孩子们牵着爸爸妈妈的衣角,问出这些问题的时候,或许谁也不会想到,这些问题中,蕴含着人类最光彩夺目的智慧。

大自然很大方,提供了丰富的资源给人利用;但它也很小气,总是不告诉人们,到底怎样才能把这些资源利用得最好。于是,从人类的老祖先出现在地球上以来,每一代人都在拼命地寻找,直到最近的几百年间,才拥有了目前为止最靠谱的办法——现代科学体系。

这个体系正在影响我们生活的每一个角落。它的步履艰难而反复,却扎扎 实实。没有1946年那台重达30吨的电脑 "ENIAC",就没有我写这篇文章用的 轻巧的笔记本电脑;没有这套书里提到的瓦特蒸汽机,就没有我现在听到的、 窗外川流不息的汽车声音。我写下这些字的时候,房间里至少有几百件物品, 每一样都浸透了人们的心血,经历了无数次的实验和失败。

更重要的是,这伟大的脚步仍在继续。科学永远不是写在书本上的教 条,而是永远年轻,永远不断自我纠正、自我更新的。大自然超乎想象地复 杂,研究自然的科学,也就不可避免地越来越复杂,越来越完善。在近现 代,科学像坐了火箭一样飞速发展起来,但还远远没有达到高峰,甚至连山 脉的高度也没有。很多科学领域,比如一些新材料科学和生物科学,才刚刚 起步。而它们无一例外,都要回到我们身边,成为幸福生活的助推器。这是 一个无比奇妙的轮回。

摆在读者面前的这套《英国学生科学读本》,就是英国教育家们的一次尝试,想从孩子身边不起眼的小东西开始,让他们自己去探索奇妙的科学殿堂,跟中国的《十万个为什么》有点儿相似。书中提到的东西,都是人们天天见到

的:狗、猫、麦子、铁、煤、铅笔、大头针……当然,有些毕竟是那个国家特有的东西,比如英国的硬币——便士。它们看起来平常得很,但每一篇文章背后,都建立了不止一个专业学科,有成千上万的人,在为它们孜孜不倦。另外,也许是为了照顾"全面发展",这套书还包括了一些优美的英语诗歌,描述了种种美丽的自然现象和孩子们的日常活动。

让中国读者接受面向英国儿童的科普作品,是对我这个译者的一大挑战。 我力图让行文适合中国人的阅读习惯;为了弥补原文的某些局限性,我还尽量 仔细地做了查找工作,力所能及地加了一些注解,试着纠正和补充。万幸我赶 上了互联网的时代,让这份工作方便了不少。我的亲朋好友们给我提供了很多 资料,还有同样重要的精神支持。但我毕竟没有受过系统的科学训练,恐怕最 后你看到的东西,错误还是难免的。本书第1~60章及附录中的科学诗歌由刘 巍翻译,第61~97章由刘嵩翻译;全书的译注由刘巍完成。

那么,也请你来给本书挑毛病吧。希望你和我,都能为这人类最辉煌的事业做点儿什么,就从这里开始!

刘 巍 2012年12月17日于望京花园

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Lesson 1

THE HOLLY

冬青

hol´-ly	shīn´-ing	prick´-les	sauce´-pan	flow'-ers
Christ´-mas	ei´-ther	an´-i-mals	stew	fruit
pret´-ty	shrub	bit´-ing	stick´-y	scar´-let
ber´-ries	fin´-gers	quite	spread	piece
a-gainst´	guess	smooth	sum'-mer	pud'-ding

- 1. How nice it is at Christmas to see the branches of holly on the walls! How pretty the bright-red berries look against the shining dark-green leaves!
- 2. You may call the holly either a large shrub or a small tree. The leaves of most trees fall off when winter comes, but the holly is green all the year round. It is called an *ever-green* tree; for as soon as one old brown leaf drops off, a fresh green one grows in its place.
- 3. Did you ever prick your fingers when you were hanging up the holly? The leaves have sharp points or spines all round the sides and also at the ends.

4. Can you guess what is the use of these prickles or spines to the holly tree? They keep cows and other animals from biting off the leaves.

- 5. Look at the holly leaves at the top of the tree, where the cows cannot reach, and you will see that these leaves are quite smooth, and have no spines.
- 6. If you put some of the bark of the holly tree into an old saucepan with a little water, and stew it slowly on the fire, you will get a sticky white stuff.

7. This sticky stuff is called bird-lime, for men spread it on leaves and twigs to catch birds. If a bird rests on one of these twigs or leaves, the bird-lime sticks to its feet, and then it cannot fly away.

8. Look at the holly in summer, and you will see that it has small white flowers. When these drop off, the fruit comes in their place. The fruit of the holly tree is the pretty scarlet berry, which you can see on the

branches in winter.

9. Be sure you find some nice holly, with plenty of scarlet berries, for next Christmas. Hang up the branches all round your rooms, and stick a small piece in your plumpudding.

SUMMARY

The holly is an evergreen tree with bright-red berries. The leaves have sharp, prickly points or spines to protect them from animals. Branches of holly are used for decorating our houses at Christmas. Bird-lime is made out of the bark of the holly.

【中文阅读】

- 1. 过圣诞节了,墙上挂起了冬青^①的树枝,小朋友们多高兴啊! 那些亮红色的果子,衬着闪光的暗绿色叶子,多好看啊!
- 2. 冬青,可以叫它"大灌木",也可以叫它"小树"。冬天来了,树的叶子差不多都掉光了,可是冬青呢,一年四季都是绿油油的。冬青是一种"常绿树",因为只要冬青树上的一片叶子变成了棕色,落了下来,在原来的地方,就会长出一片新的绿叶!^②

- 3. 小朋友,你在往墙上挂冬青的时候,有没有扎到过手指头?冬青的叶子边上和顶上,长满了小小的尖儿,这种尖儿也叫"刺"(spine)。
- 4. 猜猜看,这种"刺",或"棘",对冬青有什么用处呢?有了这些刺,冬青就不怕牛、马,或者别的动物,去咬它的叶子了。
- 5. 看看冬青树顶上的叶子。牛、马够不到冬青树的顶上,瞧,这儿的叶子就很光滑,没有刺了。
- 6. 要是把一块冬青树的树皮放进汤锅,再加点儿水,慢慢地放在火上炖一会儿,就会得到一种白白的、黏黏的东西。
- 7. 这种黏黏的东西,叫做"黏鸟胶",因为人们把它涂在树叶上,涂在小树枝上逮鸟儿。要是鸟儿落在这些小树枝上、树叶上,黏鸟胶就会黏在鸟儿的脚上,鸟儿就飞不走了。
- 8. 夏天的冬青,会开出小小的白花。白花落了,在原来的地方会长出果实。冬青的果实是好看的红莓,冬天,过圣诞节的时候,你就能在圣诞挂饰上看到红莓。^③
- 9. 明年圣诞节,一定要找些美丽的冬青枝叶,带着好多红莓。把冬青枝叶挂满房间,往葡萄干布丁里放一颗小红莓吧!^④

译 注

- ① 冬青的英语是holly或者ilex,在西方文化中象征着"永生"。在圣诞节用冬青做装饰,是西方的一个传统习俗。古罗马人有一个节日"农神节",在这个节日要互送冬青当礼物,后来这个传统被基督教继承了。圣诞节的装饰品,除了冬青,还有彩球(baubles)、一品红(poinsettia)、圣诞花环(wreaths)等。
- ② 冬青的叶子覆盖着一层角质层,阻止了水分的蒸发,所以冬青到了冬天,用不着让树叶都掉光。而且冬青掉叶子不是一次全掉,而是分批掉的,所以看上去就一直是绿色的了。因为这个特点,西方人非常喜欢冬青,认为它是永生的象征。有一种"大叶冬青",它的叶子可以做成"苦丁茶",是中国的传统饮料。
- ③ 中国的冬青大都当作绿化植物,因为经常修剪,所以花朵很难留下来,也就不常看到果实了。
- ④ 现在一般认为,很多种类的冬青果实有一点儿毒性,不适合人吃,还可能让宠物中毒。出于安全考虑,最好不要让孩子和宠物接近冬青枝叶和红莓。

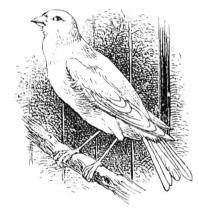
Lesson 2

THE CANARY BIRD

金丝雀

ca-na´-ry	be-cause'	hol'-low	firm´-ly	guide
per-haps'	yel´-low	clothed	perch	builds
cru´-el	coun´-try	cov´-ered	walk	thir´-teen
spar´-rows	mus´-cles	feath´-ers	ra´-ther	ca-na´-ries
swal´-lows	bod´-ies	front	stead´-y	re-pay´

- 1. Are you fond of birds? Perhaps you have one at home. It is very cruel to keep such birds as sparrows or swallows in cages, because these birds like better to fly about in the open air.
- 2. But there is a small yellow bird, called the canary, which we may keep in a cage, if we are kind to it; for, if we let it fly away, it would soon die in this cold country of ours. It is better that it should live in a warm house.
- 3. The canary and other birds have bones and muscles very much like those in our own bodies. Their bones,



however, are hollow and very light. This makes it easy for them to fly.

- 4. See how the canary is clothed. It is covered with feathers. Some of them are long, and these are used for flying. The others are short, and serve to keep the bird warm.
- 5. All birds have two legs and two arms; but these arms are not like ours. We call them wings, and the birds use them for flying.



- 6. Look at the canary's foot. It has one strong toe behind, and three toes in front. This foot is just the right shape for holding firmly to the branch or perch on which the canary sits. So the canary is called a perching bird. It cannot walk as we do, but it hops or jumps along the ground.
- 7. What a strong beak the canary has! With its beak it splits open the seeds on which it feeds. And do you see its bright eyes, looking like black beads?
- 8. The canary has rather a long tail, and this tail helps to steady the bird and to guide it when it flies.
- 9. The canary builds a little nest of wool, hair, or moss, and in this nest the mother bird lays her eggs. Then she sits on the eggs to keep them warm.
- 10. In thirteen days the young birds come out of the eggs, and the mother and father feed them many times a day.
- 11. Why do we keep canaries? It is because they look so pretty with their yellow and green feathers, but still more because they have such a sweet song.

12. Keep your canary's cage clean, and give the bird fresh water to drink and seed to eat every day. Then it will repay you by its sweet singing all day long.

SUMMARY

The canary is a small yellow bird that can live only in warm places. It is a very pretty bird, and has a sweet song. Its bones are hollow and light. It has two legs and two wings. Its foot is so made that it can hold on firmly to a branch or a perch. It has a strong beak, and its long tail helps it in flying.

【中文阅读】

- 1. 小朋友,你喜欢鸟儿吗?你家里可能也养了一只鸟儿吧!把麻雀、燕子一类的鸟儿关在笼子里,是很残忍的,因为这些鸟儿,更喜欢在天上自由自在地飞翔。
- 2. 但是有一种黄色的小鸟,叫做金丝雀(the canary bird)。这种鸟儿,只要我们好好地对待它,是可以养在笼子里的。因为英国的天气很冷,如果让金丝雀飞走了,它过不了多久就会冻死的。金丝雀最好生活在温暖的屋子里。^①
- 3. 金丝雀和别的鸟儿,它们的骨头和肌肉,都跟我们人类的很像。但是鸟儿的骨头,中间是空的,很轻很轻。这样它们就很容易飞起来。
- 4. 看一看金丝雀穿的美丽衣裳,它浑身上下都盖着羽毛。有一些羽毛比较长,是用来飞翔的。另外一些羽毛比较短,是用来保暖的。
- 5. 所有的鸟儿,都有两个后肢,两个前肢。但是鸟儿的前肢,跟我们人 类的不一样。我们管鸟儿的前肢叫"翅膀",鸟儿就是用翅膀来飞翔的。
- 6. 看看金丝雀的脚。它的脚有一个强健的脚趾朝后,三个脚趾朝前。这样的脚,形状很适合紧紧地抓住树枝,或者栖息在金丝雀坐着的地方。所以,我们把金丝雀叫做木栖鸟类(perching bird)。金丝雀不能像人类一样走路,但是可以在地上,用单脚或者双脚跳。
- 7. 金丝雀的嘴真硬啊! 鸟的嘴叫喙(peak)。它就是用喙来啄开谷粒, 美餐一顿的。你看见它那两只明亮的眼睛了吗,像小黑珠一样?