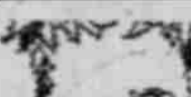


BILL DOES HIS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ALL BY HIMSELF

Mr. Greene Is a "Regular Fellow" to Many People of All Ages and Conditions, Who Watch Shopper at Shawl Counter, Where He Meets With First Unhappy Experience.



A GREAT many people of all ages and conditions saw Bill Greene doing his Christmas shopping the other day.

As Bill passed the stately floor walkers they unconsciously replaced their usual impersonal glare with a friendly expression and relaxed into pleasant fathers and grandfathers.

Languid young women clerks who had been cultivating a haughty aloofness from the rest of the world pointed Bill out to their companions and remarking in simple human fashion:

"Would you look at it? Doing his Christmas shopping all by himself. Ain't he the regular fellow?"

And irritated patrons, after glancing at Bill, interrupted their intense Christmas shopping to bestow dazzling smiles and soft requests on the astonished attendant.

It was at the shawl counter that Bill met with his first unhappy experience. He had never heard the expression "Women and children first," but since he came of the race whose chivalry had come of it, the idea controlled his Christmas purchasing. Deep down in the inside pocket of his coat was his Christmas roll—two dollars and thirty cents, saved nickel by nickel and penny by penny for many a week—and the list of those to whom he meant to give presents opened with grandmother and mother; then came the baby, and there were the sisters. Bill sighed and wondered if his money would reach as far as Pop. He hoped so. He liked Pop, and an uncomfortable feeling rose high in the region of his heart as he thought of Pop without a present. But then they were men. He felt quite sure that his father would understand.

He had never seen his grandmother attired in bright scarlet, and yet he somehow fancied that color. As he eagerly looked over the most brilliant of the woolly scarves displayed on the counter a plump, comfortable-looking young woman bent toward him. She saw a person aged about 7 with serious brown eyes and a friendly smile.

"What is it, dearie?" she inquired.

"Oh, well-intentioned young woman, how could you have done it?"

School Teacher Kissed Him. Bill remembered with a pang the school teacher, young and kind, who one day in a bitter forgotten past had kissed him, and in front of the other fellows, too.

There were lots of other people at the counter, and just at that moment some boys were passing, clapping their mother's hands, alternately holding back and dragging and rushing forward and pulling.

Nevertheless they had time in the midst of this activity to hear the saleswoman's phrase.

"Well, I bet, dearie," they mimicked. "Bill ain't no hard. It was almost enough to make a fellow give up shopping and never come into one of these stores again. He didn't wonder at all that his father hated it so when his mother wanted him to do errands for her at the shops."

But Bill was made of sturdy stuff.

He tried to wipe a Little of the Dripping Refractory from Bills Anxious Brow.

A Powder Puff for Mother.

Good by old Man Merry Christmas to you.

He Wondered if Little Sister Would Like an Alligator.

She Squeezed Bill's Arm all over him.

"Give me a man customer every time," she whispered to her fellow-worker behind the counter; "they're never busy."

"And now then," said the big fellow, "let's go up in the engine department. I have to buy an engine, got a little cousin that needs an engine awful bad."

"Violin vs. Engine." "And now then," said the big fellow, "let's go up in the engine department. I have to buy an engine, got a little cousin that needs an engine awful bad."

"The baby put a bean up her nose." Bill confided to him earnestly as a reason for not making this desirable purchase.

"Oh, well, if she's that kind of a baby," agreed the big fellow.

"Has she many bubbles coming out of her mouth?" he asked presently.

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AMOUNT OF PROFIT IN POULTRY IS DEPENDENT ON CARE THAT IS GIVEN

W. Ludwig Points Out How Productivity May Be Increased by Use of Proper Food and by Paying Attention to Breeding and Management of Flocks During Critical Periods.

BY W. LUDWIG.

POULTRY husbandry is the most highly specialized of all the livestock industries and requires more preparation, study and skill and is more profitable than any other of the livestock branches.

Less capital is required to begin and the time is less for the results of breeding operations to become apparent, and it offers as great rewards when a good strain has been established.

Notwithstanding the remarkable record of the American hen, it is undeniable that her profit could be greatly increased by better care and management. Her average yearly lay of 90 eggs, according to the last census, can be greatly increased even double.

The results of the third annual international egg-laying contest at Storrs, Conn., which closed the last of October, furnished much valuable information. The following extracts from their bulletin will serve to show what has been accomplished during the third year of the contest.

With the exception of the experimental groups noted elsewhere, all pens were fed and handled in the same general way; that is to say, the standard formulas were used for all breeds and varieties. The management fell at liberty, however, to feed larger quantities of any of the feeds to individual needs of the several pens.

There has been a disposition in some quarters to criticize this procedure on the ground that the food requirements of the several breeds were different. Nevertheless it seems to be a fact that commercial poultrymen follow exactly the same plan. Breeders who keep Reds and Leghorns, for instance, will usually be found feeding the two breeds out of the same pen, but perhaps varying the amount.

Automatic Feeder Used. For the first six months of the contest a well-known automatic feeder was employed. During the other half of the year grain was fed by hand, because it was believed that an intelligent feeder could beat any automatic device for dispensing grain.

The major part of the grain ration was fed in the afternoon from 2 to 5 o'clock, depending somewhat on the condition of the weather, but chiefly on the season of the year. The birds were fed earlier, of course, on dark days and in the winter when the afternoons are short. During the first four months more grain was fed than the hens would consume that night, thus leaving a little in the litter as an incentive for the birds to begin work in the morning. On cold days and in damp weather hens seem a little disposed to be idle.

Whenever this grain was not infrequently fed two or three times during the forenoon, but in very small amounts, just enough to keep the hens busy.

All hens were permitted free access to mash, grit, shell and charcoal. The dry mash was supplied in a six-quart circular earthenware receptacle, with straight sides. A wire grid inside retained the mash loosely on top the mass and reduced waste to a minimum.

The average amount of food consumed by the heavier breeds, Rocks, Reds and Wyandottes, was 41.87 pounds of mash and 46.87 pounds of grain, or a total of 88.74 pounds for each hen a year. Each Leghorn averaged to consume during the year 21.6 pounds of mash and 45.2 pounds of grain, or a total of 66.8 pounds for each hen a year.

The following rations were used throughout the year:

Scratch grain—40 pounds
Corn—40 pounds
Wheat—40 pounds
Heavy white oats—40 pounds
Kaffir corn—40 pounds
Buckwheat—40 pounds
Dry mash—200 pounds
Oats—200 pounds
Clover hay—100 pounds
Gluten feed—100 pounds
Best grade of alfalfa—100 pounds
Standard middlings—75 pounds
Fish scrap—45 pounds
Fish meal—45 pounds
Lard—45 pounds
Lime—45 pounds

The experimental pens consisted chiefly of two groups of pens, 245 pens 1 to 11 composed of White Rocks and pens 38 to 43 were White Leghorns. The two groups made a duplicate experiment of the several breeds. Pens 7 and 29 were fed the contest ration throughout; all other pens had their ration supplemented by milk, pens 8 and 41 received no green food; pens 10 and 42, but not for both. It is interesting to note that all the milk-fed pens except those from which both milk and green food were withheld outlasted their respective check pens that received only the regular ration. It should be added that in summer

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lost during the same time only 3.1 days. The average for all breeds under observation was 26.9 days, while each broody hen lost 26 days.

BREED.	No. of birds.
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