

THE POULTRY SNEAK THIEF.

The weasel as a sneak thief and softly stealing assassin is beyond description.

Silently gliding like a serpent, he slips through an inch opening, bounds on his harmless victim, sucks its blood and wantonly cuts the throat of every fowl. The beautiful thrush, nestling its young or on leafy branch caroling to its Maker, is suddenly seized and its trilling throat pierced by the fangs of the murderer.

His technical name, putorius, from "putor," "bad smell," is appropriate. For, like the polecat, he throws off a vile odor. Diminutive in size, he is a consolidated devil—a cross of deep dyed villain, skunk and silent striking copperhead. Behold that long, lithe, wiry, restless, quickly moving, muscular body! That flat head, projected from all the openings in his retreat seemingly at once, sways from side to side, like the cobra ready to strike.



THE MURDERER UNMASKED.

Above are the fearful jaws and serpent fangs that cut the throats of eighty chickens in one night. The skin is drawn back to unmask the murderous killing weapons and to display the intricate network of muscles that work the powerful jaws, which make the weasel the most dreaded enemy of the poultry keeper. Though he weighs from five to eight ounces and is from six to ten inches in length, yet this little sausage shaped creature is much feared and formidable. He has been known to kill the eagle and attack a five prong buck.

On Jan. 17 last a miner was terribly lacerated and bitten by a weasel at Bear Valley shaft, Shamokin, Pa. In the darkness the weasel seemed master, but miners, hearing the cries of distress, rescued their companion and killed the weasel with drills and shovels. This animal has been known to kill six full grown hens, twenty turkeys and eighty chickens in three nights. His victims are not disfigured. He bleeds a rabbit between the eye and ear, but has been known to chase one into a stone fence and open an artery in the hind leg.

He will clean the rats and mice out of a barn and bleed them the same way.

He bites old chickens in the arteries of the neck close to the head. Young chickens, pigeons and wild birds are caught back of the neck and sucked dry. If wounded, he will suicide by sucking his own blood.

A hunter followed a weasel for twenty-five miles, the little animal stopping to kill only eight rabbits during the race. At times he would disappear and travel under the snow for fifty feet. In this way he kills many quail that seek shelter under wind-falls, the farmers in the spring reporting them frozen by the hard winter weather.

In one night a hunter trapped a dark brown, light red and white weasel. The most common color is brown. Weasels are dark and light brown, dark and light red, maltese and white. Maltese are rare. The weasel wears white in winter. On the snow he can hardly



CAUGHT AT LAST.

be seen by his victim and enemy. His white fur is the ermine of royalty and august courts, and the dark spots on these robes are the black tips of weasel tails.

The mink and weasel should not be confused. Minks reach two pounds and have half webbed toes. When a chicken is ripped from the neck down the back, it is neither a weasel, mink, rat nor opossum, but a cooper's hawk did the damage. Weasels are born from April to May, six to two to a litter. The young ones are great poultry

traps. They are common all over the country, except in Arizona, New Mexico, southern California and the Gulf states.

JOHNNY, GIT YER GUNI

Johnny, git yer gun!
A weasel's in the pen;
Give it to 'im straight;
Don't shoot the speckly hen.

Hit 'im with the ax;
Stab 'im in the collar;
The feller what fixes 'im
'll git a ha'f a dollar.

You're a bully feller!
My, but you kin shoot!
Here's yer ha'f a dollar,
An' fifty cents to boot.

Nail 'im to the barn.
Warnin' to the rest;
Skunks an' weasels git,
If yer know what's best.

Johnny's pulled his gun;
This hain't nary lie.
Better go a mile aroun'
Else yer want to die.

C. M. B.

DON'TS.

Don't fail to advertise, but fail to tell lies.

Don't use the same trough in all the pens. Epidemic.

Don't buy medicated nest eggs for lice. They are quackery.

Don't keep too many breeds. It beats Kilkenny cats and will beat you. Don't think how hard your work is. It brings on grumps and lazy prostration.

Don't dust the mother hen with sulphur. Makes sores and blind's chicks. See?

Don't get your troughs and water vessels mixed. Roup, cholera, chicken-pox, canker, are contagious.

Don't use rotten eggs for nest eggs. Your mother-in-law may get an old one for breakfast. Then for a bust-up.

Don't expect a five dollar cockerel for a dollar. Have you any real five dollar birds for a dollar bill? We have never bought any and would like to try it.

Don't forget when chicks, ducklings and poults appear that they should be kept separate from each other and the old stock. The old gander will guard the gosling.

Don't forget heredity. A crooked tail on a hen puts a crooked tail on a cockerel. Hat ditto. A crooked beak on the cock puts a lopsided mouth on the pullets. Where did you get your crookedness?

Don't spend your time writing spring poetry, but raise spring poultry. The former will bring you an N. G. check to your aspirations, but the latter will bring a check to pay for your wife's Easter hat.

SETTING A HEN.

Test her first with doorknobs and corn-cobs. If her enthusiasm increases, arrange a roomy nest, so she may turn and leave and return without breaking the eggs. Underlay the oat straw with tobacco stems and dust the hen with louse powder two days before you give her eggs and redust the fifteenth day.

Hint.—A hen will not eat at once after dusting and will soil the eggs if put right back on the nest. Set her in a secluded spot and you will get a good hatch if you have a good hen, good eggs and you are a good fellow to tend her.

Bill of Fare.—Whole corn, grit, water, dust box; no green food, meat, scrap nor mash. If you are faithful, it will not be twins nor triplets, but on the twenty-first day she will serve a whole family of chicklets on the half shell.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

Ducklings, white clover and honey-bees are a bad combination. Better be careful.

To get a white flesh market chicken feed white ground oats and skim milk-corn for yellow backs.

When you buy dressed fowls, if the bird is healthy kick against a packed crop. Too high for corn. It's against the law to sell packed crop chickens in some states. Call the cop.

It's common sense to keep fire extinguishers handy. It's no joke to grab a red-hot incubator and fire it outside the fire zone. Swish, swish, hiss, and the extinguisher has saved you from being beaten by the insurance company!

The yield of farm products for 1907 reaches \$7,412,000,000, or \$857,000,000 above 1906. The farmers' poultry did their part. Who got the lion's share? "The

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trusts," says the farmer. Yes; they play their trick, and the farmer gets a gold brick.

Chickens that pick toward the sharp point of the shell seldom get out. They do not absorb the yolk; it bursts, and they drown. Sometimes a chicken will stick fast to the shell. You can help it to liberty, but the majority of these stickers have crooked backs, crooked necks and crooked feet and amount to nothing. If nature can do no better with such crooked material, can you?

"Dear reader, if John Brown's pretty peacock gets over your fence and lays an egg under your rosebush and you get it, whose egg is that?" "Mine, of course." "Yours? Well, prove it." "Oh, that's easy! I've got the egg, and possession is nine points of the law." "Sure your right?" "Well, I guess, and if you weren't so pigheaded you'd see it." "Well, then, my dear, would it make any difference if that egg had been laid by a pretty peahen?"

Who ever heard of a goose special? Well, then, Russia is ahead. A special goose train of twenty to forty cars steams over the Russian border into Berlin every day. Each car holds 1,200 cacklers. Imagine 48,000 geese honking and hissing while a multitude of our good natured German friends bid for them! Berlin's "goosey gander" bill is \$2,000,000 a year. The German emperor relishes roast goose stuffed with onions, decorated with liquid hops. This is not leze majesty.

B. M. Barnitz SIGN OF A BEATEN MAN.

Runner Who Looks Behind Almost Sure to Lose the Race.

"There are many more good distance runners now than in my days," said an old time champion after watching a three mile scratch race at the New York Athletic club games. "But the habits of the runners have not changed any, for I noticed one little trick in the race that bore the significance that used to attach to it.

"To the casual onlooker there was nothing to choose between the two leaders when they were beginning the last quarter of a mile. Right from the crack of the pistol they were running almost stride for stride with the low, graceful, easy action of the real long distance runner.

"Neither had called into use the reserve power which must be utilized in the final sprint for victory when they turned into the stretch for the final lap. Then one of them slightly turned his head to see where the third man was.

"That man is beaten," was the thought which occurred to me at once, and it proved true, as always, for when the dash for the finish began he allowed his rival to get a lead of five yards before going after him in earnest pursuit.

"From that point to the finish there was no perceptible difference in the speed of the men, but the man who had turned his head to make sure that he would get second place, instead of bending every energy to win, of course landed where his thoughts placed him."—New York Sun.

SIREN DEVELOP THE BUST

SHE'S A QUEEN

SHE'S A SIREN



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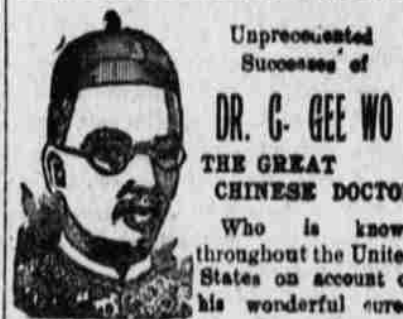
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