

FARM AND POULTRY

HINTS, HELPS AND SUGGESTIONS

EARLY MATING BEST.

If that early bird gets the worm, early mated fowls beget best offspring and their bustling owner gets the top notch price. So get busy.

Geese, to insure fertility, if strangers to the place, should be mated the fall before. Otherwise, like humans, they get homesick and neglect business. Geese, turkeys and ducks often lay and hatch very early, so let them go to housekeeping early and avoid the rush.

Hens and roosters must be hitched up in plenty of time before natural breeding season.

Large breeds, like Cochins, so slow to mature, should be mated early in February. March settings are all right for Rocks, Dories and Reds. Birds of the Leghorn type are all right for April and May.

To win at fall shows, chicks should be out in January. To fill the place of hens that knock off laying in molt pullets must be hatched in January and



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

A JANUARY MATING.

February, but such pullets make poor winter layers, as they molt after egg debut.

Vigorous adult stock that has not been inbred nor forced for winter eggs is best, and birds should be studied well before mating so no change need be made, as mates become greatly attached to each other and a separation and new mating often result in infertility.

Know your birds individually. Know your breed's characteristics. Mate for an ideal.

Mating birds with same defect increases it in the offspring. A slight de-



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

A FEBRUARY BREEDING PEN.

fect in one may be offset with a perfection in that respect in another, but a good bird cannot eradicate a gross defect in the other.

The larger the breed the longer for eggs to become fertile, ten days mating being generally sufficient.

The proportion of females to male in pen depends on breed. Birds of Leghorn style, fifteen to twenty-five; American and English breeds, ten to fifteen; Asiatics, eight to ten.

DON'TS.

Don't let the merchant mix your eggs with others and sell them all for yours.

Don't let hens make their nests under the buildings or in the horse stable.

Don't allow visiting during laying hours. Hens knock off laying when excited.

Don't mark your poultry with paint when a toe punch is better and mark can't come off.

Don't keep eggs in a tight vessel. Spread on a tray in a well ventilated, clean, cool room and market early.

Don't neglect to change water often if feeding dry mash, as particles of mash from birds' bills sour the water.

Don't use open water vessels. Hens dip their combs and wattles in them, they freeze and the hens knock off laying.

Don't use an old slat cornerrib that is a food supply depot for mice and hens when heavy wire is cheap and guards the grain.

Don't have rotten eggs in your possession. It's conclusive evidence in certain states that you are in the rot and spot business.

To Mothers—And Others

You can use Bucklen's Arnica Salve to cure children of eczema, rashes, tetter, chafings, scaly and crusted humors, as well as their accidental injuries—cuts, burns, bruises, etc., with perfect safety. Nothing else heals so quickly. For boils, ulcers, old, running or fever sores or piles it has no equal. 25 cts at all dealers.

HOGARTH'S RURAL HOME.

His Tomb and Garrick's Tribute to the Great Caricaturist.

It may not be generally known that Hogarth's country house at Chiswick is preserved entire to his memory. A brass plate over the door is to this effect: "This house was purchased in 1802 by Lieutenant Colonel Shipway in order to save it from being demolished, and by restoring the building he has preserved it to the nation and to the art world in memory of the genius that once lived and worked within its walls."

It was in 1749 that Hogarth acquired the house at Chiswick, his town residence being at the corner of Leicester Fields. Between these two houses he spent most of his life, usually passing the summer months at Chiswick. The garden as it stands is somewhat abridged of its former dimensions. The stable and painting room have disappeared, but one important feature remains. This is the mulberry tree, under whose shade he entertained the little foundlings put out to nurse at Chiswick. Hogarth's marriage was childless, and his affection went out to stranger children.

Hogarth died at the age of sixty-seven at his house in Leicester Fields, where he had gone in a weak state after an illness. The funeral was at Chiswick. His tombstone bears the following inscription:

Farewell, great painter of mankind,
Who reached the noblest point of art,
Whose pictured morals charm the mind
And through the eye correct the heart!

If genius fire thee, reader, stay;
If nature touch thee drop a tear;
If neither move thee turn away,
For Hogarth's honored dust lies here.

These lines were written by his friend David Garrick.—Architectural Review.

AFRICA'S GREAT DESERT.

Sahara is Not All Barren and Has Two Distinct Populations.

The Sahara, that vast expanse of country lying to the south of Algeria, is commonly called "the desert" by Europeans. The name Sahara in no wise, however, means "desert." It is simply the Arab appellation of this extensive tract, mainly composed of great plains, which are even well populated in certain districts. It is quite a mistake to imagine that all is barren and sterile, for there are to be found large date palm plantations as well as numerous flocks of sheep and great numbers of camels which man must tend and care for.

The Sahara contains two distinct populations—the one sedentary, the other nomad. The former live in the towns and villages, cultivating the soil and tending the date palms. The latter are shepherds, roaming from place to place in search of pasture for their cattle. How few are there in the home land who have any idea of the Sahara or of the Arab tribes who live there! Travelers to these regions are comparatively rare, but all are amply repaid for a visit.

Life among the moving tents of the nomads is deeply interesting in its primitive simplicity. The country itself has a grandeur and beauty which is quite unique. Its rolling dunes, painted with orange and crimson and gold against violet and purple shadows at sunrise and sunset; its green oases, its wild sandstorms, its lovely mirages, once seen are never to be forgotten. While the solemn silence strikes the soul with awe, one almost realizes why the Arabs call all this "the garden of Allah"—Christian Herald.

Possibilities of Translation.

An English writer made an experiment once of the gain and loss of translation.

I heard that L. would write my "life"
When I gave up my breath,
I felt that this indeed would add
A new delight to death.

This was translated into another language, then from that into another, and so on until a dozen versions had been made. Of course there was a different translator each time. The last version reads as follows:

Dear, in my song you still shall live,
Though under earth you lie,
Ah, had you now that grace to give
I should not need to die!

The Sewing Machine.

Did you know a lighted match or taper would do wonders with the sewing machine? Try it some day. Light a candle or just a match and apply it to different parts of the wheels and cogs. Lints and threads will burn the char can be wiped off, and the machine will run twice as easily.

When a machine gums it is advisable to remove the head, place it in a tub and cover with gasoline. It makes a new machine from an old one.

Heroic War Measures.

Chaka, a great African native chief, trained a powerful army which was famous in war. If a regiment was beaten it was slaughtered on its return to the king's palace. If any man lost his weapon in war he was killed for cowardice. If the chief wanted to see what kind of weapons were most successful he would order a sham fight with them in which real lives would be lost.

Worse Than the Upper Ten.

"Only the upper ten go to your church, don't they?" inquired the plain person.

"Yes," replied the organist of the swell church, "but they're not a circumstance to the oppish tenor in our choir."—Philadelphia Press.

For Cause.

He—Why are you always throwing your money in my face? She—Because I can't keep it out of your hands.—Baltimore American

AN ILLINOIS INQUIRY.

A reader of these notes who lives near Edinburg, Ill., not far from Springfield, writes stating that he lives on a sixty acre farm especially well suited for a dairy farm and makes inquiry as to the wisdom of going into the dairy business. He states that he knows practically nothing of the dairy business, wants to know how many cows a sixty acre farm would support, whether it would be better to sell milk or cream and what would be a reasonable estimate of the amount of milk a cow would give per day during the year and what per cent of it would be cream. While it would be impossible in the limits of such an article as this to give a novice in the dairy business as full directions as he desires, nevertheless a few suggestions may be made that will prove helpful.

A suggestion which our correspondent makes in his letter is excellent—namely, visiting and inspecting for himself some of the most successful dairy farms in the section in which he lives. Here he can make inquiries as to a hundred and one details knowledge of which would be helpful to him if he is going into the dairy business, while the visual impressions he will take away with him from a shipshape dairy farm will be a decided advantage to him. Were we in our correspondent's place we would secure ten or a dozen tested grade cows of the breed which seems to be most numerous in the section in which he lives. He might handle more, but this would do for a start. These cows will cost all the way from \$50 to \$200 apiece, depending upon their ability to deliver the goods. And in this connection it is well to remember that it is far better in the long run to pay \$100 for a cow that the other fellow would rather keep than \$40 or \$50 for one that he is quite willing to sell.

The "reasonableness" of an estimate as to how much milk a cow would give would depend quite largely upon the amount paid for her and also upon the feed and care given her. A cow that gives 5,000 pounds of 5 per cent milk in a year will produce 250 pounds of butter fat, approximately equal to 312 pounds of butter, worth at an average of 30 cents per pound, \$93. Subtracting cost of feed, about \$38, leaves a net return of \$55 per year. A Holstein to give the same return would have to produce not far from 9,000 pounds of milk containing 3 per cent of butter fat. While she would give more milk, her feed bill would also be larger. If one is willing to pay the price he can reasonably expect as good results as these or better. While the writer is not acquainted with the local conditions, it would be his judgment that selling the cream would be the better proposition, for, while he might not get any more for it than he would for the whole milk, he would have the skim milk left on the farm for his hogs, calves and chickens, which would be natural byproducts of his dairy operations. If there is not already a silo on our friend's farm he should have one or two, depending upon the number of cows he will ultimately keep. If he does not have them already he should subscribe for a couple of good dairy papers and by reading them carefully and making inquiries of his neighbors who are most successful in the dairy business he will gather information which will be most helpful to him. If he can so arrange it it would give him a good return on the money invested if he would take a short course in dairying at the state agricultural college.

A COSTLY FIASCO.

If some of the would be statesmen that are representing or misrepresenting us down at Washington would get their hands off the political wires long enough to pass a law which will provide for the rigid federal inspection of all imported nursery stock at port of entry and the immediate destruction of all consignments found diseased or infested with the eggs or nests of destructive insects they would confer an inestimable benefit upon the vast horticultural interests of the country. Secretary Wilson is authority for the statement that the United States is practically the only civilized country having horticultural interests of any importance which does not require rigid inspection of imported nursery stock. For lack of the protection which such laws would have given our orchards are infested with various imported scale insects, while the brown tailed moth is another pest which has been imported into the country regularly through lack of federal inspection laws and which is doing untold damage to orchards and shade trees in eastern states. It may not be impertinent to inquire how long this fiasco that Secretary Wilson refers to is going to continue.

\$2,500 A YEAR NET.

An Iowa farmer who bought a quarter section farm five years ago at \$80 an acre has in the meantime kept an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. He finds that besides keeping his family in comfortable circumstances he saved \$2,500 a year in cash. He figures that there has been an average increase in the value of his land per year of \$5 per acre, which, added to his net revenue, means that his income from the place has been net \$3,300 yearly. Quite likely this is a good deal better than owners of 100 acre farms will average, but it shows what can be done. It would be interesting to know how many husky boys this farmer had helping him with the farm operations.

Luxury and Labor.

Alexander the Great, reflecting on his friends degenerating into sloth and luxury, told them that it was a most slavish thing to luxuriate and a most royal thing to labor.—Barrow.

MILLER'S IDEA OF JUST TREATMENT

To do the right thing, at the right time, in the right way; to do some things better than they were ever done before; to eliminate errors; to know both sides of the question; to be courteous; to be an example; to work for the love of work; to anticipate requirements; to develop resources; to recognize no impediments, to master circumstances, to act from reason rather than rule, to be satisfied with nothing short of perfection.

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