

## Modern Poultry Culture

By PHIL. MARQUAM.

### The *Dermanyssus Gallinea*

This article is not going to deal with a large and little known animal, but on the contrary with a very small and well known creature. It may be needless to say that the *Dermanyssus Gallinea* is nothing more or less than the tiny spider louse, commonly called red mite, which infests the average hen house. And yet, as long as its scientific name is it is not half long enough if an insect's name should be lengthened in proportion to the damage it does. For the red mite does more damage to the poultry than probably any other pest or cause. It lives upon the blood of the chicken. When one feeds grain which costs seventy or eighty dollars a ton to hens who are domiciled in houses thickly populated by the ever present and destructive red mite, he is supplying these countless tiny creatures with very expensive meals—namely the life blood from his hens.

The destructive mite lurks in the cracks and crevices of the hen house by day and sallies forth, when the shades of night descend, to dine upon the helpless fowl. By the hundreds of thousands these blood sucking creatures attack the hens upon the roosts and gorge themselves upon the rich blood of the fowls. Does that pay? This whole problem centers around the question of whether or not it is a good investment to feed all these countless thousands of mites. If it is a paying proposition, then, of course, a farmer will do nothing to exterminate them. Most progressive farmers have found out that it is not a paying proposition, and they have undertaken to exterminate or hold in check, this constant menace.

If given half a chance, a hen will keep herself reasonably free from lice which, unlike mites, live on the fowl constantly, and do not secrete themselves in the cracks of the hen house by day. Their chief aim in life is to make existence miserable for chickens of all ages. Lice, apparently don't know what they are doing or where they are going, but they are always on their way. Whether or not they are attempting to run foot races over the skin of the hen, or trying to drill holes in the fowl's flesh, or play hide and seek upon their feathers, no one knows.

At any rate, it is enough to say that these pests with their enigmatic habits, should be done away with. There are several efficient ways to rid a hen of lice. Dust baths are good, not only to put lice out of commission, but they also encourage the hen to take additional exercise, which is beneficial, at all times. In fact, a box of inexpensive road dust looks better to a hen troubled with lice than the most luxurious and magnificent beds in ancient, imperial Rome ever did to a pleasure-seeking Roman. And yet as cheap as this common dust is, it is rarely provided for the hens.

The hen has no way of combatting the red mite. Man has to do that for her, and if he fails to do so, the hens fall easy victims to the attacks of these pests. As a consequence of the constant loss of the fowl's blood egg production falls off or ceases altogether. Sometimes setting hens die on the nest and the farmer wonders why. Nine chances out of ten it was merely a case of the hen being bled to death by red mites.

One of the best investments a farmer can make is the purchase of a bucket spray pump, made of brass. There are several good makes on the market. With this pump a mite destroying liquid can be sprayed into the cracks of the hen house every week in summer and every two weeks in winter. By this means the red mite will be held in check. It is well to see that the fine spray gets into the small cracks, and, in fact, into all the places where mites secrete themselves. Neglect of this important matter will lead to sure and ultimate failure in the poultry business.

See our new Spring Hats now on Display. Dale's. 4-1

### UPPER EAGLE CREEK

Otho Richey and family visited with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoffmeister Sunday.

Walter Douglass made a business trip to Portland last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Platt have left their farm and gone over near Astoria to cook at a logging camp.

H. S. Gibson was an Estacada visitor the other day.

Johnny Affolter, who has been the guest of Tillamook relatives for a week or so, returned home last Friday. He is intending to leave for South America soon.

Mrs. Katie Douglass called on Mrs. Naylor Sunday afternoon.

Spring millinery at Dale's. Have a look. 4-1

FOR SALE—Two fresh milch cows, one Roan Durham and one Durham and Jersey mixed, both with calves. Inquire of A. Miller, Colton, Ore. 3-25

Owing to different arrangements, the Rebekahs and Odd Fellows will not put on their play in connection with the regular program at the Family Theater, March 27th, therefore there will be no matinee. Manager Linn has secured the consent of the city council to present that great picture, "Hearts of Humanity," on Easter Sunday, with a matinee in the afternoon. There will be good music and other special features.

### CONTEST IN POETICS

The NEWS has very kindly given me space to advertise a CONTEST IN POETICS. I want to promote the study and writing of poetry, and encourage the talents of the young in the finest of the fine arts. To this end I will give five dollars as a first prize, three dollars as a second prize and two dollars as a third prize.

The conditions of the contest are as follows. The contest is open to any high school student in Clackamas county and will close April 15th, 1920. The poem must be a sonnet. The manuscript must be accompanied with a letter stating name, age and grade of the contestant and the name of the school and the teacher. Also a brief statement from the teacher certifying the poem and the letter of the student. But one poem from each contestant will be considered. If any desire their manuscripts returned they must send with it a self directed stamped envelope. The judges will be announced later. Mail manuscripts to F. W. Parker, 215 9th street, Oregon City.

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### LOWER EAGLE CREEK

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Still of Portland are the proud parents of a baby boy. Mrs. Still will be remembered as Minnie Mason.

Little Edward Ballou is very ill at his home. Physicians say he has typhoid fever.

Clyde Munger was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital last week for an operation for ap-

pendicitis. He is improving at this writing.

Mrs. Anna Full and sons, Boy and Glenn, of Gresham, spent Sunday with Mrs. W. A. Smith.

Dale's have a fine Show in Spring millinery. No cost to look, and Low Prices to Buy. 4-1

J. R. Hughes expert painter and paper hanger has an ad in this issue. Look it up.