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### DRY PICKING POULTRY.

Why do some dressed fowls lose that bright color, sweet fresh flavor and collapse so quick?

Because of a torn, broken, rubbed or scalded skin. A perfect dry skin is protection against bacteria, but once broken the flesh beneath is at the mercy of its environment and soon swarms.

A well bled, dry picked, whole skinned, air chilled bird in six months' cold storage changes but slightly, but a scalded fowl, with its destroyed skin structure, quickly gets slippery and deteriorates.

It pays to dry pick. The fowl looks, keeps, tastes and sells better and is so



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

### AN EXPERT AT WORK.

much more healthful for food that all ought to pick this style, and it is so easy that after practice on a few adult fowls tender broilers may be picked quickly without tearing.

Provide a barrel for feathers, a bucket for blood and a regular killing or pocket knife.

Hang bird as in picture, take head in left hand, stretch neck, open mouth wide, insert knife and sever blood vessels on either side of neck, cutting toward base of brain. When bird bleeds freely press point of knife quickly into brain. The fowl at once draws wings close and as tremor passes through body pick fast, as feathers are then loose.

With head in one hand grasp large wing feathers firmly with other and



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

### A DRY PICKED BROILER.

withdraw; next tail feathers, then tender portions of body, such as breast, abdomen, back, wings, thighs and, last, pinfeathers.

Grasp a small handful at a time from one section and pull in direction of least resistance.

Many do not singe. A small quantity of alcohol ablaze in a dish is best for this, care being taken not to char or heat skin.

Cold air is best for cooling. Water soaks the skin, adds weight and hastens decay.

### A SAUERKRAUT KNOCKOUT.

Bill Schmidt he didn't like sauerkraut. But Katherine, his frau, could stand beside der bar'l all day And eat shoost like a cow.

They fought about dat kraut all day, They fought about him night, And Katherine's mudder like kraut, too, And she join in der fight.

Den Bill gits quiet all to once About dat sauerkraut smell; Den Katherine an' her mam Thought they had licked Bill well.

One day—will you believe dis true?— Bill bought a bar'l of kraut, And when them wimmens saw it come They shoost dance round and shout.

But when der kraut begins to hiss Bill cut der middle hoop, Them wimmens den went down below To see how dat kraut look.

Der hull shebang shoost up and bust! Dem wimmens—where were they? All covered up mit sauerkraut Shoost like a load of hay.

Der mouth was full; der ears was full; Der nose it was stuffed tight, Bill tasted, too, mit luffin fits When he gits out of sight.

Don't you say sauerkraut down there! They don't eat kraut some more, And Katherine has got a club Behind der kitchen door.

C. M. BARNITZ.

### AIR AND EXERCISE FOR PIGEONS.

Did you ever see granddad tote a drug store to the barn and dope his pigeons? Course not. Why? Just because so many fellows' pigeons today are so different. They get fits and canker and roup and pox and wing disease and liver disease and diarrhea.



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

### TAKING AN AIRING.

and there are pigeon physicians and quarantine, etc. Why, some lofts are like a hospital and a college drug store. But granddad's birds circled through zero air and didn't care. They were tough as nails, never got sick, you never found a dead one and they raised fine squabs too.

Pigeons today are mollycoddled too much. They are packed into small lofts and flies, are fed too much patent food and get too little air and exercise. Our advice is make loft and fly roomy, have plenty of air without drafts, keep loft and fly clear of filth and vermin and use a simple, rational ration.

To induce exercise feed outside when weather permits and make birds fly to the far corner of fly for nest material.

### FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

As is usual, the female among quacks does the most talking. She quack-quack-quacks, but the male just speaks in a subdued whisper. How human!

When wild geese in large flocks flew over Pennsylvania in May the goose wing prophets arose to remark that it was a sign of a cool summer. It was in Iceland.

The plumage often reflects the condition of fowls except in molt. Lusterless surface often comes with old age, but is indication of low vitality in young birds. Rough plumage is a sign of disease or lice.

Indian Runner ducks seem to have all the other quacks licked to a frazzle on eggs. Many go above 200 a year and keep this up for three years, when they cut down the product. White duck eggs command the highest price.

One hundred thousand ducklings were hatched at a single duck plant at Speonk, N. Y., the past season, and the owner did not have enough to fill all orders. This is the greatest quack plant in the world, medical colleges excepted.

A Kansas City man could not understand why a neighbor's ducks always waddled straight for his lawn. He later found they were after the dandelion, which they soon destroyed. Ducks and geese make short work of many weed pests.

The controversy as to whether drawn or undrawn poultry decomposes the faster was settled recently in a six months' test by the United States department of agriculture. Full drawn, with head, feet and viscera removed, decomposed most rapidly.

A chicken hawk at Tionesta, Pa., pounced on a weasel and bore it aloft and high in the air. They fought a duel, the little wiry weasel finally bringing the great bird to the ground, where a boy dispatched both. Since bounties were removed from these pests they have much increased in Pennsylvania.

Ireland's progress in poultry culture reads like a fairy tale. A little while back Erin was not counted in the poultry scale, but by a fine system of poultry education she now owns 24,000,000 hens and exported to London last year \$5,000,000 worth of table poultry, \$500,000 more than other nations and colonies shipped in. Canada's export to England was only \$25,000.

*C. M. Barnitz.*

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