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The Press Poultry Department Conducted by H. S. Canon, Magalia, Calif.

Send questions for this department direct to Mr. Canon to insure prompt answers.

Building A Heavy Laying Strain. back should be broader than the

will be weakly.

pen if she does not begin laying hen, per year. withing a reasonable length of There are, however, very few

are not producers, and eating up average as a rule. the profits of the more industrious hens.

Hens which are not laying, or are laying but once in three or four days should be weeded out. They often look as vigorous and healthy as the hens which are Breeders who use the trap nests laying, and it is not safe to go by appearance. The trap nest is the only sure method of finding the drones.

There are several so called "systems", a part of which is to tell by the appearance of a hen whether or not she is laying. One judges by the comb. If it is full and red, the hen is laying. Another tells by an examination flexible and can be spread so as to admit three fingers of a man's There are records of hens bred 40n of Grenville Emmett of New York hen is laying.

body. The ideal laying hen is er care will do. wedge shaped in three ways. Three or four years of careful than the breast line, and the good layers.

When mating cockerels to pul- lower part of the body. The lets they should be strong, vigor- type thus formed is wedge shapour and we'l developed. In fact, ed first, on sides from front to all stock used as breeders should rear, second bottom to top, front be well developed, or the chicks to rear, third, base of tail downwards.

Using the trap nest not only Personally, I do not consider gives you a record of each hen's any of these so called "systems" work for future reference when seriously. The Wyandotte hen selecting breeders, but enables is almost a direct antithesis of you to weed out the drones, for the type described above as being any hen which does not get the ideal laying hen, yet there caught in the nest is not laying, are some strains of Wyandottes and should be removed from the which produce over 200 eggs per

time. A look at the egg record flocks which will average 200 at the end of the month will dis- eggs per hen per year, and the close the fact if some of the hens larger the flock, the lower the

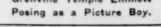
Where five hundred or a thousand laying hens are kept, it is not practical to use the trap nests, as it would keep several people busy releasing the hens and recording the numbers. keep a small flock separate from the rest of the fowls, and trap nest these, and use their eggs for hatching, to replace the hens sold. Two laying seasons is in odd looking costume is doing his thought to be as long as a hen best to keep still and remember what can be profitably kept for laying. The average hen, according to Althorp," as represented in the paintthe statistics of the U.S. Government, lays about 80 eggs per stand stock still for any length of time. of the pelvic bones. If they are year. This is a very low yield but the photo shows that he succeeded for a pure bred hen.

hand, it is an indication that the for laying, of as high as 260 eggs ity. While Master Emmett behaved

a hen which is a prolific layer by selection of the best as shown by the formation and shape of the carefully kept records, and prop-

The back is broader a little back work along the lines I have laid of the middle than in front. The down will put you on the road to abdomen of a laying hen is lower success with a flock of uniformly







. by American Press Association.

The grave looking young gentleman he was told. When caught by the photographer he was posing as "Lord ing by Sir Joshua Reynolds. It is pretty hard work for a little boy to admirably. The boy's name is Grenville Temple Emmett, and he is the

so well as to win the plaudits of the per year. This is exceptional, of beholders, it is quite likely that he Others claim to be able to tell course, but it shows what careful would have much preferred not to pose at all.

How to Split Paper.

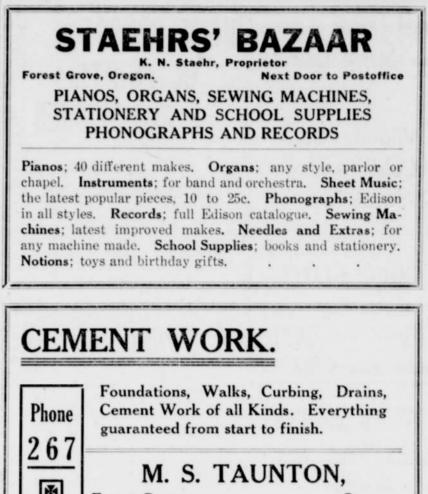
According to Popular Science News, there are two ways of splitting a piece of paper. One is to lay the sheet of paper on a piece of glass, soak it thoroughly with water and then press it smoothly over the glass. With a little care the upper half of the sheet can be peeled off, leaving the under half on the glass. Let this dry and it will come off the glass easily. Of course st be perfectly lean. The econd way is a better one, but it re juires some good practice. Paste a piece of cloth or strong paper on each side of the sheet to be split. When it has thoroughly dried pull the two pleces of cloth apart suddenly and violently. The paste can then be softened with water and the two halves of the sheet easily taken off the cloths.

MARKETING FRUIT IN OHIO. The marketing end is just as important a part of the fruit growing business as any step which precedes it and is receiving much attention just now. In way of solving this problem the plan that has been evolved by the peach growers in the district adjacent to Port Clinton, O., is interesting and may be of value to fruit growers elsewhere. Briefly, the plan referred to is a disposal of the fruit at auction sales, which are held in the home markets. While two successful co-operative marketing companies had been in operation for about twenty years, the auction plan was not inaugurated until six years ago. At that time any peach grower not a member of either company was likely to fall a victim to the commission men who often got these growers to consign their fruit. Since the auction plan has become established the buyers have been compelled to buy outright. As fast as the fruit is picked it is sorted into three grades and taken in baskets to the auction station and sold to the highest bidder. Thereupon the grower is given a slip stating the number of bushels of each grade and the price of each and next receives in exchange for this a check on the local bank. There is no uncertainty about this plan, no delays, no telegrams stating "stuff not as represented" or anything of the kind. Now and then the grower rereives less under this plan than he would by consigning to reliable houses. but he runs no risk, and the money in his pocket on the spot has a good sound.

A HERD OF WILD HORSES. In the rugged and forbidding valleys of Okanogan county, Wash., which lies north of the big bend in the Columbia river, range today a most interesting group of some 5,000 wild horses. These are said to be the runty descendants of horses of good breeding and a much larger size that were brought west at the time of the gold discoveries in the fifties and sixties. These animals average about 700 pounds in weight, are remarkably swift and sure of foot. much like the bighorn sheep, and up to the present time have resisted practically all attempts at taming and bringing under domestication, being vicious and wild and showing no regard for their own lives when attempts have been made to subdue them. An interesting trait noticed in the stallions of this wild herd is their persistent attempts to coax to this wild life mares grazing on the nearest ranges. In many cases these efforts have been successful, with the result that more than one ranchman has unwillingly furnished new blood for this wild horde. However, a railroad is soon to run into the heart of the country rang ed by these wild horses, and it is not likely they will long survive this encroachment of civilization.

REPAIRING TREE DAMAGE.

Doubtless more than one reader of these notes who has lately set out small fruit trees will find before spring that some of the trees have been girdled by mice or rabbits unless measures have been taken to protect the trunks. One of the best safeguards against damage by mice is a removal of all grass and weeds from about the trunk over a radius of two or three feet, for mice rarely do damage unless there be a shelter of some kind close to the trunk. In case damage is done. and the discovery of this should not be left until spring, it may be in part over come by giving the wound a coat of linseed oil or white lead and tying on a poultice of moist clay or cow ma nure. If the tree is entirely or almost girdled it will be advisable in the long run to take it out in the spring or at once if conditions permit and set a new one in its place. With apple trees bridge or strip grafting may be done in cases where the girdling is complete. but one must be quite expert at such



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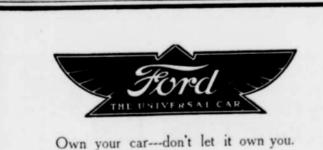
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Orchestra-A Game.

The game of orchestra is great. Select a conductor, who seats his orchestra in a semicircle, each being assigned to play some imaginary instrument and instructed how to play it. The conductor first calls on his orhestra to tune up, and then, naming some lively air, begins to hum it, at the same time waving a baton, when all players must join in imitating, by voice and gesture, their instruments, such as harp, violin, cornet, trombone, flute, clarinet, piccolo, drum, cymbals, etc. Solos may be called for and the one representing the instrument named must respond or pay a forfeit. There are few games that afford more fun and laughter than this. Be sure to select a comical person to be your leader. -Philadelphia Ledger.

More Lives Than the Cat. If a starfish be torn limb from limb and the fragments cast into the sea from each limb another starfish will

The residue of the body will result. reproduce the lost limbs. From each severed limb will grow a new body. The brittle star, which is the most disruptive of the whole brigade and will shatter itself in fragments when an attempt is made to draw it from the sea, is, however, believed not to have this uncanny resemblance to plant life. But the sea cucumbers voluntarily undergo division for the purpose of multiplying their kind.

Nancy's Way.

We hurried into coats and hats, so Nancy need not wait,

need not wait, And, laughing, hand in hand we flew down to the garden gate. How bright the dull day seemed to grow!

Or was it just the voice And happy ways that made the change of

jolly Nancy Joyce? -St Nicholas

IS BEARING FRUIT.

work to insure success.

For the year ending Nov. 1 lowa produced 2.783,684 pounds more but ter than for the preceding year. In accounting for this increase Dairy Com missioner Barney attributes no small part of the gain to the work done by lectures and demonstrations on the dairy specials that were run over the main railroad lines of the state last winter. In these lectures emphasis was laid upon the need of testing each member of the herd for butter fat production, the importance of and what constitutes a proper ration and the necessity of grading up the dairy herd by the use of a first class sire. Much of this better dairy gospel work has

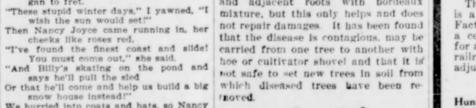
ABOUT CROWN GALL.

would be difficult to measure.

been done in several of the states, and

the practical good that has resulted it

Crown gall is a disease of fruit trees that in some sections is causing a good deal of trouble. It is a fungous disease that makes its appearance in an enlargement and fibrous or hairy growth at the crown of the root While many trees affected with the The wind was whistling round the house and shaking at the door; disease do not die, many others are practically ruined. The damage from and shaking at the door; The sky was dull; the snowy fields lay level as a floor. I'd tired of my fairy book, and Dot be-gan to fret. "These stupid winter days," I yawned, "I wish the sun would set!"





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