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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.

Squab Raising.
A business which goes hand in hand with the poultry business, and which is growing quite as rapidly, is the raising of market squabs. With game growing scarce and hard to secure, and the new laws prohibiting the sale of most kinds of game, the public is fast learning that in the squab we have a substitute for game which is better than the game.

That there is profit in raising squabs has been proved by many who have undertaken the work, though of course like all other industries, there are some failures. Failure is usually due to lack of experience. People read of the high prices paid for squabs, and make up their minds that the business must be immensely profitable, and without any previous experience they make a start in the business and instead of starting in with a few pairs of breeders and studying the methods of successful squab raisers, but buy a lot of birds they know nothing about, put them into a building and expect the pigeons to do the rest. Then when the birds begin to die from lack of proper care, and what few squabs are raised are small, dark, skinny, worthless birds which would not bring enough on the market to pay the transportation charges on them. Mr. Novice concludes that he was misinformed, and that the squab business is a frost.

But for the man or woman who is willing to start modestly and study diligently, there is profit as well as pleasure in the market squab business.

The first thing to take into consideration is the location. Not much space is required, but the soil should be well drained, for dampness in the building is a standing invitation to canker, a disease to which pigeons of all ages are subject. And dampness in the yard, or water which stands in pools in the yard induces disease, for the birds will drink of any water they find, regardless of filth.

The building or buildings need not be expensive. Freedom from draughts and a good roof are necessary. But the materials may be rough, and the building made low and long rather than wide and high. Eight feet wide, seven feet front and five feet in rear, and as long as is necessary to house the flock you may figure on keeping, makes a building that is easy to keep clean and yet is large enough so that the attendant can move around freely. In the rear, or low side, a wire aviary or "fly" should be

made, starting at the top of the roof, and extending from ten to sixteen feet beyond the low side of the building. This gives the breeder a place to light outside, on the roof, where they love to bask in the sun. The wire used in the fly may be the common two inch mesh poultry netting if the rats and sparrows do not bother. In communities where there are many sparrows, the food they will steal will soon amount to the difference in price of the one inch and the two inch mesh netting. And the rats must be kept out, for they will not only kill the squabs, but will kill the old birds on the nests. Many a pigeon man has had to go out of business because his profits were all going down the rat holes. The only way is to make the buildings and flies rat proof in the start.

The buildings ready, the next step is to get the breeding stock. To many beginners a pigeon is a pigeon, and that's all there is to it. They stare with amazement when you tell them there are more than fifty varieties of pigeons, ten or twelve of which are used extensively for squab raising. The variety most used, or I should say the breed most used, is the Homer. It is a medium sized bird, with a full breast, usually strong and vigorous and quite prolific. Their squabs often weigh 12 pounds to the dozen and the Homer is a favorite with many breeders because of its size, for a medium sized squab sells more readily on the city market than the larger ones do for the simple reason that it is the practice in hotels and cafes to serve the bird whole, and a small bird does just as well as a large one to serve the bird whole, and costs less. Where one is catering to a private trade, the large birds are often preferred, as one bird split will make two portions.

PERSONAL PICKUPS

Mrs. W. W. Corbett visited relatives in this city over Sunday. Carl Leopold of Portland spent Decoration Day here at the Grove. Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Sain of Scoggins Valley spent last Friday at the home of their daughter Mrs. J. A. Parker.

When you commence house-cleaning don't forget to kalsomine the walls. The best at G. G. Paterson's, Forest Grove. 181f

Miss Eunice Bernard much to the surprise of her many friends has come home to spend a whole week with her mother and the rest.

Miss Eva Heisler, of Gales Creek, is visiting in the Grove this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shaw went to Gales Creek Sunday.

P. Smith of Portland visited relatives Sunday here at the Grove.

Dr. Hinman and wife went down to the Rose City Tuesday.

Miss Myrtle Scroggs of Vancouver, Wash., a former teacher in the Forest Grove schools visited with friends here last week.

W. Livingston who has been teaching at Monmouth Normal School is at home with his family.

Bert Porter, Mayor of Gaston, was doing business in town Monday.

Mrs. G. W. White and Mrs. M. P. Sailor of Canby, Ore., visited with Mrs. L. C. Misz of this city last week.

Ed Boos has removed his Restaurant to new and commodious quarters, just east of the Star Theatre, on Pacific Avenue.

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