

The SANDMAN STORY

JOHNNIE RUNS AWAY

OF COURSE, you know that the Rook family is a very exclusive bird family. They think a great deal of their family tree, or trees, and will not allow a young Rook to go away from those trees.

Now, young Johnnie Rook thought all this fuss about keeping with the family very silly, and one day he decided he would build a nest in a tree close to a field where there were plenty of grubs and also where he could occasionally have a taste of vegetables.

Johnnie Rook does not destroy very much; he might help himself to a potato or a little corn once in a while, but he is of enough value to the farm-



er destroying worms, so he can afford to give the Rooks a few vegetables in payment.

Of course, Johnnie Rook did not say a word to any of his relatives about moving away from the family trees. He just quietly one morning went away and at night time he did not return.

Old Grandfather Rook was the first to discover Johnnie's absence when he was counting noses before he went to sleep.

"Where is Johnnie?" he asked. "Watch him tomorrow when you see him and find out where he is," commanded Grandfather Rook.

The next night at bedtime every Rook knew what had happened; Johnnie Rook had stolen away to another tree and made a nest for himself.

"Let everyone be at that tree in the early morning," said Grandfather

..., as he tucked his head under his wing. "Be up early, every one of you."

There was very little noise in the trees the next morning and silently Grandfather Rook led all of the family to the tree by the field where Johnnie had made a new home.

But when they reached there they were far from quiet; such a chattering Johnnie never had heard before. He poked his head out, but he did not have a chance to get out of his new home by himself—he was helped by a dozen or more bills giving him sharp digs.

"Sit on that branch," said Grandfather Rook in a cross voice, "and we will hold a court; but, first, some of you take care of that nest."

Poor trembling Johnnie had to watch his nest pulled in pieces before

his very eyes, but what they were to do to him interested him much more, for the family looked very cross.

Grandfather Rook first told Johnnie what a grave offense it was for a young Rook not to respect his family trees and go away by himself, and then every one began to chatter.

"Pick him hard," said some. "Beat him with our wings," said others, while others cried, "Death to the deserter!"

Poor Johnnie almost fell off the limb where he sat with fright and his feathers shook with his trembling.

What would have happened to Johnnie he never knew, for at that moment Grandmother Rook spread her wings and flew to a branch above the others.

"Give him one more chance," she said; "he is very young and I am sure he did not know how terrible it is for one of our family to go by himself."

And so after a great deal of arguing and chattering it was decided to give Johnnie another chance, which you may be sure he was very glad to have. He flew back to the family trees, and from that day there was no more loyal Rook in the family than Johnnie.

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UNITED STATES LABOR COMMISSION, U. S. Wash., D. C. Dear Commish—Ever sence da war ees quetta fight I reada bouha how you gonna finda job for da soldier. I know some soldier who no gotta some job yet, so eef you scuse please I wanta make leetle suggest.

Lasa week I go veesit da congress een da capeitol building and I gotta planta doegust. I tink dat bunch worka same shift lika Rip Van Winkle. I go veesit da senate, too, and he gotta sama trouble. Seema lika da whole bunch joina da union, breaka da wheestle and den waita for da wheestle to blow before can go to work.

I aska one man how do congress maka da leeving. He say, alla dat bunch gotta do ees passa da Bill. I dunno wheecha Bill he mean, but looka to me lika was more passa da buck as passa da Bill. He tella me congress somatime try killa da Bill but no maka ver gooda job.

So I tink I gotta gooda suggest, Meester Commish. I tink eef you finda new job for da congress and putta soldier boys een dat place ees greata stuff. You know dat soldier boys starta after one Bill before. He was no dead yet, but he was on da bum so moocha now I betta seexa bits he no geeva trouble some more.

Wot you tink?

A LINE O' CHEER

By John Kendrick Bangs.

A BAD QUEST.

OF ALL bad quests beneath the vault
The worst, I vow, is finding fault,
Unless the moment you detect 'em
You do your darnedest to correct 'em.

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Worth Thinking About.

If our own interest is not sufficient to make us be careful, let us think of the interest to others.—Wagner.

CLAIRE WINDSOR



Claire Windsor, the charming "movie" actress with the pretty face, hails from Seattle, Wash. She decided that she could act as well as "these queens of the movies." She spent much of last winter making the rounds of the studios daily in her automobile before she was engaged by a producer. In the last year she was featured in several important screen plays.

HOW DO YOU SAY IT?

By C. N. LURIE

Common Errors in English and How to Avoid Them

"SORT OF."

THIS expression, "sort of," like "kind of" is called by authorities on English "an American provincialism," which means that it is used in some parts of America and has been used there for many years. Strictly speaking, the two expressions, "sort of" and "kind of" are not errors, but certainly they are not in favor among careful users of English, and should be avoided. Especially is this true when they become "sorter" and "kinder," as they are prone to become. Then they are certainly vulgarisms, to be avoided.

"I felt sort of ill," or "I felt kind of ill," we hear. It is better to say "I felt somewhat ill" or "I felt rather ill."

Of course, the word "sort" and the word "kind" have legitimate uses, as nouns, but in such cases the word must be preceded by an article. Thus, one may say, with propriety, "I felt a sort of illness," or "I felt a kind of illness."

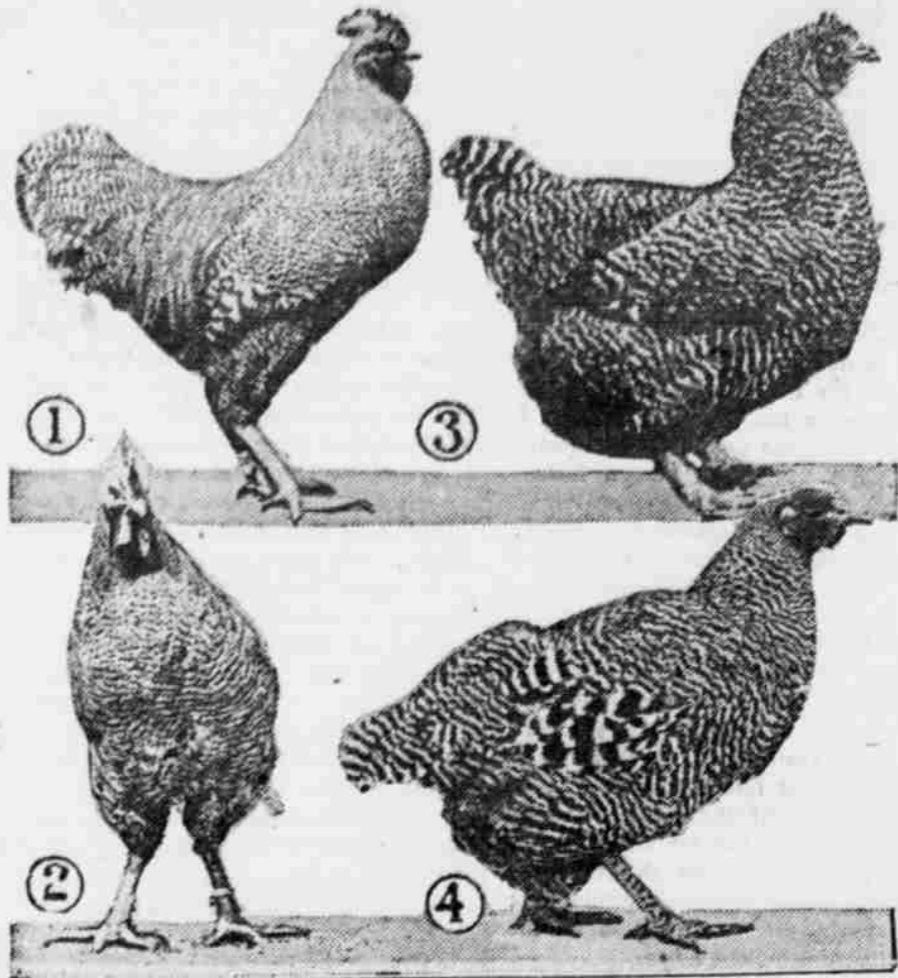
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A Lost Art.

An old shepherd who has just died in a village a few miles from here was unable to count beyond three. Nevertheless, he had charge of large flocks of sheep and could tell not merely when one was missing, but which particular animal had disappeared. The old man was unwilling to explain how he did it, and the secret had died with him.—Leighton Buzzard correspondence, London Daily Mail.

SPRING IS PROPER TIME TO PUT HEN FLOCK ON PROFITABLE BASIS



(1) Standard-bred Plymouth Rock rooster of good type; (2) poor type with knock-knees; (3) hen possessing good appearance; (4) poor type and weak constitution.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Late in the winter or early in the spring the poultry owner should select and mate his best hens to use for reproducing his flock. To do this he must choose the season's breeding stock with care.

Progress will be made most quickly by selecting and using the best individuals in the flock as breeders rather than by breeding the flock as a whole. Standard-bred roosters of the right type should be used with the selected birds; the chickens then will be of a much higher quality than the birds of last year's flock.

Selecting Healthy Roosters.

The selection of a male should be influenced largely by the character of the females used. Any general weakness in the hens should be offset, so far as possible, by strength in that particular in the male.

Only by continuous selection for health and vigor is it possible to build up a flock that will produce fertile eggs, strong chicks capable of making quick growth, and pullets with sufficient stamina to stand the strain of heavy egg production.

The appearance of a bird is not always a sure indication of its vigor, but appearance and action taken together are a fairly reliable guide, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The comb, face and wattles should be of a good bright color, the eyes bright and fairly prominent, and the head broad and short, having a fairly short well-curved back and showing no tendency to be long, "snaky," or "crowheaded."

The bird should be alert and have a strong, vigorous carriage; the legs set well apart and strongly supporting the body, with no indication of weakness or knock-knees. The bone in the shank should be strong and not too fine for the breed, with the toes strong, straight and not too long. Clean, smooth plumage is desirable, as a lack of condition often accompanies soiled, roughened plumage. Choose a bird in good flesh, as a very thin bird is usually in poor health. Sick fowls, or those apparently recovered from sickness, ought never to be used for breeding.

In selecting stock for mating, the purpose of the breeding must be kept clearly in mind. To produce table

fowls, select a breed that has a standard type, or a body shape suitable for carrying an abundance of meat. This type has a broad, deep body, good length of back and keel, and especially a broad breast well covered with meat.

To breed for eggs, choose birds, as far as possible, that are good producers or are the offspring of such birds and that conform to the standard requirements of the breed. The best layers in the hens should have been banded or marked in some way in the fall, at which time their production is fairly well indicated by their appearance. The earliest maturing pullets should be banded when they start to lay in the fall and early winter, as these early maturing birds usually make the best producers and may be used for breeding this year if desired.

When to Mate the Birds.

Mating should be made at least two weeks before beginning to save the eggs for hatching. It is often desirable to mate even further ahead, so that a few eggs can be incubated for five or six days to see whether they are fertile. If they are not fertile, there is still time to change the male bird.

The breed of birds influences the size of the matings. If the fowls are confined to a yard, it is usually desirable to run from 12 to 15 females of a small breed with one male, while the females of the heavier breeds, only eight to ten are mated usually with one male. When the fowls have free range and the male is strong and vigorous, it is often possible to obtain fertile eggs with a much greater number of females to each male.

UNIQUE CORNSTALK DISEASE

One Peculiarity Is Its Periodic Occurrence Without Any Sign of Causative Agent.

Cornstalk disease was first investigated in the United States in 1868 and the disease still prevails. A peculiarity of this disease is its periodic occurrence, there being no definite indication of the presence of any causative agent in the cornstalks. It usually appears on many farms in a community the same season and frequently does not reappear for several years.

point often comes for special consideration. For example, a white variety and a black variety of the same breed are actually identical in table quality, but because some black birds do not dress for the market as clean and nice looking as white ones, it often happens that they are not as salable.

When a flock of fowls is kept for egg production only, uniformity in color is much less important than approximate uniformity in size and type, yet the more attractive appearance of a flock of birds of the same color justifies selection for color as far as it can be followed without sacrificing any material point.

When a poultry keeper grows his own stock year after year, he should by all means use stock of a well-established popular standard breed. By doing so and by selecting as breeders only as many of the best specimens of the flock as are needed to produce the chickens reared each year there is maintained a highly desirable uniformity of excellence in every practical quality and a pleasing uniformity in color.

POINTS CONSIDERED IN STANDARD-BREDS

Size, Shape and Color Are Outstanding Factors.

Desirable Uniformity of Excellence Can Be Maintained in Every Practical Quality by Careful Selection of Breeders.

Standard-bred poultry, as the phrase is commonly used in America, is poultry bred to the standards established by the American Poultry association. The principal points considered are size, shape and color, say poultry specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Size and shape are breed characteristics and largely determine practical values of poultry. Many standard breeds are divided into varieties differing in color, but identical in every other respect. Color is not a primary utility point, but as a secondary