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POULTRY NOTES
BY
C. M. BARNITZ
RIVERSIDE, PA.
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

BREEDING FOR BIG EGGS.
"Aigs" are no longer "just aigs." People even have favorite colors, and eggs are now classed as rots, spots, blood rings, floats, checks, watery, weak, seconds and firsts, and firsts are also divided into ordinary and extras, the latter being the bon ton big egg which commands the big price and which every fancier should strive to produce.

Most flocks have hens that lay eggs from eighteen ounces up. We show here eggs that weigh four ounces each, laid on successive days by one of our big egg layers.



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

EGGS THREE POUNDS TO DOZEN.
perfect eggs, which hatch perfect chicks, and the hen, a White Wyandotte, weighs seven pounds—a half pound over standard weight.
There are hens that lay little eggs, hens that lay medium and hens that lay big eggs, and the only way to get a flock that lays the big eggs is to breed from the big egg layers.
Such hens should be bred to a male whose dame laid the big egg.
No; it's not in the name either.
Minorca fanciers claim Minorcas lay the largest eggs, and Light Brahma fanciers claim their big feather leg lays the largest eggs, yet we have seen eggs from both that looked like 3 cents.
It's the strain, not the breed name, that tells. It's whether they are bred for big eggs.
T-o other points. Our big egg layers don't eat much more than hens that

BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE.
An old farm hen, a rural rover,
Flew into a hayrack among the clover
And said, "I'll lay my eggs right here
And hatch me out some babies dear."
She only hatched about a week
When, with a roar and dust and creak,
In came a load of new mown hay
That was pitched right where her brown
eggs lay.

Those eggs lay there from June to May,
Until they used that new mown hay,
When the old hen found the same old nest
And cackled loud, "Well, I am blest!

"Those are the eggs I laid last year
To hatch some lovely babies dear.
Now, I'll just lay a dozen more
And hatch myself chicklets galore."

But Biddy's effort was all in vain,
For the hay was thrown on the eggs
again,
And they lay in the mow until Easter
week,
When the farmer came some hay to seek.

He only trod on an egg or two
When through the roof like a flash he
flew,
And as he was passing out of sight
He yelled: "Goodbye! It was dynamite!"
C. M. BARNITZ.

HEN HABITS.
While the hen, like men, may in some respects be morally depraved, yet she is also a creature of habit and is capable of instruction and what she is depends much on the human who makes her young ideas shoot.

If she's an egg fiend, she gets that habit because enough nests are not provided and the egg laid on the floor rolls around, gets cracked and is eaten and she wants more, or the nest is open on top and the eggs are trampled on and broken, or there is not lime to make strong eggshells or something that's in the egg is needed in the ration to satisfy the needs of her system.

If she's a feather fiend, devouring her own garments and disrobing her brothers and sisters, there's a reason for it. She may be lighthouse and get the habit while pecking at crawlers, or gets no meat in the ration, or is not kept busy scratching in litter, or she may get the taste from eating scalded feathers thrown away by some wasteful housewife.

If she raises Cain in the neighborhood by tearing up the neighbor's garden that habit wasn't born with her in the egg. There's a hole in the fence, a top rail on the wire or a neighbor's ill smelling, insanitary garbage pile or a charming chanticleer leads her into temptation. If she runs from her owner as if scared to death and skyrockets off the nest at his approach, it's a sign of roughhouse methods and cussin' in the chicken coop.

A nervous, kicking, balky horse, a cow that slaps the milkmaid with her tail and kicks over the milk bucket, or a dog that chases a team and causes a runaway and snaps at the passerby, these do not come by such habits naturally, but by training or lack of training. So with the hen. You can't teach a hen to play a bass horn nor sing a duet with Melba, but by gentleness you can make her gentle, and you can keep her from forming bad habits by keeping inducements to such away.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.
In one day 50,000 day old chicks were shipped from Petaluma, Cal. Chicks seem to be about as plentiful there as orange blossoms, and it is claimed there is no lack of beautiful maidens in that lovely, flowery, fruitful Eden either.

In starting the poultry business you should begin with a breed that is in demand. To start with low grades, or half breeds, is worse than not to have started at all. The best are none too good, and to work out problems in flesh and blood to successful solution one must have the best.

Rotten eggs sold in Pennsylvania must now be dosed with kerosene to render them unfit for baking those lovely golden custards and sponge cakes that have been sold to many of our city citizens. This law should be passed by all the states, even if it does discriminate by decreasing the millions of the egg trust and increases the billions of the oil trust.

Sonoma county, Cal., is the leading county in the United States for poultry. Last year it raised 1,512,601 fowls and produced 113,650,590 eggs, the income from poultry reaching \$3,038,518.

When a squad of men consented to eat raw cold storage eggs two years old for ten days to prove that age is no detriment to Kansas eggs they certainly showed nerve. We advise them to have a bombproof or cyclone cellar handy when the shells are cracked and to use Kansas "red-eye" as an antidote.

Among the advantages the poultryman has over the dairyman the hen milks herself while the dairyman must milk the cow and often gets kicked to boot.

A New York poultryman asked us to find the architectural defect in one of his poultry houses that was just the same as another, but his fowls always got cold when housed in it, while the birds in the other kept healthy. An examination showed both houses alike but the afflicted flock all young and 200 more in number than the old flock. Overcrowding brought damp and disease, as it will even in a poultry palace.

Missouri, the chief poultry state in the Union, produced over \$50,000,000 from her feathered flocks. This exceeds the worth of the combined wheat crops of Iowa, Texas, New York, Michigan, Maryland and California. And yet some people say poultry doesn't pay and some states as yet make no appropriation for poultry culture.

C. M. Barnitz

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