

FERTILIZER AND CAPONS.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL

New Potash Discovery.

One series of experiments have just been concluded by the Department of Agriculture that promise to be of immense value to the farmers of the country in furnishing them with a new supply of fertilizer at very cheap rates than has ever been possible before, and at the same time emancipating this country from Germany, which has heretofore furnished almost our entire supply of potash fertilizer. It is a long and quite an interesting story, and probably will mean a great deal to agriculture in this country. The most remarkable part of it is, too, that the idea originated in the bureau of roads, which normally has nothing to do with fertilizers.

As it is not in their line of work, and the department will get nothing out of it from the farmers but thanks, for that is what the department is there for. It is a discovery, which, if it pans out, is of immense importance to agriculture. There are many crops, such as tobacco and tomatoes, which require excessive proportions of potash, while all complete fertilizers contain liberal percentages. Potash is one of the trinity which makes plant growth possible—potash, nitrogen and phosphorus.

Capons and Caponizing.

Capons are aptly termed the "finest chicken meat in the world," for there is nothing growing feathers which is their superior, if equal. A capon is neither rooster nor hen—it is nothing else than a capon. After removing the organs of reproduction from the cockerel, its nature becomes entirely changed. The birds take on a more rapid growth, are more tame, awkward in carriage and always exceedingly lazy; they grow a very heavy and beautiful plumage, the comb and wattles cease to grow, the spurs do not develop as in the cockerel, and being cast off by both rooster and hen the capon soon shows a fondness for the society of little chicks.

BEST TIME TO CAPONIZE. Fowls hatched any time of the year make fine capons; no ill results follow the operation at any time in the year. The bird should be from two to three months old (not over six months) and weigh not less than a pound to a pound and a half. The size is equally as important as the age. April, May, June, July, August, September and October are the months generally taken for caponizing, for the reason that spring chickens arrive at the proper age and weight for the operation during these months, also because cockerels caponized then reach at the proper age and weight for market during the months of November, December, January, February, March, April and May, at which times there is the greatest demand for them in the cities and highest prices secured.

PROFIT IN CAPONS.

Caponize the chicks and you have at once laid the foundation for a handsome profit in a short time to come. Outside of the cardinal points of profit, the simplicity of the operation (when proper instruments are used) recommends itself to every one. A boy ten years old can readily perform the operation, and any one can soon become an expert. To the poultry raiser it can be said that there is no source of profit bringing larger returns for the outlay than raising capons, the profit in a great majority of cases being over 100 per cent. The question of assured profit is an all-convincing argument in any line and pre-eminently so to the poultrymen whose losses are added to from various unlooked for sources.

DIRECTIONS FOR CAPONIZING.

From twenty-four to thirty-five hours before performing the operation, select such cockerels as you intend to caponize (these should be from two to four months old) confining them in a clean airy coop or room without food or water. The best time to confine them is at early morning, as their long fast will then end about noon of the following day, at which time the operation is performed. Should the day be cloudy or wet do not caponize them, but let the operation go until you have a bright and fair day. It is necessary that you have all the light possible in the matter. Proceed after slightly wetting the spot prepared to turn down the last two ribs and upper part of the thigh joint. Pull the flesh on the side down toward the hip, and when the operation is finished the cut between the ribs will be entirely closed by the skin going back to its place.

PROPER INSTRUMENTS.

It is a matter of importance to have proper instruments for caponizing, and the more is read of the literary effusions appearing in numerous papers to-day touching caponizing instruments the more need there is to caution the inexperienced operator. While it is not cruel to caponize, it is inhuman to butcher or to cause unnecessary pain. NOT A CRUEL OPERATION. A large number of persons hesitate in caponizing, feeling it to be cruel to

the bird. To these the writer wishes to bring his experiences in this matter proving to the contrary. This is a notion mistake—no, and the operation bestows an unlimited amount of kindness on the bird, even if it



INSERTING THE SPREADER.

were no other considerations or returns. The writer, as has everyone else on a farm, has seen cockerels fly at one another time and time again, tearing flesh and feathers with beak and cutting with spurs. Before the combats could be separated there has been a disfigured comb perhaps a blinded eye and a generally cut up bird. This is the essence of cruelty. After caponizing, the habits of the bird are entirely changed. Their disposition is quiet and peaceable, habits mild and tending to a solitary life and perfectly contented wherever situated. They no longer chase about the farm spoiling for a fight and running off with eggs as fast as they can. They no longer arouse the whole neighborhood from morning until night by their incessant crowing, but, on the contrary become models of good dispositions, leading a quiet life that will surely bring large returns to the raiser. An operation that does away with so much inborn evil can not be considered cruel.

Celery for the Home Garden.

The waning of summer acts as a gentle reminder to the home gardener, that in order to have a crop of celery for winter use, it is desirable to get the plants into the ground before August has too far advanced. If the celery seed has been sown in April or May, the young plants should, by August first, be in proper shape for transplanting. If this has not been done, stock plants may be obtained at the seed store. Celery culture, to be successful must rely upon deep soil, the deeper the better, for thereby the roots are not dried out as is the case where the tiny rootlets come close to the surface in a mad search for moisture. Celery plants require that the roots be cool, with plenty of water—but not stagnant water. It is considered advisable, therefore, before planting, to prepare the ground thoroughly and deeply. Having the ground in good, workable condition, the next step is planting out. The easiest way to do this is to make a six-inch deep furrow, filled in with three inches of fine well-rotted manure or rich compost. The furrow is then filled in nearly level with the surface with good soil mixed with manure. Dwarf, self-

REMOVING THE ORGANS.



REMOVING THE ORGANS.

blanching celery may be selected for the home garden, and this should be planted in rows two and a half feet apart, and not closer than six inches in the row. The tall sorts take up a good deal of room in the garden. The best day for planting celery is a dull one, when the sun will not have a chance to burn the roots of the young plants. It might be well to soak these before removing from the seedbed or box, so that the roots will more quickly mingle with the soil in the new home. Another good plan is to trim off the tops—say one-third—and dip the roots in water. As a result of this the plants will send out strong healthy roots, before throwing energy into the tops.

Called Shonts' Bluff.

Railroad men are telling of a recent experience of Mr. Shonts, the head of the Panama Canal Commission. Shonts, as president of the Clover Leaf System, was traveling on a pass. He was approached by a conductor, who appeared to be about as husky a specimen of manhood as Shonts is, and who told him he would have to pay extra fare or cease occupying the drawing-room of the parlor car. Shonts produced his pass, but the conductor said the agreement between the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Pennsylvania System was that passholders could not occupy drawing-rooms unless they paid extra fare. Shonts remarked that he would not pay extra fare. The conductor declared Shonts would pay or be put out. Shonts managed to conceal his feelings well enough to inquire with a show of calmness who would conduct the ejectment. The conductor calmly answered that he would undertake the job. Shonts said he did not believe he could do it. The conductor then told Shonts to produce the money in ten minutes or be ejected. The conductor went away and returned on schedule time. Shonts paid.

To Determine Length of Day.

By a simple rule the length of the day and night at any time of the year may be ascertained. By doubling the time of the sun's rising, the length of the night is obtained, and by doubling the time of setting the length of the day is given. Thus when the sun rises, say at five o'clock, the length of the night is ten hours.

FROCKS FOR THE YOUNG GIRL.

What the Little Folks are Wearing this Summer. BERTHA BROWNING.

Battise of all descriptions is the material most in vogue for young girls' dresses and children's frocks, of dressy order. Taffetas are also used usually of a fancy type showing small checks or equally small broche effects on a plain or changeable ground, and in medium tints. For ordinary wear there are pique, linen and neutral fabrics fashioned into frocks of simplicity and trim style. The dressy gowns for young girls are simple too, but not without some degree of elegance. Many of the skirts have one or two flounces about the lower edge and these are often set on with deep bands of embroidery or lace. Tucks and ruffles are much used while the knife plaitings of the artist are a much favored garniture for frocks of dressy order.

A great simplicity pervades the line, pique and light woven suits for girls. These usually have a plain skirt trimmed only with bias folds of the material. The jacket is a short, narrow semi-fitted one with basques never exceeding four inches in length. Girls from twelve to sixteen do not wear the corset skirt nor are they suitable for any but fully developed figures. The Parisian girl attains the age of sixteen before she is considered sufficiently developed to wear such a style.

FOR THE TOTS.

For younger children from five to twelve, the same materials are used with the exception of taffetas. For these, the skirt is usually completed by a blouse white tucks and very narrow frilling are the favorite trimming. The best frock may be of ecru-let embroidery having a ribbon sash.



A LITTLE TOT IN A COOL SUMMER DRESS.

This merely surrounds the waist without being drawn in snugly and is knotted at one side with short ends while long loops and ends finish the other side. The ribbon used for this is not wide, number 16 being the usual choice. The only silks used for children are tussah and occasionally foulard, the latter plain and in ecru tints.

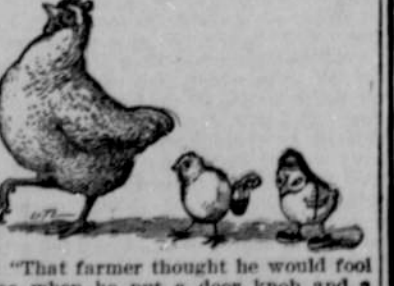
TRIM COATS FOR SMALL FOLKS.

Coats for small folks are constructed a bit differently from those worn by older girls. These are cut with loose front as well as back, but at the same time it is narrow. In proportion the basque is longer, often reaching one-third down the skirt and retaining its arrow shapeless cut. The sleeves are of simple coat style being of full length while dress sleeves usually end at the elbow.

A separate wrap which is much in vogue among young girls is the loose medium length coat of shepherd's plaid. This is of some soft wool or favorite being white lined with black or grey. The only adornment consists of the fabric or pearl buttons down the front. The coat is worn with every sort of dress from the knockabout frock to the dressy afternoon or Sunday outfit. Some of the same style coats a bit different in shaping are being worn by young and older women. They do not appear so well upon any one as upon the girl for whom they were originally intended. Taffeta coats of similar style are also worn but are not so popular nor suitable for youthful wearers.

LINGERIE HATS FASHIONABLE.

Hats for the young folks are mostly broad and of the capeline order. The straws are supple so that they may be readily pinched into any sort of shape. The fabric hat—that is to say of battise or linen, is of broad shape and very becoming. These are more popular than last year if possible and may be worn upon almost any occasions according to the hat. These are stiffer than the straw hats because they are made over wire frames.



"That farmer thought he would fool me when he put a door knob and a china egg in my nest."—From Life.

A musty cellar may be sweetened by setting pans of very hot charcoal about the floor, especially in the dark corners.

The Standard Oil Trust has now gotten control of the starch industry. Here is where we will all get it in the neck.

Numerous office boys who lost their grandmothers just after the opening of the last baseball season are already reporting other relatives in a critical condition.

FREE FARM SCHOLARSHIP.

Offer to Some Bright Boy Who Wants to Improve His Knowledge of Agriculture.

A free scholarship in scientific and practical agriculture is open to some young man who can demonstrate his fitness for the privilege. E. J. Hollister, the Dean of the Winona Agricultural Institute, at Winona Lake, Indiana, announces that he will give this free scholarship, providing for tuition and living expenses for the two school years. Thus it will be seen that the young man who wins this scholarship will get through with comparatively little expense to himself. The course given in the Institute embraces agriculture and horticulture. The student will not be allowed to take up any special line, either in the practice or the acquiring of these kindred sciences. However, special privileges may be granted where the student shows a decided taste for specializing. Competition is open to young men over sixteen years of age from any State in the Union, of good character, endorsed by two well known citizens. Those who wish to compete should write to the Dean not later than August 1st, giving a brief history of their life and five reasons why they desire to take up agricultural science. The work is simplified so very much at the Institute that candidates having a Common School education should be able to succeed, and after graduating have an opportunity to take up practical work at other points where the Dean is now directing the development of small farms or reclamation projects and where he is very much in need of the assistance of trained young men. By reason of this necessity, he offers this scholarship.

Birthplace of Common Plants.

Celery was first grown in Germany. Italy was the first home of the chestnut. The onion is from Egypt. Tobacco is a native of North America. Spinach was originally an Arabian plant. The radish is a Chinese product. Rice was first cultivated in Siberia. Greece gave us the citron.

Wherever

anywhere in this country there is Any One who has the Spirit of True Patriotism and Genuine Love of Humanity in his or her heart. "The Coming People" By CHARLES F. DOLE should be the first book to read

Big Profits in Capons

Caponizing is easy—soon learned. Complete outfit with free instructions postpaid \$2.50. Gape Worm Extractor 50c Poultry Marker 50c French Killing Knife 50c Capon Book Free.

CAPON TOOLS

GEO. P. FILLING & SON, 2313 Arch St., PHILA., Pa.

The Dentist's Bill.

When Congressman John Sharp Williams visits New York he never fails to look in at a small kindling-wood shop presided over by an old negro who was formerly a retainer in the Williams family. On his latest call he found the old man unhappy. "What's the matter, Lefe?" asked the Democratic leader. "I've just been done out o' some money, Marse John, and that's matalah nough," replied the negro. "Had a terrible misery in mah toof and went to a dentist and got hit pulled, and he chaged me a dollah, a whole dollah. Why, once down in Tennessee I went to ole Doc Tinker, and he pulled two toofs and broke my jawbone, and only chaged me fifty cents. I've been buccoad."

JOB OFFICE WANTED.

I WANT TO LEASE—A good job or newspaper office in live town of 1000 or over. Will pay monthly rental in advance each month, until January 1, 1907, when substantial payment will be made. Address: A. L. Roman, Cuba, Iowa.

STENOGRAPHERS: Bright young men who can take dictation rapidly and do rapid work on machine. Salary \$100.00 per month. Office in 12 cities. HARTIG, Suite 143, 35-36 Broadway, N. Y.

WANTED: A Hundred Firemen and Brakemen on different railroads. Age 20 to 30. Good looking and bearing. Experience unnecessary. Earnings \$100 monthly, become Engineers and earn \$200. Brakemen \$75 monthly, become Conductors and earn \$150. Positions awaiting competent men. Send stamp for particulars. Name position preferred. Railway Association, Room 27, Monroe Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SHIRT WAIST HOLDER EXTRAORDINARY—keeps waist down all around; no pins or hooks to tear; send \$2. with waist measuring over corset; ask for white or black. Felix Corset Co., 115 Pine Street New York.

FRECKLES REMOVED

We can positively remove any kind of freckles with WILLIAMS' FRECKLE CREAM. This is a strong assertion, but we will refund your money if not satisfied. Our remedy is guaranteed for this one ailment. Write for this cream. Williams' Freckle Cream Co., Dept. "10," Astoria, Ill.

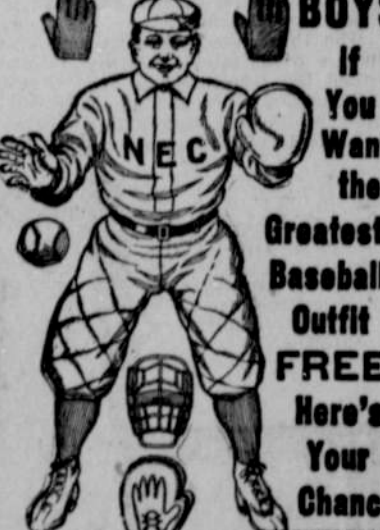
FREE TO ASTHMA SUFFERERS

A Home Cure that Anyone can Use Without Loss of Time or Distraction from Business. We want every sufferer from Asthma to write us today for a free trial of our wonderful New Method for curing Asthma. We especially desire those cases of long standing, which have tried all the various kinds of inhalers, douches and patent smokes without number and without relief. We know we can cure them. We want to and are willing to prove it absolutely free of cost. Many thousands have accepted this opportunity and are now cured. There is no reason why anyone, old or young, rich or poor, should continue to suffer from Asthma after reading this marvelous offer. Our Method is not merely a temporary relief, but a cure that is founded upon the right principles, a cure that cures by removing the cause. Don't put this off until you have another attack, but at right down to-day and write for the Method. It is free and we send it with all charges prepaid. Address, Frontier Asthma Co., Room 151, 109 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

WHY COUGH? STOP-IT

Remove the Cause. Non-Narcotic—Purely Vegetable. Send 10c. today to JOS. BUTLER CO., 17 Battery Place, N. Y. City.

BOYS If You Want the Greatest Baseball Outfit FREE, Here's Your Chance



WRITE TO DAY. This outfit consists of PANTS made of strong regulation cloth, with waist straps, well padded, reinforced; buttons will stay on. SHIRT of same material, regulation make throughout and full sized, shoulders HEFT is made of special material and fitted with heavy neck and janded knuckles that will not run. CAP is regulation make and matches the outfit in quality and make. We also give an outfit consisting of MARK FIELDS' BARE HANDS GLOVE, CATCHER'S MITT, and Regulation BOYS' BASEBALL. Sent free to any boy selling 12 newspapers a week. We send the outfit absolutely free of expense to you, to be paid for when sold. WOOD WOOD CO., 2 BROADWAY, NEW YORK Dept. 17.

SUCCESSFUL GREENHOUSE EXPERIMENTS.

The work was then turned over to the bureau of plant industry, and three similar plots of tobacco were



NINE MONTHS' OLD PLYMOUTH ROCK CAPONS.

planted in the greenhouse. One of these was treated with the imported German fertilizer, another was left without any fertilizer at all, and the third was fertilized with finely ground common granite. The granite was high in potash, but it had not been treated in any way, and if the experiment succeeded it simply meant that there was a big new field of home-grown fertilizer open to the farmer. When the crops of tobacco were cut, the imported fertilizer had produced a crop of green leaf that weighed 155 pounds. The powdered granite produced a crop of 154 pounds and the unfertilized crop was spotted and ran only about 120 pounds.

This crop was examined by the experts, and so far as could be told, the leaf was not only just as heavy, but just as good texture in the granite fertilized patch as in the patch on which the German fertilizer had been used. The crop is being dried now, and it will take a long time before it is all fermented and properly cured, so that it can be made up for smoking and tested in that way. But that was a greenhouse experiment, and greenhouse work to field work is about like laboratory experiments to commercial work. What succeeds under glass may or may not go out of doors. But the department was so well pleased with the results, that it has tried the new fertilizer on crops of tobacco up in Connecticut, in Virginia, Kentucky and Florida. These crops are now under way, and there is a great deal of interest felt in the success of the work out of doors. The principal question seems to be whether there will be enough water in the natural rainfall to make the potash in the ground rock available for the plants. During anything like a decently wet season there is little question that there would be water in plenty. But it is possible that for a very dry crop there will have to be as much as a tenth of imported fertilizer added to the native rock.

A VAST SAVING.

The ground rock, on the other hand, can be produced for about \$3 a ton, and there is so much of it in the country that runs high in potash and is available for use that the supply could never be cornered. It is true that the native fertilizer takes about two tons to give the same results as one ton of the soluble imported salts. At this amount to \$6 for fertilizer against \$90 or \$100. So the result is not bad. Several mills are already being erected, one in Maryland and one in New England, for grinding rock for just this purpose, and there are a number of other concerns that have talked of going into the business before even the field experiments of the department are finished. The outlook is for a very important change in the fertilizing business in this country. Just where the credit for the work ultimately will land is a question. It probably will not be with Dr. Cassman or the road office.



MAKING THE INCISION.

will be entirely closed by the skin going back to its place.

PROPER INSTRUMENTS.

It is a matter of importance to have proper instruments for caponizing, and the more is read of the literary effusions appearing in numerous papers to-day touching caponizing instruments the more need there is to caution the inexperienced operator. While it is not cruel to caponize, it is inhuman to butcher or to cause unnecessary pain.

NOT A CRUEL OPERATION.

A large number of persons hesitate in caponizing, feeling it to be cruel to

PALISADE PATTERNS.

A TRIM SHIRT WAIST.

Designed by BERTHA BROWNING. The shirt waist suit fills so large a need in Missy's wardrobe that it cannot be easily dispensed with. This frock figures prominently in the most fashionable wardrobes of the season and no woman can afford to be without several of various materials. Here is a model for a shirt waist dress suitable to development in linen, pongee, Rajah, taffetas or mohair, and not difficult for the home dressmaker. The tabbed yoke with its stole front, closing at the left of the centre, is very effective and full of style. Three narrow tucks appear at each side of the centre, front and back, and again at each side seam of the skirt. Buttons are much used upon the new frocks of tailor construction, and here they not only adorn but serve a purpose. The sleeves are long, but may be easily finished below the elbow. For the medium size 2 yards of 36-inch material are necessary to develop the gown.

Two Patterns: 6496—size, 32 to 42 inches bust measure. 6497—size, 30 to 30 inches waist.

The price of these patterns is 50c, but either will be sent upon receipt of 10c.

PALISADE PATTERN CO.

17 Battery Place, New York City.

For 10 cents enclosed please send pattern No. 6496 to the following address:

Form with fields for SIZE, NAME, ADDRESS, CITY and STATE.

Numbers 6496, 6497. PRICE, 10 CENTS EACH.