POULTRY



MUCH COMFORT FOR POULTRY

Hens Sing and Cackle in Cozy Winter House When Kept Busy Scratching for Their Feed.

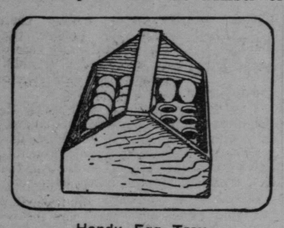
In our winter poultry house on cold, snowy days our hens sing and cackle as if they were enjoying summer weather. The house is 14x56 feet, with large windows on the southern exposure. Its equipment consists of clean, inviting nest boxes, self-feeders, with grit and shells, the ground floor banked deeply with leaves and straw, writes George W. Brown of Hancock county, Ohio, in the New England Homestead. We keep the hens busy from daylight until perch time digging after small grain scattered several times daily in the litter. Lawn clippings, meat offal, beets, pumpkins, cabbage and an occasional sheaf of wheat, oats or clover hay suspended from the roof gives them business.

It is the busy hen that lays the eggs. She hustles and has red blood coursing in her veins to keep her warm on cold days. Our perches can be hooked to the roof, and if we have any drones in the flock inclined to spend much of the day on the perch we just hook the perches to the ceiling. They soon get the habit of hustling with the rest of the flock. We have no use for drones on our farm save in our apiary.

HANDY FOR COLLECTING EGGS

Desirable to Keep Separate Box for Each Pen Where Trap Nests Are Being Used.

When trap nests are used it is sometimes desirable to keep a carrying box for each pen which receives the eggs as they are gathered, says the Farm and Home. Number each tray or box When trap nests are used in some to correspond with the number of



Handy Egg Tray.

the pen. The holes in the bottom board keep the eggs in an upright position on the small end where the numbers can be easily read.

HABIT OF EXCHANGING EGGS

Little Money and No Satisfaction in Practice—Best to Sell Direct to the Consumer.

There is no satisfaction, and but very little money in exchanging eggs for groceries or grain. By being careful in gathering eggs, so that they won't become chilled in winter and so the hens won't sit on them overnight and using a little care in sizing and selecting, quite an advance over the common prices may be obtained. When possible, sell your eggs direct to the consumer. If not possible, get a market in your nearest city with some grocer who deals in strictly fancy groceries and provisions. Agree to furnish him only strictly fresh eggs, and then, for your own sake, live up to your agreement. Carefully clean all the eggs; don't send any small, misshapen or large ones. Stamp each egg with a rubber stamp, using your initials or the name of your farm, and in a short time you will have created a demand for your eggs, and when you have created such a demand your eggs will bring the highest prices, considerably more than your storekeeper would pay.

Several neighbors could send their eggs together, paying a cent or two per dozen to one of their number for doing the business, and in this way all would gain a little.

Cold-Storage Tests.

Tests of cold storage, as made by one of the experts of the department of agriculture led to the conclusion that poultry keeps better when not drawn than it does when drawn. The reason is that the process of drawing causes bruises which invite the lodgment of germs. Birds that were dry picked kept much better than those which had been scalded. The experts summed up the requirements as prompt storage, dry picking and dry chilling. These esesntials have all been favorable to the cold-storage trade, but seem never to be comprehended by the host of agitators which every year try to secure absurd cold-storage laws.

Open Muslin Front Best.

A glass front poultry house causes extremes in temperature, warming up in the day time and then turning cold with the setting of the sun. This is also apt to cause disease and make the fowls' combs and wattles more sensitive to frosts. The open muslin front is by far the best and at the same time the least expensive. Some glass may be used, but not exclusively.

THEIR DAUGHTER LUCIA

By JESSICA CARBARY.

The man was hurrying to the subway, when a child's voice called: "Daddy! Daddy!"

He turned at the second call, but he was in haste, and had not time to heed the voice that was so like that of his baby.

All the way down town the voice kept ringing in his ears, and during the day he continued to hear it, so that at three o'clock he left the office and came uptown in the hope of seeing her again.

The Clarks had been divorced two years before and he hadn't seen Lucia, their baby, since, though he, as well as his wife, had worshiped her.

One afternoon about dusk he saw her on Riverside drive. She was in front of him; slowly he followed. She was with a maid. Presently they crossed the drive, and went into an apartment house. He watched them go in, then followed.

The hall was empty, save for the elevator boy.

"Does Mrs. Thomas Clark live here?" he asked anxiously.

"Yes, sir," the boy answered. "That was her little girl, Miss Lucia, I just took up."

"Thank you." And he hurried out.

For three days he pondered the situation; he had agreed to leave the child entirely to his wife, but now after two years he longed for her as he had never thought he could for anything.

The next day he called, to be told that Miss Lucia was out.

The succeeding day he called a half hour later, to be told the same thing. As he had now no intetion of giving up his quest, he continued to call each day at the same hour. On the tenth day Miss Lucia was at home.

He was shown into the library. Down on her stomach in front of the fire he found Lucia. The soft glow of the fire shone on the little figure, turning the yellow curls to gold. He watched her while she talked to a Teddy bear.

"I wonder, Teddy, why we don't find father? Mother's all right, but little girls need fathers."

The man with tears in his eyes was kneeling when she turned and saw him, and with a glad cry she came to him.

For several hours he held her tight, an exquisite joy thrilling him, and though the door opened and closed twice, he never noticed it. When he left he promised her to come again next day.

That night a very happy little girl asked her mother for a story about her father, but the mother, on the plea of being very tired, refused.

After the child had gone to bed Mrs. Clark sat for a long time trying to decide what to do regarding the father whom she never wanted her child to know. At last she decided that if she allowed Lucia to do as she desired perhaps the natural perverseness of human nature would assert itself, and Lucia would not care for him at all.

"Don't you love mother now?" she asked one day. And when he didn't reply, she put her little hand on his face to find the cheek wet. She didn't ask any more questions, only murmured: "Daddy, I love you."

She was quite hearbroken when he told her he must go away for a couple of weeks.

He was gone much longer than he expected to be, and it was the week before Christmas when he returned. He found Lucia in the same position as the first time.

"Baby, dear," he said as he lifted her up.

They sat quietly that Mrs. Clark, coming into the room, was halfway across before she observed them. As she turned to leave he looked up and their eyes met.

A convulsive clasp of the body made the child look at him.

"Father, when are you coming home for always?'

He started and laughed harshly; then he took the bright little face in his two hands, and looked at it intently.

"I don't know, baby girl," he said, sadly, "but whenever mother will let me."

She slipped to the floor and quietly left the room.

He hardly noticed that she had gone, her question had suggested so many possibilities. Clare had looked kindly at him.

"Father!" Two small arms were around his neck and a dear little face close to his. "My father dear!" the voice was very low, "mother says you may come home whenever you want to."

His Holiday.

Charley Sing, a Chinese gardener, peddles truck in Salt Lake City. One of his customers is a banker.

One morning Sing drove up to solicit orders for vegetables, and he found the banker working among the flowers in the yard. It was Decoration day and the bank was closed.

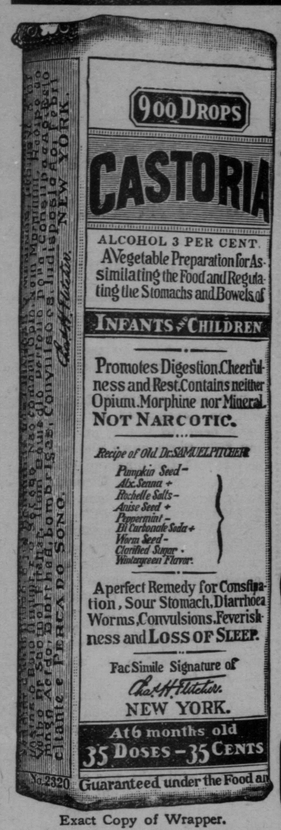
"You no work today?" inquired Sing.

"I should say not!" replied the banker. "This is a holiday."

"Me work all same," said Sing. "Me work all same every day 'cept Sunday afternoon."

"What do you do on Sunday afternoon, if you don't work?" inquired the banker.

"Me washee plenty shirt last all week!" was the Chinaman's reply.—Judge.



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Restricting Marriage Proposals

(New York World.)

The latest novelty in the way of matrimomal legislation is a movement to have al proposals of marriage declared invalid unless made in writing. Should the plan be enacted into law, no breach-of-promise suit could be brought upon a verbal proposal. Young ladies at summer resorts would have to carry with them blank forms that could be filled out as promptly as dance programs. Otherwise they might lose the catch after hooking him.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

The Poets and the Public.

Philadelphia Press.)

Stephen Phillips has been appointed editor of the Poetry Review an English periodical intended to bring meritorious versifiers of today in touch with the British public. It is another experiment in publishing poetry so that the writers may hope to obtain some profit from the exercise of their talents. Various ventures of a similar kind have been made in England and America. They have prospered for a time then languished and finally died of inanition. Even the best magazines are shy of using poetry except for filling out a page. No wonder that "magazine poetry" has become a derogatory term, though in truth a good average of poetic quality is maintained in the lyrical contributions to the better monthlies.

If it be true that new poetry is less read in our days than even before, it is not because the poets do not publish. In the past decade a flood of thin volumes, issued at the expense of singers, has flowed steadily from Boston, increased by streams and rivulets from New York and other centers of the book trade. Few of these "idle singers of an empty day" have received any considerable return from their investments. The fact by no means argues any greater inhospitality toward new poets in our day than at any previous time.

Health on Horseback

(New Haven Register.)

Do you recall, poor drudge of the city, who never ride by nobler means than a trolly car or a hack or perchance by motor, those glad, simple, free unreturnable days of your boyhood, when you "barebacked" the old family horse and went to round up the cows? And if you are but honest with yourself, have you had any joy of transportation to equal it since? There was health as well as joy on the farm, and not the least of its contributing causes was the stirring of the vital organs and the blood which came from such "jiggling" as you got on horseback.

The truth of what health there is on horseback has not been entirely overlooked by the city dwellers, yet for various reasons, to judge from obvious facts, the use of horses for riding is steadily diminishing. The lovers of the horse excuse this by saying that with the multitude of motors there is no longer joy of safety in riding a spirited horse. That is partly true and partly an excuse. The machine is the fad of the hour, and with the faddists health matters little. Their actions say louder than their words that with them the horse is out of date.

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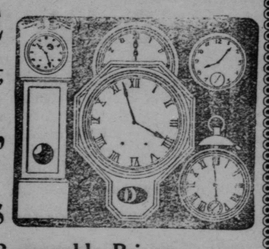
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