Poultry Notes

Items That Will Interest Our Readers From Here And There.

Rose Bugs are taking their yearly toll from Kent Poultrymen. There is no question or doubt about it, the only way to combat this yearly plague is to fence in your growing chickens and keep them away from the bugs. It does not matter about old hens; they will not eat the bugs. But it is always death to the young chicks, and the most vigorous are always the ones that get suffcient bugs to kill them.

A small flock of ducks on every farm should prove a source of profit if handled correctly. In the past, a great many flocks have not proved profitable and ducks have a sort of "black eye" except among those who go in for large flocks on an extensive scale. There are large flocks scattered throughout the country that supply the demand for green ducks in the large cities and these are sources of large profits in most cases.

People who have had a good deal of experience with small flocks of ducks have found the birds as profitable as any branch of poultry when properly handled.

In September a White Leghorn No. 207, known as Lady Purdue, broke the world's record for long distance laying. On that day her egg record totaled 1,341 eggs which is more eggs than any hen was ever known to have laid in a trap nest throughout the entire world. This hen was hatched in April of 1916 and during her first year laid 217 eggs, second year 182 eggs, third year 150 eggs, fourth year 204 eggs, fifth year 187 eggs, sixth year 140 eggs, seventh year 163 eggs and this year 98 eggs to September 11. The mother of Lady Purdue laid 183 eggs and came from unknown ancestry. The sire of this hen was hatched from a 252-egg hen and was sired by a famous male known as John Purdue. This male has been the ancestor of most of the high laying Leghorns now on the Purdue Farm. Lady Purdue has produced but four infertile eggs during all of her hatching seasons and these have all been produced in the last two years. Some 70 chicks have been hatched from her eggs. There have been quite a number of daughters raised from these chicks and many of them have laid over 200 eggs.

Have you ever stopped to consider that the population is increasing? and it is increasing faster in the towns and cities, or the consuming centers than it is in the producing centers. Food products are bound to be in demand, and the man who can produce them and knows where and how to sell them cannot go wrong. Chicken raising offers a good opportunity to increase the food supply and make a good profit.

Our hats are off to the Mediterraneans, as far as egg producing is concerned. For many years we have preferred the heavy breeds, but when you have a bunch of Leghorns and Anconas laying 80% to 85% with eggs weighing from 26 to 32 ounces to the dozen, then have the big heavies laying around 40% to 50% and producing an egg that just about grades standard or 22 ounces to the dozen, one cannot help but admire the little egg machines.

In these days of more intensive poultry culture, when on the commercial farm, especially on many farm flocks, the tendency is to keep more birds on a limited area than is justified; cleanliness should be the watchword. Clean birds, clean houses and clean yard, make a profitable flock.

In this country we are all for speed. Our National attitude is to get to the point of an undertaking as quickly as possible; accomplish the task—and then spend a fair share of the profit in amusement. We chafe under detail and are inclined, therefore, to be superficial. What we want is results, with the least delay and the least amount of preparatory labor. This attitude and this manner of work are admirable in a way, for the

June is the month, in some climates, when spring actually sets in. As one author said, "When winter comes, spring is just behind." That might be so in England; it is so in Florida and many Southern States, but not always true in Western Washington or some of the great Northwestern States and those States in New England. The man that has laid by his crop of poultry by the first of June is a little ahead of the rest of the folks. Some hatch into July and get good results. The later fowls do not always reach maturity as large as they would if hatched earlier, but if they were given the same conditions that they get earlier, then there would be little complaint. The later chick needs just a little more attention. The hen with the chick can some time wander and find the vegetation that goes to make these big chicks, but where one has run large flocks of fowls over the same ground all spring, that ground is more or less foul, and th chicks do not thrive so well as they would if they could have a new run.

All the runs should be plowed and some kind of green stuff sown, where it is possible to allow such yards to beidle for awile. Whether these yards can stand idle or not, plowing will bring the fresh soil to the top and the sun can get at the dirt and take most of the sour out of the ground. Letting sunlight into soil freshens it and the new crpp of chicks get a chance to have a few worms that go down into the ground as the soil drys out.

Green food is essential to the growth of chicks. There has never yet been discovered the food that carries the essential salt that fowls get from Mother Earth. The plant that grows above ground is more liable to carry those salts than the things that stay under ground. Cabbage, Kale, lettuce and all kinds of leafy vegetables are what is needed to mature youngsters right. Lawn clippings, especially those clippings that come from lawns sown in clover, make the best green food. Bugs, worms and other vegetable vermin make good feed.

The poultry business is popularly considered an "easy" business—capable of being quickly mastered and one in which almost anyone can succeed. As a consequence many men have gone into it, who were totally unsuited to become poultrymen. They did not have the brains and the ability and love for work that the business demands. They had no poultry education and most of them had no practical training. They expected to buy a farm, establish their plant and put out a sign one season and to become proficient poultrymen the next. This sort of thing is impossible in the poultry business just as it is in any other business. One does not start to be the forman of a factory, nor are lawyers appointed to the bench as soon as they graduate from the law school.

Open Exchange

The Woman's Exchange of the Howard County Farm Bureau opened for business in Ellicott City on May2 and until further notice, will be open on Friday and Saturday of each week, from 10 a. m. until 6 p. m., and will be in charge of Mrs. William P. Thompson. Bread, cake, jelly, jam, preserves, pickles, canned fruit, vegetables, country cured meat, lard, poultry etc, will be on sale. This is the third Farm Bureau Women's Exchange now operating in the state, the others being located at Annapolis, and Sparks, in Baltimore county.

Inventor Had Taken No Chance of Losing

Surely, the Scotch are the most tolerant people in the world, as they bear the brunt of most of its so-called humor. But there is considerable basis for the well-circulated theory that the Scot is canny. Here is an authentic yarn, vouched for by Harry Furniss in his "Some Victorian Men" that illustrates the point.

When Bessemer, the genius who gave to steel his name, came to make his discovery public, he put a lump of the famous steel in his pocket and made his way to Nasmyth, of steel-hammer fame.

Placing the metal on Nasmyth's desk, he told him that he had made an extraordinary discovery which would revolutionize the whole metal world. Then came a little incident which shows what wonderful heads these Scotch financiers possess. What do you think Nasmyth said to this excited inventor?

"Eh, mon, it's vary risky to show your wonderful invention. The world is very dishonest."

To which the inspiring inventor replied:

"Right, Mr. Nasmyth, I just calculated whom I was coming to see, so with my last half-crown I registered the invention on my way."

Lenny Really Didn't Know Weight of Hog

If old Lenny Foskett was anything more than deliberate, he was exasperating. He moved, spoke and lived at his own sweet will, and no one had ever been known to budge him. He came into the village store one morning, threw himself down on the bench in front of the counter and announced that he had just killed his prize hog.

"Guess how much he weighed, boys," he drawled.

"Two hundred and seventy-five," ventured one of the loungers.

Lenny shook his head.

Others offered suggestions; the guesses grew so brisk that it began to sound like an auction. All sorts of weights were given, but to all of them Lenny merely shook his head. The others began to lose patience. From mere curiosity they began to long passionately to learn the weight of the hog and pass on to another subject.

"Well, for heaven's sake, how much did your old hog weigh?" somebody demanded. "We've guessed every figure possible! How much did he weigh?"

Lenny yawned. "Hi—hum. I dunno," he drawled. "I ain't weighed him yet."—Youth's Companion.

Man-Made Earthquake

It is believed that the numerous small earthquakes recently reported from the Midlands of England are due to the handiwork of man. In excavating for coal and iron the miner cuts away millions of tons of rock and coal and piles it on the surface, thus setting up all sorts of stresses. In July, 1913, dwellers near the coast of Carnarvonshire were startled out of their sleep by loud subterranean rumblings, while the earth quivered over an area of many square miles. It was found that a considerable area of land lying between the Rivals granite quarries and the shore had started to slide seaward. The fact was that the waste of the quarries which for years has been dumped on this lower ground, had proved too much for it, and had set the whole ledge sliding, producing a very good imitation of a real earthquake.

Tree-Climbing Fish

In India there is a fish known as the tree-climbing perch. Technically the scientists call it "anabas testudineus scandens." By means of its fins and gills this fish can travel overland from one body of water to another. Its breathing apparatus is adapted for life out of the water. Stories about this fish's ability to climb trees should be taken with liberal portions of salt. The United States bureau of fisheries informs us that these tales of its tree-climbing propensity "are heritages from early travelers and are largely mythical." However, the climbing perch has been known to work its way upon stones and inclined tree trunks. This is as close as it ever comes to climbing trees.—Exchange.

She Wanted a Change

Betty had only lately been instructed in the matter of evening prayers, and her performance was exemplary until the occasion when she startled her mother with the petition: "Bless Thy little pig tonight."

She was reminded that the correct word was "lamb," but refused to return to orthodoxy.

At last, when pressed for the cause of this stubborn naughtiness, she replied that she was tired of being a lamb. "Every night," she protested, "it has been lamb, lamb, lamb! So tonight I'm going to be a pig, and tomorrow night I am going to be an elephant."

Gelatin as Food

The potential energy of gelatin is calculated to be even more than that of some fats and albuminate, and yet in the body it is very inferior in the production of energy. It cannot, therefore, take the place of proteins for growth and repair and must be regarded solely as an albumin sparer. Neither can it replace albumin, the loss of which still goes on to some extent even when gelatin is eaten in large quantities. It is used in the body very much like the carbohydrates and fats, i. e., not as a tissue builder, but as a fuel food.

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