Lack of Sympathy

It is in the blunt hand and the dead heart, in the diseased habit, in the hardened conscience, that men become vulgar; they are forever vulgar precisely in proportion as they are incapable of sympathy, of quick understanding, of all that, in deep insistence of the common but most accurate term, may be called the "tact" or "touch-faculty" of body and soul, that tact which the mimosa has in trees, which the pure woman has above all creatures, fineness and fullness of sensation beyond reason, the guide and sanctifier of reason itself. Reason can but determine what is true, it is the God-given passion of humanity which alone can recognize what God has made good.—Ruskin.

Marriage and Mousetraps

Marriage, as in recent times it has prevailed, might have been patterned on the ancient device of the mousetrap. Like the mousetrap, it was regarded as a piece of mechanism useful to society but not sufficiently attractive unless appetizingly baited; and when the inmates had by their own action become imprisoned and consumed the seductive bait, they were left to their own devices except where humanitarian feeling—going beyond the less merciful pattern—had placed a string in the trap which by skillful manipulation might raise the door and free the captives.—Havelock Ellis in the Forum.

Safety First

Mr. Jones had just smashed his thumb with the hammer, while he was driving a nail into the wall beside the cellar stairs. To judge by his remarks it hurt him a good deal. His wife was mildly sympathetic, but a little scornful of his clumsiness.

"There's no need for you to smash your thumb," she said. "I never do."

"You're quite a carpenter, aren't you?" said the irritated Mr. Jones. "How do you manage so well?"

"I hold the hammer in both hands," replied Mrs. Jones, placidly.—Youth's Companion.

Military Watches

In early Hebrew history, about 3,000 years ago, it was the custom of the tribes, which then lived in camps which they moved from place to place, to set a watch against surprise attacks by roving bands of robbers from the north. They divided their nights into convenient watches of about four hours each. It appears that they adopted the custom from military practices then prevailing. Military custom calls for two-hour watches as being safer because there is less likelihood that the soldier on guard will become tired, sleepy or otherwise indifferent to the importance of his task.

POULTRY NOTES

LOCAL BREEDING SEASON AT HAND—CHICKS SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH GREAT CARE—LOCAL HATCHERIES NOW IN FULL SWING—OTHER NOTES

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

The local breeding season is now at hand and within the next two months many thousands of day-old chicks will be turned out of the local hatcheries and by the mother hen. Farmers wives will be busy raising the friers and the broilers, and the many problems that every year beset them will again have to be combatted and overcome. If you are unable to overcome them they will surely overcome you. Consequently, every poultry raiser should do all the studying possible and learn everything that science has taught us is practical, in order that they may be more successful.

The problem of raising chicks is always a problem and always will be one. There will never become a time when thousands of baby chicks can be put out under brooders, in houses subject to drafts and ones not subject to drafts, and all of them reared with no trouble to the owners. There are too many elements that enter into the raising of chicks to make the rearing of them an easy matter. Experience and common sense must be on hand, in aboundance, or else chick raising will always be a failure. Morons and know-it-alls will never make good chick raisers. All of us must learn all we can, from every source, and then we have a lot to learn.

The local hatcheries are now in full swing, and they are sending out around 75,000 a week between them. These chicks are going to all parts of the country, from Florida to Maine, and as far west as Ohio.

Mr. P. M. Brooks, proprietor of Radcliffe Mill, is preparing to put on a good show, entitled "On The Trail of the Golden Egg." This moving picture entertainment was gotten up by the Larro Feed Co., and will be held in William Smith Hall. See Mr. Brooks' adv. for particulars.

The care breeders receive is important in the production of eggs for hatching. Comfortable houses, proper feeding of a well made ration, and regularity in caring for the birds will all help to produce good eggs.

But there are other points that are to be considered in producing incubator eggs. One of these is the production of clean eggs. Clean nesting material—wood shavings,saw dust, straw—is the biggest factor in getting clean eggs. Plenty of nest room is another: 1 nest for every 3 birds where trapnests are used and I for every 5 birds where ordinary open nests are used. This is so hens will not have to lay on the floor because of full nests. An arrangement whereby nests can be kept closed nights so birds will not sleep in them will also help. This can be accomplished by having a hinged board that will bar the nest at night and that can be removed during the day.

Clean litter on the floor is also an aid in producing clean eggs. The frequency with which litter and nesting material will have to be changed will vary in different houses; it may be every 3 weeks and it may be every 2 weeks. Keep hens in the house on damp days, too, if clean eggs are to be produced, else the birds will track the mud in from outside on the eggs.

The egg is the most important factor in incubation. No matter how good the incubator may be, nor how careful the operator, unless the egg has a good strong fertile germ in it, there will be no chick. The egg can only hatch what the hen put into it.

In a large measure the vigor and vitality of the stock determine the hatching power of the eggs, but the individuality of the hen is also largely responsible for hatching results. Trapnest records have shown this to be the case; some hens are immeasurably better reproducers than others in the same pens, with the same care and mated to the same males. They are naturally better reproducers.

The practical significance of this fact for poultrymen is that by trapnesting they can eliminate those birds that are poor reproducers from their pedigree breeding—merely marking pedigre ebeerding—merely marking the eggs with the hen number when they are laid—and the numbers noted on the unhatched eggs. The elimination of these poor reproducers will greatly improve the hatchers and will be a big saving in time and money.

Not every egg laid should go into the incubator just because they were laid by a pen of breeders. The kind of eggs laid is equally as important as the number, a fact which must be kept in mind in selecting the eggs that are to be placed in the incubator.

Color, shape, size and shell texture are things to watch in selecting these eggs. Color, of course, does not affect the hatching quality of an egg, but it is desirable to keep this point in mind because it is not desirable to breed off colored eggs or tinted eggs—if white eggs are being produced—into the flock. Therefore, only eggs of uniform color should be set. Aside from theu ndesirability of breeding poor egg shape into the flock, eggs that are decidedly off shape will not hatch well, if at all. No such eggs should be used.

Experiments on the hatching of various sized eggs have shown that undersized eggs will hatch better than oversized eggs. This is no excuse for setting small eggs, for they will produce small chicks—big chicks can't come out of little eggs. Neither should oversized eggs be set: eggs that will weigh from 24 to 26 ounces to the dozen will give good results and are a desirable size to breed into the flock.

Eggs with strong shells and even texture are the kind that should be selected, not only because they will hatch better than eggs with thin shells and uneven texture, but because they will produce better chicks. They show that the hens that laid them have vitality and the ability to make good use of their feed so they could put the necessary elements into the eggs for the embryo to make proper bone development.

Frequet collections of eggs will help in the production of clean eggs and will aid materially in getting good, hatchable eggs.

Hens are apt to trample on the eggs in the nests, and as there are usually a number of eggs in the nests during the hatching season, some of these eggs are apt to be checked, or cracked. This crack may be so fine that it is not easily seen at first glance. Whether it is or not, its value as a hatching egg is spoiled.

Frequent collection of eggs will prevent this in a large measure.

During extremely cold weather, eggs are likely to be chilled if left in the breeding house too long. These chilled eggs will not hatch; in fact, they will appear as infertile eggs when candled after they have been in the incubator for a week. If an unusually large number of infertile eggs show up at candling time, look to some such cause as this. Three collections a day will help to avoid this.

Later in the season, when broody hens appear, several collections will prevent these biddies from sitting on the eggs and causing germination to take place. When the embryo thus gets a start and is checked before the egg is placed in the incubator, it is weakened and will have very little chance of developing futher. Three collections of eggs a day during the hatching season will give best results.

"Hi-Jacking"

"Hi-jack" is a slang word meaning to rob by trickery or violence, especially to rob another robber or a bootlegger of his illegal wares. Just when "hi-jack" and "hi-jacker" originated is unknown. It is supposed that "hi-jacker" was first applied to a gang of hobos who preyed on men working in the harvest fields of the Middle West. Their practice was, so it is said, to hail their prospective victims with "Hi, Jack, what time is it?" The salutation was followed by a blow on the head and the victim was then relieved of his hard-earned gold.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Palestine

To go to Palestine is a great stimulation to one's faith and belief in the great things which the little land gave to the rest of the world after having rejected them for itself.—American Magazine.

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