POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS WITH THEIR POULTRY PROBLEMS

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

There has always been an endless controversy regarding the distinguishing of the sex of baby chicks. Frankly, the writer has never seen where it made a great deal of difference whether one could or could not. Perhaps a palmist or a phrenologist would make a good h[illegible]r because of this, using their qu[illegible]ethods to further deceive the public.

Many centuries ago the Chinese people had a way of examining the vents of baby chicks and "spotting" the sexes. The hatcherymen of those days became so proficient that they could guarantee their customers "100 per cent. female."

Only recently a Japanese professor by the name of Hashimoto claimed that his "new" method of "spotting" sexes at birth, involving examination of the vent was original and practical. This story was featured in an article written for the Reliable Poultry Journal by Tokuzo Yamaguch, by the way is at present studying the "Hadley Method" on the Mills Farm, at Plainfield, N. J.

Still another way to separate the sexes is a method used rather extensively in England. It calls for the crossing of two pure breeds of different colors, such as White Rocks and Brown Leghorns. At birth, the male chicks will have the color of the mother and the "girl" chicks will resemble their father in complexion. The cross-bred chicks are sturdier, lay more eggs than the average of the two pure breeds and make excellent table fowl. The objection in this country to the above method is the danger of mangrelizing flocks.

Among rare ornamental domesticated races of poultry none is more striking in appearance, nor more difficult to approximate as one of Dame Nature's creations, than the Long-tailed Yokohama fowl of Japan. Nature may have given the bodily structure and the plumage to this ancient breed, but man lengthened and unfolded the tail to such a remarkable degree, which makes it an artificial rather than a natural growth of feathers. Excellent illustrations of this abnormal development of the Yokohama's tail are presented in the several beautiful photographic reproductions and colored pictures printed in The National Geographic Magazine, April, 1927, with an interesting historic article by M. A. Jull, Poultry Husbandman, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, on "The Races of Domestic Fowl."

Just a few years ago the lowly American hen was considered in the light of a by-product of the American farm and little or no attention given to her by governmental sources. With the coming of the brooder stove less than 20 years ago and then the mammoth incubator, the hen business took on such proportions that more than a fleeting glance was given her by laymen in all walks of life and state and federal officials.

It is recognized by statisticians who specialize in business statistics that the modern development of the hatchery business in this country in the past very few years is in the same class as the growth of the automobile and radio business. The three, in fact, are marvels of the present day.

One of the penalties in this country for being a gigantic industry is to immediately have the powers that be cast longing eyes toward you with the thought in mind of the possibilities of casting about the new giant the protecting cloak of governmental control. Big business just does not know how to run its own affairs, and so government hired officials are required to take a hand in things (so at least the government officials seem to think). An example is the government control of the radio broadcasting, whose wings of power were recently clipped by the decision of the supreme court that the act was not constitutional. Congress, just a few weeks ago, because of wide public opinion, finally took the war tax off of automobiles, eight years after the war closed—the last war tax to be lifted.

So it would seem, that at last the automobile and radio industries are out from under the grip of government meddling and will be left alone for awhile at least.

In the meantime government servants at Washington who have the mistaken notion that they are hired to control something, some industry, same group of persons, rather than to play the part of the true governmental servant and be ready to offer assistance, have cast their eyes toward the vast, uncontrolled poultry industry. To their way of thinking, it would seem, they feel that the hen business is in bad straits, needs straightening up, needs to be cleaned up and dressed up.

Accordingly the senior poultryman of the United States Department of Agriculture, Dr. M. A. Jull, submitted his fourth governmental plan April 5, for the U. S. Standardization and Accreditation of Poultry.

In building poultry roosts there is no advantage in placing the perches one above the other in the old-fashioned way. It is natural for a fowl to get to the highest point and more so with a pullet. With the old style roost the fowls will jump from the first to the next highest and then quarrel. They all want the highest position. Fowls seem to possess an instinct which teaches them that the higher they get the safer they are, hence, when the perches are of unequal height, the strongest fowls occupy the highest perch. It is preferable to have the perches placed on a level always, but the platform under the perches may have a little slant to assist in cleaning off the droppings.

The perches should be just high enough above the platform to make it handy in scrapping off the manure and all perches should be movable, so that they may be easily and quickly taken out for cleaning, as there is no place like the roosts for harboring mites.

The perches should be at least two inches wide and rest firmly in a slot or mortice. A hen will cling to one side of a wide perch and the width will give them an opportunity to rest their weight on their shanks, while a very narow perch makes it necessary to bear the weight on the breast bone, mainly in one spot. This accounts for so many crooked breast bones. Chickens roosting on the chimes of a barrel or on a small limb of a tree, are often found with this deformity. The bones of the old hens are hardened so that they stand the pressure better, but all should have wide perches.

MILLINGTON

Miss Jennie Frances Garner, of Massey, left last Monday for Baltimore, where she has been enrolled as a student at Hannah Moore Academy.

Mrs. John Slaughter and son, John, of Wilmington, and Rev. and Mrs. Willard Everett, of Cheswold, Del., visited relatives in and near town last week.

Mr. E. T. Stevens and Dr. Merritt Brice were guests last Sunday of friends at Rock Hall.

Mrs. Francis Ellery Fitch and two children, Charles and Arrelee, spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. D. B. Ford, of Chestertown.

The regular monthly meeting of the Queen Esther Circle, of Asbury M. E. Church, was held last Tuesday evening at the home of Miss Elizabeth Bottomley.

Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Tawes and little daughter, Oneita, spent a couple of days this week with relatives at Gumboro, Del.

Miss Florence Comegys left last Saturday for Cleveland, O., after spending two weeks with her mother, Mrs. S. S. Comegys.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ahern visited their daughter, Mrs. P. H. Wood, Jr., of Wilmington, last Monday.

Little Miss Jean Tobin was the guest this week of her grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Tobin, of Middletown, Del.

Miss Mary Everett left last Tuesday for Parkersburg, W. Va., after spending a few weeks with her father, Mr. George S. Everett, near town.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society, of Asbury M. E. Church, was held last Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Harold Stauffer.

Mr. James Spear returned last Monday to the Massachusetts School of Technology, Boston, Mass., after spending several weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Spear, near town.

Mr. Howard Stevens, Jr., of Elizabeth, N. J., visited his father, Mr. Howard Stevens, this week.

Mrs. Vincent Wood, of Gumboro, Del., was the guest last week of her sister, Mrs. R. L. Tawes.

Mrs. John H. Tobin spent last Friday in Wilmington.

Mr. Richard Comegys, returned last Saturday to St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., after spending the summer with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Comegys.

Mrs. Mary Spry and son, Mr. Ralph Spry, of Wilmington, visited the former's niece, Mrs. Leo Gale last Monday.

Mrs. Willard King, of Marcus Hook, spent the past week end with her sister-in-law, Mrs. James Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Burris and little son, Carroll, Jr., of Penn's Grove, N. J., were guests this week of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burris.

Mrs. Frank Lambert, Jr., who was operated on three weeks ago last Monday at Union Hospital, Elkton, for appendicitis, returned on Thursday of last week much improved. She is now convalescing at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Woodall.

Mrs. Leo Gale was the guest this week of relatives in Wilmington.

Mr. Charles Moore, of Baltimore, spent this week with his brother, Mr James Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Howad King and son, Roland, visited their daughter, Mrs James Conley, of Middletown, Del.

GALENA

Little Miss Betty Blackson is visiting her grand-parents, at Mcginnises corner.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Johnston and family spent Sunday with his brother, of Town Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Walker, of Wilmington have returned home after spending their vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Colagain.

Mrs. Mary Hungerford, of Georgetown, Del., is spending the week with her mother.

Miss Nellie Dempsey spent the week with friends at Wilmington and Philadelphia.

Mr. Louis Cruickshank, of Philadelphia, spent a few days in this week with his mother, Mrs. Lucky Cruickshank.

Dr. Deshield, of Salisbury, was the guest of Rev. and Mrs. Ivenhoe Willis on Wednesday.

Miss Virginia Jones, of Clayton, and Clarice Jones, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Misses Mary and Marian Caldwell.

Mr. Earnest Towler, of Wilmington, spent the week end with his brother Mr. Wm. Towler.

Mr. and Mrs. Holton Parr and daughter Virginia spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Todd.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Starr and children, Anna and Price spent Sunday at Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Mary Scott is spending some time with relatives at Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurbert Caldwell and family of St. Michaels, Md., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. James Skinner

Miss Elizabeth Jones spent the week end with Miss Mildred Hoyle near Chestertown.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Woodall, of Wilmington, and Mr. Holt Woodall, of Baltimore visited here.

Mrs. Harry Burnie, of Baltimore, is spending several days with relatives in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Scotten.

Mrs. Chester Davis and son, Rodger, spent Sunday with relatives, at Richardson Park.

WORTON

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Rash have returned home after spending last week with their daughter, Mrs. Howard Carter, of Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Rouse and daughter, of Aberdeen, were the week end guests of her parents, Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Rasin.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams are entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mann and little son, of Trenton, N. J., and Capt. Charles Jones, of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, this week.

Capt. B. F. Sewell and Mr. Wm. Larrimore, of Rock Hall, spent Monday with the formers sister, Mrs. P. B. Rasin.

Mrs. Hampton and little daughter, of Va., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hurd.

Mr. and Mrs. George Diblin, Mr. Diblin's father and Mrs. Carey, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Williams.

Mr. John Robinson, of Still Pond, and Mr. Frank Ivens, of Lancaster, Pa., visited Mr. John Duyer and family Sunday.

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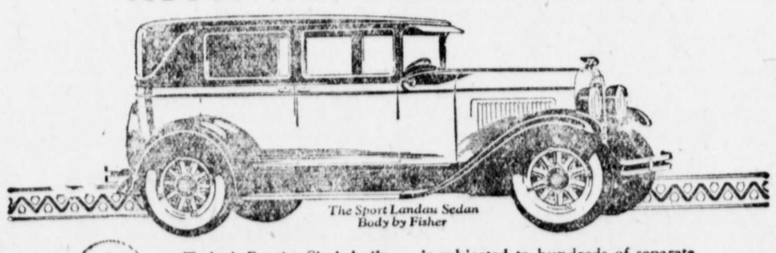
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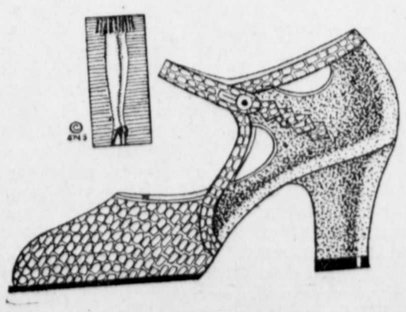

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