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Eggs For Hatching.

Regardless of all the careful handling they can receive eggs will not hatch unless they are fertile. In order to get fertile eggs the hens must be mated up properly and fed in a sane, practical way. Mating up more than a dozen hens with one male is inviting infertile eggs. Feeding the hens on nothing but table scraps, or making them hustle for all their feed will not produce fertile eggs or any other kind, for that matter. Last spring I set several hens with eggs and every morning some eggs were broken. The shells were too soft, hence the hen broke the eggs in moving around on the nest, and I finally had to throw away the eggs. By feeding my hens oyster shells for a few weeks I soon had hard-shelled eggs. Each item in the feed is just as important as oyster-shells. While the lack of it may not produce soft-shelled eggs, it will most surely produce unsatisfactory hatching eggs in some other way.

Eggs intended for hatching purposes should always be handled as carefully as possible, and never allowed to become chilled—a temperature of about fifty degrees fahrenheit in the room where they are kept being about right. It is a gamble to keep eggs longer than two weeks. While some of them may hatch if keyt longer, large hatches can not be expected. Eggs that have been shipped for any distance are always more or less shaken up, and should not be set for at least twenty-four hours after they are received in order to first give them time to thoroughly settle.

No over-sized, under-sized or misshapen eggs should ever be retained for hatching purposes; the store's the place for them. Eggs that are being saved for hatching should never be washed therefore unclean eggs should not be retained. Eggs that are intended for incubation should not be left always in the same position, but should be turned every day or two. After all, it is merely a matter of common sense to have eggs that will hatch. Fresh eggs, fertility and proper handling mean large, healthy chicks and lots of them. —J. A. Reid, Dauphin Co., Pa.

Hicks' Forecast for March.

Regular storm period is central on the 2nd, coming over from the closing days of February, and extending to March 5th. As we enter the month of March, a wave of warmer weather will be advancing from western extremes, the barometer will be falling and cloudiness increasing. On and touching the 2nd and 3d, storms of rain, wind and thunder will visit wide localities in their regular sweep across the great central valleys and on to the eastward.

Reactionary storm period will be central on the 7th, 8th and 9th. This will be at the center of the Mercury equinox, with Moon at last quarter and at extreme south declination. On and touching these reactionary storm days, look for return of low barometer, change to warmer, and renewal of very active storms of wind and rain, turning again to sleet and snow, and followed by rising barometer, and much colder, clearing weather.

Regular storm period will be central on the 14th, extending from the 12th to the 17th. The annual magnetic and electrical crisis which reaches its culmination about the 10th to 15th of March, will mark this period with added severity. The Moon will be on the equator and in conjunction with Earth and Sun on the 15th.

Reactionary period falls centrally on the 19th, 20th and 21st. This period is at the culmination of the Earth's vernal equinox, which fact calls for uncertain, if not continued stormy weather through much of this part of March, even outside of the storm periods. But marked increase of storm conditions—which always means a change to warmer, falling barometer, thickening clouds, and intensified storminess—will appear on and touching the 19th, 20th and 21st.

Regular storm period is nearly coincident with the center of the vernal equinox. It is central on the 25th, and extends from the 23rd to the 29th. The March equinox, being at its crisis, will blend with and greatly intensify this regular Vulcan storm period. The Moon will pass its first quarter at greatest north declination on the 23rd. It will also pass southward over the celestial equator on the 29th and reach its opposition with Earth and Sun on the 30th.

The Up-to-Date Librarian.

The principal character in the following dialogue was not engaged in flirtation, but merely requisitioning a few novels:

Young lady (reading from list): "Engaged to Be Married?"

Librarian (referring to shelf): No, madam.

Lady: "Thou Art the Man?"
Librarian: "Yes, madam.
Lady: Thank you. "Two Kisses?"
Librarian: Out madam.
Lady: "After Dark?"
Librarian: Yes, madam.
Lady: Thanks. "Love Me Forever?"
Librarian: No. "Wooed and Married?"
Lady: No, thank you. "Under Love's Rule?"
Librarian: No, madam.
Lady: "Good-bye, Sweetheart?"
Thank you very much.—The Books of To-day and To-morrow.

One Time it Hurt.

"Do you want a boy?" asked a youth last week as he stood in the workshop of a busy man.

"I do," was the reply; "but I want a good boy."

"Perhaps I would fill the bill," suggested the applicant.

"No, you would not," replied the man as he straightened up and looked the boy in the eyes. "You are smoking a cigarette, and no cigarette smoker can work for me."

"I have been smoking cigarettes for several years," the boy remarked, "and they have never hurt me."

"They have hurt you once," said the mechanic, "and that is now. You can rest assured that if you had not been a cigarette smoker I would have given you a job and a trial. So the cigarette has hurt you this time."

She Remembered.

Aunt Jane is quite absent minded and when she started on a short journey, a few weeks ago, each member of the family labored to impress on her that she must not forget any of her parcels or belongings. When she reached her destination she wrote at once of her safe arrival and closed with the following postcript:

I remembered what you said about forgetting and tried to be as thoughtful as possible. I neglected, though, to have my trunk rechecked at the junction, and think I must have left my lunch at the window when I bought my ticket.

I must have forgotten my umbrella, too, when I changed cars, but I cannot imagine what could have become of my shawl. I suppose I neglected to put my comb and brush back in the bag after using them, but I feel confident that some one stole my jet brooch, as I do not see how I could possibly have mislaid it.

I got on quite nicely, though, and had a real pleasant journey.—Youth's Companion.

Double Duty.

An English sportsman—they call a man sportsman in England when he has money and nothing to do—has hit upon a very clever idea. He owns an automobile and a yacht. When he wants to use his yacht he runs the automobile aboard and harnesses it to the propeller. Then he tips off the self starter, the auto gets busy, the propeller churns the water, and the plain yacht becomes a fast motorboat. When the sportsman gets where he wants to go he ties up the yacht, runs the auto ashore and gayly whizzes along the good roads. Of course, to be perfectly fair about it, the sportsman should take the yacht aboard the auto when he is on land, but up to the present time he has shown no willingness to display any such form of altruism. He's got a good idea, however. Pampered autos have too long been permitted to go aboard as stowaways. It's high time they were compelled to work their passage.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

An "Absent Minded Beggar."

In "Bohemian Days In Fleet Street" is this anecdote of Phil May, the artist:

Phil was at one time ordered horse exercise. It was thought that this mode of progression would insure his safe and early return to the domestic hearth. But it did not always work.

One afternoon Phil was riding home from Fleet street to his house in Kensington, and, in passing through Leicester square, thought that he would drop in at the Cosy club. * * * He gave his horse in charge of an urchin to hold for him. It was then 4 in the afternoon. At 2 o'clock in the morning a police constable entered the club to inquire whether one of the members had left a horse in charge of a boy outside. The secretary remembered that May was the proud possessor of a steed. But May had left the club at midnight. He had forgotten all about his horse, and had driven home in a hansom.

The Dancing Disease.

The "dancing disease" was an epidemic nervous disorder, apparently allied to hysteria and chorea, occasionally prevalent in Germany and Italy during the middle ages. As it has been in every instance chiefly propagated by physical contagion, like chorea, there is every reason to conclude that it had a like origin. In 1734, during the celebration of the festival of St. John at Aix-la-Chapelle, the streets became crowded with men and women of all ranks and ages who commenced dancing in a wild and frantic manner, many losing entire control over themselves and continuing to dance until dropping down from fatigue. The mania spread to Cologne, Metz and Strasburg, and gave rise to much imposture, profligacy and disorder.

A Tip to the Poets.

His (Richard Hovey's) voice was admirable, sonorous and colorful, and he used it excellently whether to read or recite. It was a novelty to editors, when they asked him to submit a poem, to have him ask "Perhaps you'd like this?" Forthwith he would recite the poem he had to offer, not faltering in a line and bringing out the thought and feeling of it all magically, as we read the first poets gave their soul to rapt listeners. In case the poem happened to be unsuitable for the purpose Hovey would smile unperturbed and proceed to recite his second choice. If the poem were accepted on his recital he would go back to his apartment to write out a copy of it and send it to the editor. — Richard Duffy in Bookman.

Scottish and Smart.

John Clerk, Lord Eldon, was of a very convivial disposition. Once the author of "Law and Laughter," after a Bannatyne club dinner, "where wit and wine contended for the mastery," tumbled heavily downstairs on the way to his carriage and broke his nose. When he reappeared in public, looking somewhat odd about the face, some one asked how the accident happened. He said it was the effect of his studies. "Studies!" ejaculated the inquirer. "Yes," growled the judge; "ye've heard, nae doot, about 'Coke Upon Littleton,' but I suppose you never before heard of 'Clerk Upon Stair!'"

The New Nurse.

"Now, nurse, please do not say anything to the child about bugaboos."

"Certainly not, madam. And one question, please."

"Well?"

"Do you wish the infant to have any instruction at this time on the subject of germs?"—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

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