

The Farm.

Utilizing Natural Heat for Fowls.

There are few, if any, of those who are learning to manage poultry who do not at a certain stage of the work lean toward the use of artificial heat in locations where the thermometer goes low in the winter. Most of them write to their favorite papers explaining their plans and asking advice. This advice usually consists of the one word, "Don't."

The first attempt at warming the birds by use of outside means will be in the use of condiments, like red pepper. Next will come plans for a very little stove heat. Neither of these is necessary; neither is as useful as is expected; neither is quite safe.

The word "locations" has been used above, when "localities" would have suited the case better. For, even in localities where it is severely cold, a location may usually be found which will make many degrees of difference in the temperature in the buildings. First, dryness must be insisted upon, since, even if the temperature is the same, dampness will make it seem much colder, and the effect will be much the same as it were colder.

After dryness there is no one point that will make so much difference to the birds as shelter from wind. Wind is a dire enemy to the feathered race; if they face it they get cold in the head, and if they turn the back to it the wind blows the feathers up and searches the skin, making the bird almost as cold as though it wore no feathers. The flock that is subjected to winds to any extent is the flock that will continually be showing cases of roup, and if the buildings are on an exposed hill there must be plenty of wind breaks, natural or artificial, or there is likely to be failure. I am inclined to think that the house fully exposed to wind will be at least 20 degrees colder than one that is well sheltered—that is, when the wind is blowing. Many, in their efforts to find a location that shall insure dryness, build so high and in such an exposed situation that the case is almost as bad as if the foundation was damp.

The warmth provided by shelter is very valuable, but after this there is a positive warmth furnished by the sun that is not only better than fire heat, but warmer than fire heat, when we can manage so as to accentuate it and hold it and store it for the use of the birds. We used often to see the advice to build with the houses facing either south or southeast. After considerable experience with houses facing southeast I am more and more convinced that this is decidedly "second best," for prevailing winds are in many places east winds, and if the house faces southeast the wind whips around the corner and sweeps the heat out of the house at an amazing rate. Near the east coast east winds are "roupy" winds, damp and chill. Good housing must keep them out. I am speaking mainly of the scratching shed house. Curtaining, dropped where here is east wind, will help, of course, but we ought not to have to drop the curtains

for anything less than a positive storm, except at night, when they should always be down.

Even in midwinter, if the houses are built so as to capture all the sun rays, the birds will crawl out of the sun to a place at least partly shaded. There is scarcely a day when the sun will not furnish a great sufficiency of heat (if we trap it effectually) so long as it shines.

But there is the long winter night, and there are the numerous dull, cloudy days, besides those actually stormy. Yes, but the nights need not be so bad, if just two precautions are taken, or, possibly, three. See to it, first, that the houses are closed just before the sun goes down; this will make a good many degrees difference for several hours, if the house is snugly built. See to it that, while not crowded, there are enough birds in a group to help warm each other; see to it that the curtains, or wooden hoods, are pretty snug about the roosts on the zero nights, so that the heat developed by the bodies of the birds is, in a measure, stored for the cooler hours toward morning. If all these are carefully attended to the nights will be most fairly comfortable for fowls, with their "down comforters" always on hand and wrapped about them.

—C. S. Valentine, in the N. Y. Tribune.

About Horses:

To the ordinary mind the hair of the horse would seem to be strongly "conductive to healthy skin."

Other writers say that "horse-clipping is a sanitary measure, as a long, heavy coat of shaggy hair cannot be conducive to healthy skin."

It is beyond doubt that horses regularly clipped are subject to a number of ills that do not affect unclipped horses so generally or so seriously.

Nature may be trusted in the matter of fitting to each animal its covering. The horse's coat is his entire wardrobe. His hair protects him in both summer and winter.

If the hair should be clipped from horses, why should not the feathers be stripped or clipped from birds, the shells from turtles, and the hair and wool from all animals?

What did nature intend then, when she developed the horse and put upon him his hair, tail and mane? Who ever saw or heard of a diseased or unhealthy skin in a herd of wild horses?

Removal of the natural coat must necessarily affect the horse's power to stand sudden chills when heated, or quick heating when he finds himself out in the hot sun, or radiation of warmth, or evaporation of perspiration.

Queer ideas are the order of the day in the horse world. For example, some horse writers insist that the working horse should go unshod. In soft and stoneless dirt a horse might go unshod and do considerable work, but in stony localities the hoofs of unshod horses would simply be broken and splintered up to the quick.—The Farmer's Voice.

IN TENNESSEE

People Know Something About Coffee.

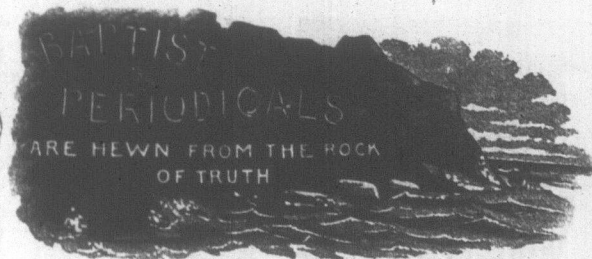
A little woman in Rita, Tenn., ran up from 110 pounds to 135 pounds in a few months by leaving off coffee and taking up Postum Food Coffee. She had been sick for a long time; subject to headaches and a general nervous condition, with stomach trouble, caused by coffee drinking, and when she left it off and took on Postum Food Coffee she made the change that cured her and fattened her quickly. She says: "I can now do as much work in a day as I want to, have no more headaches, and feel like a new person."

People comment on how well I look and want to know what I am doing. I always say, 'drinking Postum Food Coffee.'

My husband has been cured of rheumatism by leaving off coffee and using Postum, and his mother, who was always troubled after drinking coffee, has abandoned it altogether and now uses Postum three times a day. She sleeps sound and says she never expects to taste coffee any more."—Mrs. L. M. Edmondson, Rita, Tenn.

Giving Shape to the Feet.

Every one, but especially children, should wear properly fitting shoes, no matter how common be their material. They should be neither too large nor too small, and should have low, flat heels, that must be promptly "righted" as soon as they begin to wear on one side. If the toes of the foot show a tendency to overlap, they should be rubbed with the hands once or twice each day; and if this care be given when the curving commences, it will, as a rule, prove sufficient to correct any irregularities of this nature. If a nail is wayward in its growth, trim it only lightly at the ailing corner, but fully at the opposite corner. If both corners grow too deeply into the flesh, clip them carefully and lightly, and then scrape the centre of the nail, from the tip to near the root, until it is thin and flexible. This process seldom fails to correct refractory nails, provided, of course, they are not neglected too long.—Health Magazine.



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