

General Correspondence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

RULES.

To be observed when asking Questions.

1. No charge whatever is made for answering questions.
 2. All correspondents to sign their communication with initials or pseudonyms and add correct name and address on the back of each query. (N. B.) The latter will not be published).
 3. The Editor reserves the right of declining to reply to any of the questions.
 4. No more than three questions will be answered at one time.
 5. Write on one side of the paper only.
 6. Write each question, if on a different subject, on a separate sheet of paper.
- Note.—We cannot undertake to answer questions by post.

POULTRY AND PIGEONS.

(Answered by the Editor.)

SUBSCRIBER.—Packing eggs for carriage by rail.—There is no other mode so satisfactory as packing them in soft hay, and then pressing the lid of the basket down somewhat firmly. They should be sent in a hamper or basket, not a box, as the material of the former being soft and pliable lessens the danger of breaking the contents.

L. P.—Pekin duck ill.—The duck is suffering from disease of the internal organs. We have never seen any benefit from attempting to cure waterfowl of any kind, or at any age.

AMATEUR.—Name of Pigeon.—The sketch and description you send us, is that of a red Jacobin. They are somewhat scarce in this country. 2. The bird you send us, died from congestion of the liver.

RANGER.—Your fowls are suffering from cramp. The cause is, probably, the keeping of them in a cold, damp or sunless place.

DOGS AND HORSES.

(Answered by the Editor.)

MISERE.—Toy Terrier with distemper.—In the first instance give a purge (castor oil and buckthorn will do), give at night, 5 grs. of Dr James' powder, and the following day commence giving this mixture. Chlorate of potash, 1 dr., sweet spirit of nitre, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., Mindererus spirit, 2 oz., syrup of poppies 1 oz., water to make six ounces. Mix and give a tablespoonful in a little water three times a day.

C. O. D.—Fox terrier with no appetite.—Give her one of Spratt's worm powders, and after that a pill twice a day, made of 1 gr. of sulphate of iron, and 3 grs of extract of gentian.

BRANDY WINE.—Dog broken out in sores.—Your letter is exceedingly indefinite. What are we to understand by the expression, "He seems to be exceedingly ill as well"—Give a dose of castor oil, (we cannot tell you the quantity because you do not tell us size of dog,) and write with greater exactness as to dog's state.

CAGE BIRDS.

(Answered by the Editor.)

C. F. S.—Blackbird hoarse.—Place the bird in a cool, dry room with plenty of bathing water, and he will soon be all right. Hot rooms are death to these birds.

MISCELLANEOUS.

INQUIRER.—Guinea pigs. Do not pair for breeding until at least six months old; and if older, say twelve months, so much the better, as the produce will be larger. Feed on oats, chopped corn, and the leaves of vegetables, in fact feed in the same way as rabbits, but they do not need so much corn. Both sexes can be always together, but proper nests should be prepared for the does when littering, when, if provided with a sufficiency of food, and not disturbed until a fortnight after they litter, they will not eat their young.

BIG BABY.—1. To make Toffee.—Place in a preserving pan, 2 oz. of butter for every pound of sugar you intend to use, and melt gently over a slow fire. When the butter is thoroughly melted stir in the sugar, (which should be of the darkest procurable), and add water sufficient to make it into a thick paste. Boil gently until a spoonful dropped into cold water breaks clear between the teeth without sticking. Pour it out into buttered plate, and leave in a cool place till morning. 2. Toffee is the correct pronunciation, taffy is a vulgarism.

WISEACRE.—To renovate wire blinds.—We advise you to remove the spots of rust with emery paper, and then re-varnish the blinds.

ANOTHER MARTHA.—To stain a floor.—Oak staining fluid can be purchased at any oil-shop by the quart. It requires dilution with water, and you had better try a little place on the floor to determine the right color. Then proceed to brush the boards over with the stain, and polish with beeswax or varnish. The floor must be well scrubbed first. Many thanks for your kind letter. We are glad you like the EXCHANGE.

NABUCHODONOSOR.—Re-touching.—The art can be learned in from three to twelve months. Some artistic talent, patience and perseverance are necessary to the learner.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.—Painting on Terra Cotta.—We thank you for your kind and interesting letter, and are glad you like our journal. 1. There is no charge for answering questions in the EXCHANGE AND MART, we are only too glad to be able to help our readers with advice and information. 2. The Terra Cotta should have a coat of Nelson's gelatine, to be bought at every grocer's, mixed like gum, or of the medium called "veloutine" before painting in water colors.

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