

RURAL AND SUBURBAN

USEFUL HINTS FOR THE AMATEUR

The class of flowers to which the Canterbury Bell belongs is a very extensive one—indeed, one of the greatest in ornamental flowers. Their habits are most varied, and so are the blossoms, and all are of a decorative character, whether required as stately flowers or dwarf subjects. Botanically they are known as Campanulas. *Rotundifolia* is the Scotch blue bell, and *Pyramidalis* is the chimney bell flower—a capital pot plant. The variety *Medium*, however, is the one I am writing of. This is the true Canterbury Bell—a plant that attains a height of two or three feet, with numerous upstanding stems and abundance of large bell-shaped blossoms of various colors. It is biennial, and only lives for two years. It is a most attractive border flower, and when grown in pots is a charming window of greenhouse subject.

Clean Water for Fowls

Fowls are great drinkers in hot weather, and great care should now be exercised in allowing them none but pure water. The importance of this cannot be over-estimated. Nothing is so injurious to fowls of all ages than allowing them to drink dirty water. This soon brings on diarrhoea and other ailments. It puts them off their food and stops their progress, while insisting on their having none but pure water is really a stimulant to health. The supply should be drawn from the same source as the water for the table. It should not only be absolutely free of dirt, but kept cool. When they drink sun-heated water it acts like poison. It does not relieve their thirst, and is invariably upsetting. Every drinking dish should, therefore, be washed out every morning filled with cool, clean water, and placed in a shady spot. There is no greater assistant to success.

Thinning Onions

Onions will grow in the most dense clusters, but little thumb-like roots or bulbs are not thought much of on the table. They are hardly worth keeping for winter, and one well-grown bulb is worth half a score of tiny ones. If the soil is dry and the plants break in pulling out, soak the roots the previous evening, and they will be easily extracted. This is good plan. Thin all regularly to three inches apart; then choose, sound, long-keeping bulbs will result everywhere. Onions delight in sunshine. Only thick necks and small, soft bulbs are produced in crowds or where shaded. The thinnings may be tied up in bundles and sold. There are plenty of buyers. If many green onions are wanted for home use, thin out to one inch and a half, and draw out every other one as required. Regulating crops by thinning is a delightful work and exceedingly profitable.

Thinning Carrots

Carrots are a crop that wholly fail to be useful if grown in clusters, and they are very often found growing in this fashion. As a rule, fifty times more seed is sown than is required, and the plants come up in clusters. This is the state of many carrot crops now, and they could be in no worse position. Thin carrots are unwelcome on all tables. They are rubbish, but secure thick, clean roots and they are eagerly sought after by all. Growing sufficiently wide apart to allow of development to their fullest form is the only means to secure typical carrots. Every other facility may be first-rate, but omit thinning and all will be a failure. Do not be too long in thinning, and prevent the roots from impeding each other. Soak the rows well the previous night; then they will be easily extracted next day. Take time, and thin methodically. Scheme to let all the strongest remain. Try hard to regulate the early tops to three inches apart and the larger ones, of the intermediate class, to four inches. Every root will then become perfect, and a bushel or two of such will be more valued than a hundredweight of the unthinned rasky ones. After thinning soak again with soot water. Be sure and give to a penetrating extent. Hoe between them weekly and keep free from weeds.

Trenches for Celery

These are often formed before the celery is ready to plant. It is looked on as work well out of hand, and the trenches are ready whenever needed. If the land is vacant it is all right, but if some crop has to be cleared off to make room for the celery, the making of the trenches must be delayed. Any part will do for celery so long as it is not in any way shady. All soils, too, can be adapted to it. They may be light, heavy, or medium. In growing celery for the market, wide trenches are made to hold half-a-dozen rows or so. This is a wholesale style of growing, but for home use and convenient form I prefer two rows only in a trench. These are easily handled and earthed up, and the produce is first-rate. The trench may be eighteen inches wide and one foot deep. Mark off and cut out neatly. Many take a special pride in making their celery trenches. Show the soil that comes out of the trench well in between each, or if only one trench is made pack it on each side. Celery is partial to plenty of manure. It is extra greedy, and must have it. Cow, horse, or pig manure must be given freely. Before digging in give a sprinkling of soot and salt over the dung, and cover it well under. Do this as soon as the trench is made. As a crop to grow on the celery ridges, lettuce do splendidly, but any dwarf vegetable may be grown.

Fixing Climbing Plants on Houses

The most favorite climbers are those that are self-clinging and adhere to the walls as

they grow, but varieties with this power are not very plentiful. The well-known and very much liked small-leaved Virginia creeper, *Ampelopsis veitchii*, is a perfect object-lesson in self-clinging. It sticks to every kind of material, rough or smooth. *Ampelopsis hederacea muralis* is also a good self-sticker. Many of the ivies, too, are self-clinging. *Bignonia radicans* is also possessed of this virtue. It has large, bunches of more attention than it gets. Self-clinging plants have more than one quality to recommend them. There are many plaster walls which cannot be nailed into without damage; others have such hard surfaces that nails can hardly be driven in, and in all such cases the self-clinging climbers are absolutely at home and creep up with enjoyment; indeed, they help to strengthen many a shaky wall surface and conceal defects agreeably. The most common way of training climbing plants is by nailing. Where the walls are of brick or stone with frequent joints all can be trained nicely. Both nails and staples are used. The latter are best for staying strong branches. Both cord and strips of cloth are used in tying. Soft tar twine is the best kind of string. It is strong, durable, and does not harbor insects. Never use rubbishy material to tie. Have it dependable and not needing frequent renewal. Do not use over-strong twine to tie little branches. Plants overburdened with such are very unsightly. The strips of cloth used for keeping up climbing plants are called shreds. Good strong material is cut up into strips from one to one inch and a half, and sufficiently long to go round the shoots and have a lap to insert the nail. Cloth cannot be too tough for the purpose. Do not have rosy-colored material. I have seen trees dotted all over with blue, yellow, and scarlet shreds, and all were extremely inappropriate—indeed, vastly unsightly. Such artificial displays of color are never agreeable in association with the grace and beauty of nature. Unconspicuous colors only should be used. Where there are objections to putting nails in the walls the plants may be supported in two other ways—one by wiring and the other by trellis work. Both are efficient and quite appropriate. If wire is used, do not put heavy material. Have neat uprights as supports and slim, ungalvanized wires six, eight, or ten inches apart and two or three inches out from the wall. Wiring, if done neatly, is most unobjectionable, as it is in no way unsightly, and it is all so handy to train and tie, too, at all times. Wood lattice work is the most expensive and the more clumsy, although it is very becoming on some old-fashioned and other houses. Post-like uprights are fixed in the ground and very thin lathes nailed on, in ornamental fashion. Here, again, neatness is most desirable, and in painting adhere to green or slate colors.

THE ADVANCE OF THE BREEDS

The progress of the pedigree breeds in England is ably presented in The London Live Stock Journal, as follows:

There is now general agreement that great progress has been made with respect to all the breeds of British live stock, and that the improvements have been in the direction of practical utility. Not so long ago a few were to be met who were sceptical on these points. They were mostly those who glorified the past and to whom all kinds of change were objectionable. They would not admit that there had been any advance in horses, cattle, sheep, or pigs, but that, on the contrary, they could remember when all were better. The draft horses had lost their massiveness, and "sourness"; the light horses had not the endurance and pace of the earlier celebrities; the cattle were smaller and yielded fewer pounds of beef, while the milk had been "pedigreed away." The very same detraction as this was extended to all varieties, and the work of the live stock improver was soon demolished by the critics who clung tenaciously to everything that was old. They spoke professedly on behalf of the practical farmer, and they were so far backed up by a section of the class who could not see the use of anything but pedigree, who could not be eaten and which were meaningless in their view. Like a famous breeder of old, they held that if an animal were bred by Mr. So-and-So, that fact should be pedigree enough to satisfy any one. They never saw much good come of pedigree breeding and showing stock, and the old ways were good enough for them. They objected strongly to good animals being allowed to leave the country, and they would certainly have made it prohibitory to export stock which—if they had any effect at all, only furnished the foreigner with the materials for beating us in our own markets. It is not improbable that some of these sentiments still survive, but they were not now proclaimed so vehemently as was the case a quarter of a century ago.

The reasons for the change are several. The foreign and colonial testimony was indisputable, and the derogatory remarks about the improved breeds looked a little foolish when practical and go-ahead agriculturists from abroad were content to travel thousands of miles and spend hundreds of pounds in selecting specimens of our herds, studs, and flocks, that they knew furnished the only means by which their own stock could be graded up to a profitable marketing condition. First it was horses they came for, then cattle, then sheep, and pigs, so that the breeds had a share of this external demand. Here was a fact that could not be disputed; and another

which had to be weighed and accepted was that the exporter would have nothing to do with non-registered stock. The animals "outside the Book" might be all that the fancy of their owners painted them but the colonist and foreigner would not look at them unless they could furnish an authenticated record of breeding. They had plenty of chance-bred specimens at home; what they came for was a good animal with a public record of breeding that gave a guarantee of purity and the possession of those hereditary influences that could be relied upon as likely to be perpetuated in the offspring. In view of these very decided preferences the ranks of pedigree stock now includes a large number who acknowledged the advantages which formerly were recognized more exclusively by the student and enthusiast—the few pioneers who, by per-

HOW WE RAISE 30,000 DUCKS ANNUALLY AT A PROFIT

(By W. R. Curtis, Ransomville, N. Y.)

In growing ducks there are a good many things that we do not do the same as we do with chickens, and there are some things that we do the same. It is harder manual work to grow ducks than chickens, and you have got to use a lot of judgment. In the first place, I will explain how to get the stock. If you get weak stock it will show up for a number of years, and we have to be very particular about this. Therefore, I will go back to the ducks that lay the eggs that the ducks are hatched from, and we can go back farther than that with good results. You cannot go back too far. We will suppose that the ducks that lay these eggs are good, strong, healthy ducks. We set the eggs



The above reproduction of a basket of strawberries shows probably the finest Vancouver Island fruit ever photographed. The fruit was grown by Mr. John Brown at his fruit ranch, Craigmillier, Cloverdale. Fifteen berries filled the box, weighing one pound and a half.

sistent adherence to the choice old blood and the principles of breeding, preserved and improved the races of live stock that are now famous throughout the world.

Some eminent agricultural authorities who were the vanguard of scientific progress in other branches, were also disposed to challenge the claims of stock breeders, or at any rate to demand proofs of the achievements which they had carried out. One recalls an instance when a great investigator in the scientific world was asked to deal with the improvements in breeds of live stock. His reply was that he had no data—he knew such improvements, were said to have been made, but there was nothing to prove the assertions, and he wanted figures to establish them; comparative statistics of greater speed and endurance on horses, of increased size and weight in other farm stock, and statistics as to increase of produce in the case of beef, milk, butter, mutton and pork. There is not as much of this kind of information as there might be, but after all, mere size and weight are not everything. Breeds have been vastly improved, though they may not have increased in bulk. The effort, indeed, has rather been to reduce size and to promote early maturity in cattle and sheep, while the grossness and clumsiness of the old-fashioned draft horses has been superseded by more compact frames and better quality of bone.

The whole purpose of stock-breeding has been revolutionized and the advances that have been made are to be tested more by adaptability to present uses and requirements than by contrasts with discarded types that were in favor in the early days of breed development. Except in a few cases, portraits are of little value in acquiring us with ancient forms, as these mostly gave the artists' idea of what were considered to be perfect animals. Some of the portraits, however, are unquestionably not only splendid works of art, but also faithful delineations of the animals represented. Old agricultural works throw more light on the subject, and in a forthcoming book from the pen of Sir Walter Gilbey, entitled "Live Stock 100 Years Ago," there will be found a remarkably complete account of the breeds as they existed at that remote period, and readers will be enabled to gain an accurate view of the enormous changes that have occurred in the interval. It is in effecting these alterations that breeders have displayed their skill in the work of live stock improvement, and the widespread interest in the fascinating pursuit, which is also of the highest value, is the best guarantee that progress will be maintained, and that other developments will be made to satisfy the ever-varying requirements in regard to the domesticated live stock of the world.

them. It is only the ducks who have strength enough to walk this distance, being urged all the time that are put in the pen. Then we go back and clean up the ones that are left, and they are put into the marketing pen. It does not matter how nice a duck they are, because it is strength we are after.

We put from 100 to 200 ducks in a pen, and there is no sled or anything for them to run under. It is just simply a woodlot. It would be just as well to have them run in a field provided they had some artificial shade, but decidedly you have got to have some shade for ducks. If you put ducks in a hot field in the summer time there is danger. I have seen full-grown ducks get sunstroke and lie down and die.

We feed them there for five months on light food. We do not want to fatten them. If any ducks get off their feed, they are taken right off; they are not kept. We keep a lantern burning in the trees on dark nights to keep them from getting scared.

A peculiar thing about ducks is that they will run and trample on each other and jump in the corner of the pens if they get scared on a dark night. If it is a bright moonlight night we do not light the lanterns. We wish we had electricity, so that we could have electric lights in each pen.

The feed for these ducks is four parts bran to one part of flour and one part cornmeal, and 1-20 beef scrap. For green feed we use four parts clover. The clover should be about one-third or a little more than one-third of the entire feed. You can feed them all the green feed they will eat. A good indication is to watch their troughs, and after they have eaten their feed, if they leave a little clover in the trough, you know they are getting all they want, and may be a little more; and if they clean this trough up they haven't quite enough to eat. If they have too much to eat, they pick the green feed out and leave nothing but the mash, and then you know they haven't enough green feed. We feed them wet mash—mix it a little more moist than you do for chickens. These ducks must not be fed all they will eat, because if you do they will get in good condition. You must only feed them what they will clean up, and if you do, you must go through and clean it up. They are not to be starved, but you must keep them just a little hungry, and they will go out in this one or two acres of land and eat more or less green feed, and they will run up and down the pen and it will give them muscle.

If you taken one of these ducks and one of the market ducks, you will notice all the difference in the world between them. The market duck is like a chunk of lead, and the breeding duck will flap and flutter and hit you on the arm with its wings, and sometimes hurt you.

The reason why we feed them in this manner is to get strength. We keep oyster shell before them all the time. We do not use any sharp grit for ducks, because it does not give us good results. We would rather have the smooth grit, and we go to the lake and to the sand pit and get the gravel; about the size of wheat is the right size. We keep plenty of it before them and there is no necessity to give them oyster shell at this time that I know of.

We keep them in this manner until they are five months old and then we change and put them in permanent quarters. Most any kind of a building will do for a duck house. It does not require very much light, but if you want eggs all the winter you must have it warm enough so that the eggs won't get chilled. If you go through pretty often and take up the eggs they will not get chilled. You must not let them out, because they will lay on the snowbank if you do.

We do not have any nests in our duck houses; we simply bed them with shavings. We did try nests, but we could not see any great benefit from them. They will dig a hole in the corner and lay the egg and cover it up, and when you go through in the morning you have to be careful that you do not walk on the eggs. We have a short stick and dig in these little holes and get the eggs out. Sometimes you will find a dozen eggs in one hole, six inches below the top of the ground. A good house for this climate would be such a house as I spoke of for hens, except that you would not want to have so much light. In our country we do not have very much snow, and we do not have any shed; they simply run out the year round. If it thaws a little they enjoy it, just a smuch as they do the rainstorm; but I would judge that in this country you need a shed, as you have so much snow. I would not keep them from going out of doors if they wanted to. If you let a hen have liberty the fertility of the eggs will be much higher, and if you keep ducks confined won't compare with the fertility of the eggs out. The laying houses should be about five square feet to each duck. There is no particular arrangement; just simply, if you have more than one pen in the yard the fences should be about two feet or two and a half feet high.

We clean out our duck houses only twice a year. As the bedding gets wet, we keep adding to it, put on enough to cover up the moist bedding, and we think this thickness underneath has a tendency to keep them warm. We cannot see any injurious effects from it, and it saves us a lot of work.

If the ducks are hatched out in May they are put in here about the first of October, and they should be sorted again at this time, and if there are any that are defective, especially

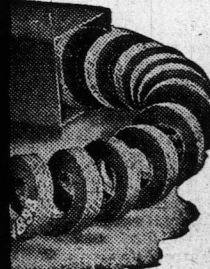
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of Canada will use

SON'S Pads

soil would be tremendously

LARRY ACE, District of Columbia

CE, that James A. Campbell, B. C., occupation, tends to apply for purchase the following

at a post planted at the of James A. Campbell's the vicinity of Cabanish Island, thence south 20 west 20 chains, thence thence west 20 chains, to shore; thence along and east to this post.

S. A. CAMPBELL, IN R. HARTFIELD, of June, 1910. Agent.

of Vancouver Island and be partly judged from under Railways and Ship-recent and larger timber areas in this vicinity transfer of the Dunsmuir Company to a company operates to the Canadian North Company is worthy of it warrants the belief of natural resources Island are about to be a larger scale.

may be congratulated raised membership and taken by members in the acts which have been undertaken. Your committee such time to the business and much valuable responded hereto, together statistical information.

SIMON LEISER, President.

L. A. GENGE, Vice-President.

F. ELWORTHY, Secretary.

new Members

ing new members were Board: Messrs. D. E. Piggot, W. O. Wallace, E. Haynes, R. T. Elliot, W. A. W. Currie, E. E. and H. C. Briggs.

vote of thanks proposed Wilson and seconded by Mrs. James, paid a high to Secretary Elworthy and capable manner had fulfilled his duties last year.

anks to the retiring Mrs. Hasell, who had number of votes of thanks tastefully arranged.

Board Room during the passed before the meeting a conclusion.

ngs were present: Messrs. F. G. H. Barnard, M.P., E. E. Billingshurst, W. Beaumont Boggs, A. W. F. Bullen, J. O. Cameron, F. L. Crawford, R. C. Deaville, R. L. Drury, A. B. Frazer, W. H. A. Genge, J. H. Gillespie, podacre, Richard Hall, in, John Hart, Charles B. Jackson, W. H. Tre-

W. A. Jameson, E. M. Leiser, Simon Leiser, H. Macklin, J. A. Mara, Director Angus McKewen, R. B. McMichael, G. Mitchell, H. A. Munn, F. Edward Pearson, W. H. Pither, S. J. Pitts, E. C. W. Rhodes, J. B. H. Hur Robertson, H. J. Hallcross, R. H. Swiner, temple, C. F. Todd, John W. Vincent, E. H. Wall-

Wilson and Andrew