

any kind—San Jose scale, peach borers, or any other form of disease that can be carried on nursery stock. No one objects to this. No one, I imagine, has any desire to foist on the fruit-growers of B. C. any diseased stock. Let the regulations be as stringent as possible, such regulations would not debar Ontario stock any more than Oregon stock. Ontario nurseries are as free from disease as are those of Oregon, but the difficulty does not lie in this fact at all. We have the trees and have them free of disease, but we are compelled to ship these trees, most of which are wanted in the Okanagan and other valleys in the Eastern and South-eastern B. C., all the way to the Coast of Vancouver, and then after inspection ship them back again to Eastern and South-eastern B. C., a distance of from 400 to 800 miles at least. Our spring does not open up until about April 1st to April 10th. By the time our trees get to the Pacific Coast and are inspected tree by tree, reboxed and shipped back to the Okanagan country, it is May 15th to June 1st, whereas Oregon nurserymen can ship March 1st, have them inspected and delivered by April 15th. Hence, Oregon nurseries get the bulk of the trade. We have urged, and the fruit-growers of the Okanagan Valley have urged, upon the B. C. Government that in all fairness the inspecting station, if only one is to be provided, should be on the eastern and not on the western border. If any favor is to be given, let it be given to Canadian nurserymen. Let the Oregon nurserymen send their stock to the eastern border of B. C. for inspection, and thus give us some advantage to compensate for our later opening season. Let the Oregon nurserymen take the risk of shipping across the mountains in early April, instead of compelling us to run this risk. But a deaf ear has steadily been turned to us. If we ship we must ship to the coast, pay heavy fees for inspections, and then reship back five hundred miles or more in most cases. This is the reason most of this valuable trade goes to Oregon, and Canadian nurserymen who grew trees for this trade have them on their hands. E. D. SMITH.

Care of a Strawberry Plantation.

By H. S. Peart.

May is the best month for planting strawberries. As soon as possible after setting, the ground should be cultivated to a depth of about two inches, in order to loosen up the soil. Cultivation should be continued at intervals of about ten days during the summer, so that a fine dry earth mulch may be maintained and the weeds held in check. Runners root much more quickly in loose soil than in that which is uncultivated. Any blossoms which may appear should be pinched out before the fruit sets. Fruiting the first season weakens the plant and reduces the crop for the succeeding year. The first runners should be permitted to grow, as the earlier the runners root, the stronger the plants will be. An average of eight or ten plants from each one set should give a row sufficiently thick for a good yield of fruit. Late-formed runners should be cut off, because they form plants too weak to be of any value, and they also draw nourishment from the plants already formed.

Mulching is of first importance in strawberry culture. As soon as the ground becomes frozen fairly hard in the fall, the plants should be covered with a mulch of strawy manure or marsh hay. This will protect the ground from the alternate freezing and thawing which heaves the plants out of the soil, breaking their roots and causing reduced yields. Then about the middle of April, preferably on a cloudy day, the mulch should be raked off the rows into the paths between. As the fruiting season approaches, more mulch should be put between the rows, to assist in holding the moisture, and to keep the sand off the berries and the pickers.

It is seldom advisable to harvest more than one crop from a plantation, but if one desires to take a crop the second year, the old rows should be narrowed down to about six inches, the weeds and many of the old plants taken out, and just enough old plants left to start a new stand. Keep the ground well cultivated to encourage the formation of new runners—the plants which will bear the next season's crop. Then mulch again in the fall the same as the previous year.

The Manitoba Floral Emblem.

The Natural History Society of Manitoba have, after some discussion, arrived at the unanimous conclusion that the crocus (anemone replus), or crocus anemone, should be Manitoba's floral emblem.

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POULTRY.

Poultry Notes.

Overfat fowls make poor breeders.
The cement floor is easiest to clean.
All whole grain should be fed in litter to induce exercise.

The sitting hens should occupy quarters entirely separated from the rest of the flock. They need perfect quiet to give best results.

Young chicks should be fed four or five times a day on the start, but are better off if not fed anything until thirty-six or forty-eight hours after they are hatched except coarse sand. Some recommend even waiting a longer time before giving other food to newly-hatched chicks. The yolk of the egg is absorbed by the chick just before hatching, and it should be thoroughly digested before other food is given. A good rule is to let the little fellows get good and hungry before any food is given.

Milk, either sweet or sour, is good for both old and young chicks, but for real young chicks it is best to feed it in the form of cottage cheese or while it is yet sweet. Cottage cheese is valued highly as a feed for young turkeys.

Place the brood coops on dry, well-drained ground, and be sure they are storm proof and rat tight, and at the same time airy and well ventilated. Doors made of inch mesh wire netting are just the things for thorough ventilation and protection from rats and other enemies at night. A little extra care in protecting the chicks pays well.

Kerosene oil applied to roosts, roost supports and nest boxes every two or three weeks during the summer will effectually prevent the red mites or lice from getting started in the flock.

There are many advantages in free range for poultry which are hard to supply to a flock in confinement with the very best possible care. The farm flock has advantages in this respect which many city and village poultry-keepers cannot give their fowls without having trouble with their neighbors.

On many farms where the hens have free access to the hog pens and get too much corn and become too fat to lay one remedy is to build a larger poultry-house and keep more hens to eat the waste grain. The poultry on most farms should not be fed any grain but whole oats, especially when they can get out around the stables and hogpens, because they will then get all the other grains and food they need for variety. Whole oats is the best grain for eggs, and the least fattening of them all.

Thoroughly clean the brood coops and give them a good sprinkling of kerosene oil before putting in the new families this spring. If the coops are sprinkled with kerosene inside every week or two during the summer no red mites will bother them. Prevention in this case is better than cure.—[The Farmer.]

A Pipeful for Poultry Breeders.

A recent number of the New York Sun states: "After five years of careful breeding for egg-production, regardless of all other accomplishments, Prof. Geo. M. Gowell, Agricultural expert at the University of Maine, has succeeded in obtaining more than 40 hens that have yielded more than 200 eggs in a year, and has produced one hen which has laid 251 eggs within 12 months, thus beating all previous reported records in egg yield. The hen is a small Plymouth Rock of pure strain, though not shaped according to the standard type. She is not only under the size demanded for perfect specimens of the breed, but her wing barring is imperfect, and her neck is too slim for her body. In spite of her defects, as viewed from the standpoint of the fancier, she is, in actual performance, the most valuable hen in the world, being capable, under average Maine conditions, of returning to her owners a net profit of 176 per cent. a year."

It is often so; not that this hen's imperfections, from the fancier's standpoint, contribute anything to her laying ability, but simply that by the law of compensation, exceptional excellence in one respect is liable to be accompanied by mediocrity in some other direction. Hence the folly of laying undue stress upon the fancy points. The above case illustrates an innumerable list of actual instances where rigid selection according to fancy points bars out the best producer in the flock. Occasional individuals combine a high degree of egg-laying quality with the strictest conformity to fancier's requirements, but a higher average of egg production will invariably be obtained by seeking utility only. Of course, so long as fowls are bred pure—and this will always be necessary—some attention must be paid to the breed points, which in poultry are the only evidence of purity of breeding; but in selecting, according to this ideal, there is always danger of sacrificing substance for shadow. We look forward to the day when the egg record system will become general among poultry breeders, and when the chief question asked by a prospective purchaser of a cock will be, not "How is he colored?" but, "What is the egg record of the strain?"

Sitting Hens.

When a hen gets to be real broody, she will usually readily accept any nest you may give her with eggs in it. For a while, of course, there will be an inclination in the hen, after leaving the nest for feeding, to return to her old nest, and even where we set a number of hens in a house and yard by themselves, it may be a few days before the hen gets used to her particular nest and thenceforth claims it as her own. We have often had two hens get upon one nest, and have one nest unoccupied. Sometimes a couple of hens will get to fighting over one nest, with disastrous results to some of the eggs in the nest. All this trouble, however, can easily be avoided. The best plan, probably, where the eggs have to be hatched in the natural way, is to have a hatching room that is the very counterpart of the laying room, with the very same nest arrangement, and nests exactly like the laying nests. It will be all the better if the nests are movable nest boxes, which can be taken out of the laying room with the broody hen on it, filled with eggs and placed in the corresponding position in the hatching room. There will be no further trouble. The hen knows her nest, and its position, and when she leaves it to feed, drink, or dust herself, she will promptly return to it when ready, and this without being interfered with by any of the other sitting hens, all of which know their own nests. It hardly needs to be said that there should be an enclosed yard connected with the hatching room, so that the hens may go out into the air and sun, and dust themselves, and that for greater safety each hen should be treated to a sprinkling of buhach (California insect powder) several times during their hatching period. A few lice may not do much damage to old fowls, but they are liable to turn apparent success in chicken-raising into dismal failure. Dusting hens thoroughly with insect powder or tobacco-dust seldom fails to give relief.—[Practical Farmer.]

The First Breed Produced by Farmers.

All the new varieties which have been added to the standard in recent years have been produced by fanciers. The last addition, the Rhode Island Reds, which have caused so much commotion in the American Poultry Association, are the result of an effort on the part of New England farmers to produce a fowl which could be quickly put into market condition at any stage of its growth, and yet produce good laying hens. No thought whatever was given, at first, to qualities which attract the fancier. That the fowl produced should possess such qualities, was the result of mere chance.

Some years ago many whaling vessels were fitted in New England ports for expeditions to the Southern Indian and Pacific Oceans. From certain islands in these waters, the location of which no one seems to know, the natives frequently swam out to the whaling vessels, carrying baskets on their heads, in which were male birds which they traded to the sailors for knives, etc. These the sailors ate. But frequently they were not all consumed when the vessels reached port; those which remained were picked up by those farmers in the neighboring districts who believed in roosters of different breed each year.

These males were of striking appearance, as they were of a bright red color from comb to tail. They were somewhat upright in carriage, after the fashion of the game cock, but had shorter, sturdier legs, set wide apart. The breast was broad and the keel-bone long. When one of these red cocks was put into a flock, he at once proceeded to kill all other males, or whip them into absolute submission, and they were so prepotent in reproducing their color that the young stock was all red. As these fowls had yellow legs, yellow skin and good flavor, and were also good layers, they were a particularly good farmer's chicken, as their unusual vigor made them much better foragers than any other variety of equal size. A number of progressive farmers undertook to increase their poultry profits by selecting the best of these crosses and establishing a practical breed, without reference to fancy points. They were thoroughly successful, for the long keel tends to make the hen a good layer upon the range, while the quick response to feed when confined makes the breed a profitable market fowl. But their most distinguishing feature is the life and vigor which they inherit from the red game. One of their admirers, with the exaggeration of enthusiasm, said that you could put one through a threshing machine, and he would come out ready to fight. It was their red plumage which first attracted the fanciers, but the standard has been arranged by those who originated the breed, and the requirements look carefully to the preservation of the vitality and shape for which it is noted. It is determined to be a favorite with farmers when it is better known. W. I. T.

The Gold Standard.

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P. E. I. JAMES A. THOMPSON.