



## WITH THE POULTRYMAN

### Bantam As Utility Breed

**N**O doubt to many of our readers the above heading will seem strange, most of them remarking, "Whoever heard of the Bantam as a utility fowl?" Certainly up to now we have not looked upon them in this light, but this is no proof that we should not do so, especially when we consider how many people would like to keep fowls if only they could find sufficient room. Further, how many are keeping, say, five or six fowls in a run hardly roomy enough for two, the result being complete disappointment, retiring from the poultry fancy thoroughly disgusted, fully confident they can buy what eggs they require much cheaper than by keeping a few fowls for their own egg supply. A case fully illustrating this point came in my notice a few months ago. A gentleman I know contracted the hen fever, bought six hens and a cock, kept them in a run wherein they could hardly turn round, and in a very short time informed me that what eggs he did get, which were very few, cost him at the rate of 25c each; and this I am afraid is not an isolated case.

To people with only a very few yards of ground at their disposal, who are desirous of keeping a few fowls for their own use, I have no hesitation in advising them to go in for Bantams; and if only the right breeds are chosen the result will be satisfactorily financially, and a source of enjoyment to the owner as well. We must not close our eyes to the fact that a great secret of success in all branches of farming lies in suitable stock and sufficient land.

Apply the same to keeping large poultry on a few feet of vacant ground; they look nothing, and prove very unprofitable. Keep the same number of Bantams in the same space; they flourish, are quite contented, and very profitable. Unfortunately, Bantams by the majority of persons are looked upon as rather expensive hobbies, purely from a fancy standpoint, and outside the show pen as utterly useless. As egg producers complete failures, and for table purposes little better.

I myself have heard it said over and over again they are not worth the trouble of killing and cleaning, but this is a very mistaken idea, and simply strengthens my contention, and goes to prove how little they are understood. Where for its size can we find a fowl firmer, or one whose flesh is more delicate and juicy than the Bantam? If they are small, the bones of the bird and the necessary waste are small in comparison. Still, I have wasters myself from Rock and Wyandotte Bantams which, when ready take the scales at 2½ pounds. We must not forget the cost of keep is also correspondingly small. A pen of five birds can almost be kept on house scraps alone, certainly with a very small portion of corn thrown in. I know more than one ardent town fancier at the present time keeping Bantams in a small back yard with splendid results, having an egg average that would make many a small country fancier blush. Rock, Wyandotte, and Pekin Bantams are very profitable as utility fowls, contented, and capital layers in confined runs, the two former breeds of good-sized eggs; in fact, strange as it may seem, I know hens of these breeds, remarkable layers, whose eggs compare very favorably with many a pullet's egg.—Feathered World.

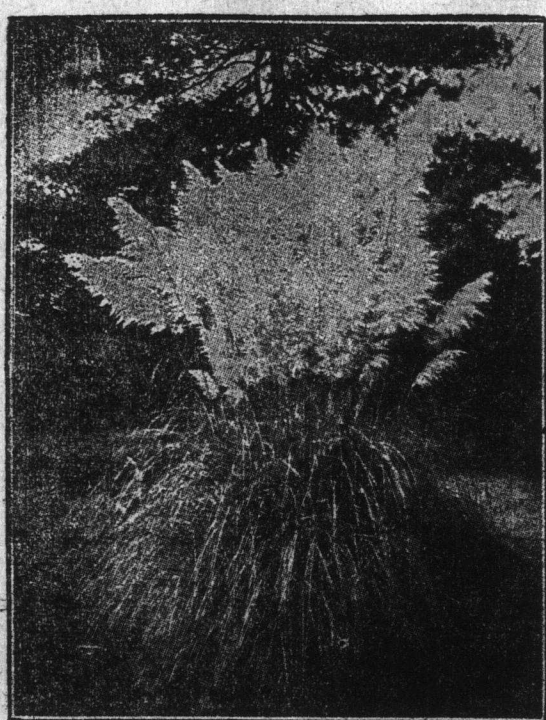
### The Best All-Around Breed From An Englishman's Point of View

Fowls of this class are, generally speaking, the most profitable for farmers, unless they particularly wish to specialize in either egg production or table chickens, as they combine the two essential characteristics, without excelling in either; they are better layers than the table breeds, but less suitable for eating, while they possess better flesh qualities than the non-sitters, but produce fewer eggs. Hens of this class are our best winter layers, producing, when hatched at the right time of year, a large proportion of their eggs during the winter months. There are five good general purpose breeds, one of which, however, is not nearly so popular as it was a few years ago, owing to the fact that it has been surpassed by some of the newer varieties; I refer to the Langshan. One of the remaining four, the Faverolles, is a comparatively newcomer, and although the breed undoubtedly possesses some sterling qualities, it cannot equal in utility characteristics either the Orpington, Plymouth Rock, or Wyandotte. Of the Orpington there are several varieties, but the Buff is the only one with which we need deal, as it is generally admitted by everyone who has kept both varieties, that the Buff is far superior to the Black; of the Wyandotte there are seven varieties, but again we need only consider the White, Silver and Buff, as although the remaining ones possess some excellent characteristics, they fall a long way

short of these three. The Barred and Buff are the two best varieties of the Plymouth Rock, the remaining ones being more particularly useful for exhibition purposes. The three breeds are almost identical in economic qualities, the Buff Orpington possessing just one advantage, namely color of flesh, which is white, whereas that of the Wyandotte and Plymouth Rock is yellow. Apart from this there is nothing to choose between the three varieties. They are excellent layers, especially in the winter; they are hardy, and easy to rear successfully; for heavy fowls they develop rapidly; both the adults and chickens stand confinement well the hens make reliable sitters, and careful mothers; and the quality, flavor, and texture of the flesh leave little to be desired.—E. T. B., in Farm Poultry.

### Moping Fowls

In nearly every flock some few fowls may be seen standing about in drowsy fashion, they neither lay nor progress. If caught and handled they are found to be poor and out of condition. This is one class, another is those which are overfat. The latter are usually great eaters, and have a particularly good appearance, but they do not lay regularly or perhaps not at all, and are quite as profitless as the others and



Cortaderia Argentina—Pampas Grass

more expensive to keep. As an antidote to both conditions Mr. Gilbert says:

"I find nothing better than Epsom salts. They clear out all impurities from the drooping ones, and reduce the fat. It is quite remarkable how beneficially they act. Half a teaspoonful every other day for two weeks invariably produces good results. Mix a little soft appetizing food, add the salts in proportion to the number of fowls, and let them take this when hungry. Another sure way of distributing the salts evenly is to dissolve them in water; then mix the meal in. I find this medicine so useful that I give salts to the fowls now and then, whether they seem to require it or not, as this acts as a preventive of disease."

### Caring For the Geese During Winter

No one is thinking of hatching goslings now. The grass must be green, and snowstorms things of the past, before the geese will care to lay. It is not too early, however, to be considering the welfare of the parent birds, for a little care in housing and feeding at this time of year will be invaluable to the youngsters when they do come. To begin with, it is best to prepare permanent quarters for the old geese and to separate any that are quarrelsome. It is generally the lightest and most nimble among the ganders that win the battle, and you may come upon your heaviest and most valuable with his life choked out, or his head injured. An open shed with a wire front is the best kind of house for geese, as they do not like very snug quarters, preferring if left to their own choice, roosting out on the snow. A nest should be made for every goose and a china egg placed in each one. The geese will become familiar with those eggs, and unless disturbed will always lay beside one of them. They should all be fed a little grain every day, and a little mash with a pinch of poultry spice in it. This will not hasten the laying of the eggs unduly, but will ensure a higher fertility during the season. I do not find that the geese will eat meat of any kind unless it is mixed into the mash, but I do not think that they require it. Good sharp shell grit may be added, and when the snow is deep, clover hay, hemlock branches or any kind of roof crop or green stuff may be given. They require but very little to winter them through, as they are better if not fat.—Octavie Allan, Ganges, B. C.

### Farm and Poultry Notes

There should be a yard or paddock in which the family cow can be turned out for a

time on every pleasant day, whenever possible, and the old-fashioned stanchion or tie-up should be replaced by a chain or swinging stanchion.

Remember that live stock of all kinds requires both air and exercise in order to remain in a healthy condition.

Breeding-pens may be made up this month, and the incubator, if one is to be used, should be overhauled and put in readiness for spring work.

If the hens are laying well this month, it will be because they are fed a variety of grain and forced to keep busy scratching in a deep litter of hay, straw or leaves, as well as kept free from lice, and in dry quarters.

In order to be sure that the fowls do not become afflicted with colds or roup, give them plenty of ventilation, although they should always be kept free from drafts. There is hardly a day in winter when the windows cannot be opened wide.

## AROUND THE FARM

### Some Truths About Stock Foods

**T**HERE is a good deal of misunderstanding about the real value of the various condimental stock foods as a part of the ration for either stock or poultry. Professor F. W. Woll, of the Wisconsin station, in Bulletin No. 151 has summarized some feeding experiments with them. Trials were conducted by about a dozen experiment stations—in all twenty-three different trials. In twenty-one out of the twenty-three experiments nothing was gained by including these foods in the rations and they were a detriment in that the cost of the ration was increased by their addition, thus increasing the cost of the products. Therefore there is nothing to be gained by feeding a healthy animal with one of these condiments. As a medicine they are not much better, as has been pointed out by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment station in Bulletin No. 87. One half or more of these foods is composed of common feeding stuffs and are worth about \$1.50 per 100 pounds. About one-tenth is composed of common salt, another tenth of charcoal, which leaves only about three-tenths of the bulk to be made up of such simple drugs as anise, sulphur, ginger, red pepper, sassafras, and Epsom salts, all of which possess mild medicinal properties but because they are fed in such small daily quantities really do no good. To show how little good these drugs do when fed in a stock food consider the gentian, for instance. This is the most important remedy found in a stock food and really is the backbone of the preparation. A dose for a horse is one ounce, for a cow two ounces (a tablespoonful), of the pure drug, but as the stock foods or tonics contain only about two per cent., the animal gets only about one-fiftieth or one-hundredth of the required dose of the drug if fed the "food" in the quantities recommended by the manufacturers. It is obvious from the light thrown on the subject by these experiments that money expended on condition powders is thrown away.—Garden Magazine.

### Feeding in Cold Weather

It sometimes happens that the beekeeper finds a colony of bees in his apiary at this time of year that, either through carelessness or lack of opportunity to give it proper attention at the proper time, is short of stores to such an extent that it will certainly starve to death before spring unless something is done to help it, and often because the owner does not know just what to do and how to do it, the unfortunate bees are left to their fate, and the unfortunate owner is out of pocket to the extent of their value. The discrepancy in weight is usually discovered when the hive is lifted to be carried into the cellar, or is being prepared for packing on its summer stand, and the owner wonders how he came to miss it at the general feeding time, and what is to be done with it now. The bees cannot be fed liquid feed now, as they could have been two or three months ago, for the weather is too cold for them to leave their cluster to carry the feed from the feeder, and it could not be properly ripened and sealed up even if it should be stored in the combs. It is obvious, therefore, that some other method of feeding must be adopted. A good way to supply a colony with food at this late season of the year is to make "candy" of white granulated sugar and water and lay the cakes of candy on top of the frames directly over the cluster of bees, so that they can reach it without leaving the cluster. The candy is made by placing granulated sugar in a vessel with just enough water to moisten it, then place the vessel on the stove and melt up the sugar. Let it boil, and stir it occasionally until it is "done." To find when this stage is reached, dip out a little with a spoon every few minutes, and stir it on a cold dish. When it will cool hard and white, without any stickiness, it is done. Have ready a pan or dish of some kind—a square-cornered pan is handiest, as it makes a cake of candy of a shape most convenient to lay on top of the frames of the hive—pour the material into the pan, having first very slightly greased the latter, or, better still,

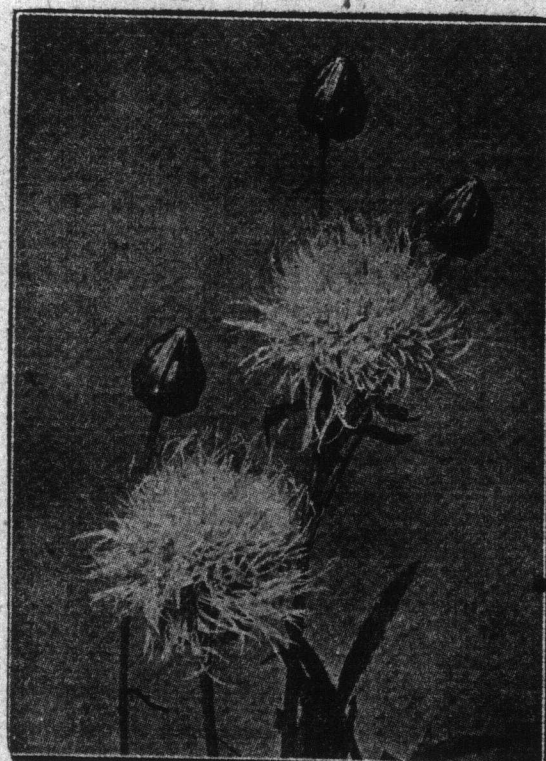
lined it with paraffine paper, to prevent the candy adhering to it when cold. Stir the candy while cooling, until it becomes too stiff, and, when it has hardened and cooled, remove it from the pan and place it on the frames directly over the bees. Cover it up with several thicknesses of cloth, if in the cellar, and with a cushion in addition, if outside, and there you are. One very important point to remember is that the greatest care must be taken not to let the sugar become burnt or "scorched" in the melting, as candy that has been even slightly burnt will kill the bees sure if fed to them. If it should become burnt, it must be discarded and a fresh lot made. Within the last few years several successful beekeepers in various parts of the country have reported good results from feeding ordinary loaf sugar, just as it comes from the grocery, only very slightly moistened with water. If this can be used successfully—and it apparently can be—it will do away with the necessity of making candy as described above. The candy, however, has stood the test of years, and is almost universally used where bees have to be fed in cold weather.—E. G. H.

### Putting Humus In the Soil

Hauling enough clay to cover twenty acres of sandy soil is out of the question. A 6 or 8-inch dressing means moving and spreading 40,000,000 to 60,000,000 lbs., which would cost more than any twenty acre farm I know of, even if the clay was right at hand. A light dressing turned under shallow and well harrowed in might pay if hauling and labor are very cheap. A light sandy soil may quickly be made to hold enough moisture for a corn crop by heavy dressings of coarse stable manure, or more slowly by a combination of stable manure and turning under green crops. Either of these methods will tend to form a rich mellow soil, and are preferable to clay dressings. An implement known as the sub-surface packer, much used on light soils in the arid regions, should prove of value on your light soil. It is used after plowing and before harrowing, working between the furrow slices, and packing the bottom of the furrows so that more of the rainfall is held in the upper soil.

### Coal Ashes as a Fertiliser

Do not use coal ashes as a fertilizer, nor as a mulch for fruit trees if there is any other material at hand. They have no value as plant food and are even of less value as a mulch than



Centaurea Ruthenica

sand. Coal ashes are best used on very heavy clay soils to improve the physical condition by making them more porous; but often fail in that effect by making the clay into a sort of cement. They are used as a "filler" to increase the bulk of concentrated fertilizers but add nothing to the value of the mixture.

### To Cure A Kicking Horse

When a horse kicks in harness, place a surcingle around the body, take a good stout rope and put it around the horse's neck, then run the end of it between the fore-legs and through the surcingle to a pulley in the end just back of the surcingle. Next put a good strap around each hind ankle. Take another rope and tie into one strap and run up through the pulley, and back to the other. Allow just room enough to walk with ease and you can soon conquer a kicking horse.

### Excessive Moisture In Butter

The greatest varying factor in butter is water. The variation in dairy butter sometimes runs from 9 to 25 per cent. It is not desirable or honest to incorporate a high per cent of water. The law of the United States has re-

cognized 16 per cent as the maximum amount of water that butter may contain. The controlling of moisture in butter to a per cent is a difficult problem; therefore, a maker would save in not trying to go over 14 per cent.

Butter fat exists in cream in the form of microscopic spheres known as fat globules. Under proper conditions the concussion of the churning makes the globules strike together and the impact causes them to form masses. The masses continue to increase in size with the progress of churning and rise to the surface of the buttermilk.

Butter made from thin cream and churned at a low temperature gathers very slowly for the following reasons: (1) The fat globules are distributed in a large volume of milk serum and the chance of striking one another is less than in thick cream. (2) The low temperature hardens the fat so that the globules do not cohere readily and may probably strike together several times before adhering. The surface of such granules usually becomes smooth and the granule itself becomes very compact.

A rich cream, that has been kept at a comparatively high temperature, will churn very rapidly. The globules are in close proximity and there are naturally many chances of striking together to form large masses. Butter churned from this kind of cream has a tendency to gather in irregular shaped granules which are not driven together so violently, consequently they hold more water or moisture. If cream is churned at a very high temperature, the result is that butter will gather quickly and incorporate an excessive amount of water and casein, which will affect the body and color. An excessive amount of water has a tendency to make the butter lifeless and pale in color. A 35 to 38 per cent cream will give as good satisfaction in churning as cream of any other per cent. Churning at 50 or 52 degrees, or at a low enough temperature so that butter will gather in 40 or 45 minutes in granules about as large as wheat, and not too soft or too hard, will produce butter of the very best quality. Long churning or quick churning are not desirable. A large sized granule is conducive to high moisture. Therefore, the factors that control moisture are thickness of cream; temperature of churning; amount of cream churned at a time, remembering that a churn two-thirds full will give greater over-run than a churn half-full under normal conditions and the last factor the kind of churn used. It would be well for every creamery to have two churns, one large and one medium sized, so that when the supply of cream falls off the smaller churn could be used.—G. L. McKay, Iowa College of Agriculture.

### The Rubbish Problem Solved

Every rubbish barrel should be hidden from sight and yet be easily accessible. The following plan avoids the cost and delay of emptying, and requires a minimum of space. It needs only one vine and this can be lifted aside just like a gate whenever it is necessary to move and empty the barrel.

Set two posts firmly in the ground, one on each side of the barrel and close to the fence. Let their tops be slightly higher than the top of the barrel. Make the soil at the base of one of these posts deep and rich. With the barrel in place between the posts, fasten some common galvanized poultry netting, whose width is equal to the height of the barrel, to one post. When securely fastened bend the netting around the front of the barrel until the second post is reached, and cut off the surplus netting at this point.

In the second post screw three or four hooks, and over these loop the meshes of the netting.

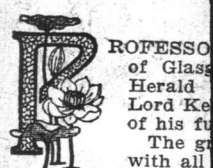
At the base of the first post set a good plant of honeysuckle. Within a season the barrel can be completely screened by training the strongest shoots horizontally on the netting. The screening can be readily removed at any time by simply unlooping the netting from the hooks and pulling it back toward you. It is just as easily replaced when desired.

Put three bricks, at regular intervals on the ground, and rest the barrel on these in order to save its bottom, and bore a hole about two inches from the bottom to keep the barrel free from water and from injury by freezing in winter. In summer cork the hole and allow sufficient water to collect to prevent the barrel from drying and falling to pieces.

A wooden or fly-screen cover will keep out flies. If a stiffer netting with coarser mesh is desired other fence wires will be found suitable.

### A Turnip for Greens

The Seven-top turnip is a true turnip but the root has not been developed as in other turnips. The leaves are large dark green, leaves grow flat on the ground. It is grown only for greens and is used only in the South.



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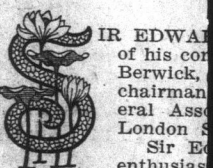
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Sir Edward Grey which I wish to deal i want one, and that is which I believe the v visit of the German E concluded. All the pu the visit have been a am sure that the frien hospitality on the part try; and the cordial w and acknowledged by a good effect upon both half, of the difficult two nations become e them wishes or intend voreign could have st Emperor did stay in ou a cordial message to having done something friendly relations betw

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Japan

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