

AND THE SCOTT ACT

duction of "Canada nce Act" Would Provincial Uniform-

representative of the sends to that independ- tial Canadian Journal an analytical reference to the sulted campaign in this "local option" in liquor rs under the so-called article in question ed for reflection by Bri- ans as well as touching phases of the situation have not heretofore in- vention.

"Option League," says ce in question. —now dian Temperance (Scott) ety been so amended at clarifying of the British nter's definition as to ble for anti-liquor ex- voke it in this Pacific s recently inaugurated a direct antagonism to the traffic policy of the cial government, and with energy as to suggest to all-Conservative parliama- back of this Scott Act

recalled that incidental, to sical general elections, a s taken to test the feeling olumbia as a whole as to ey of the suggested adop- for this province of the plan. The Local Option- that they desired no such rather the Local Option- adopt the Local Option- out a reference to the ple; and that they held untain the plebiscite con- was that more than fifty the recorded poll for par- members should also be all Option to justify the in abandonment of the derlying the present re- sention as it may, the n League worked strenu- vitory in and through the question, pressed con- kingly for every possible in the count and recount, mitted in their own pub- lish—a defeat by some- ten five hundred and six es with not unusual re- and charges of untoward under which their battle ight and lost.

th of prohibition senti- about the country, as indi- substantial closeness of e vote, was voluntarily ac- the government as justifi- enactment of much more and regulations concern- or traffic; and as a conse- alter very comprehensive e attorney-general. Here of the contrasted liquor and systems throughout world, an act was passed which is perhaps the most d certainly the most dra- statute book in the British his will become a law of mbia and strictly enforced August next. Its sweep- ers were received with consternation by the trade- sponding jubilation and by practical and temper-

Dr. Spencer, the leader of Optionists, felt con- write to Attorney-General gratulating him upon his therefore, has been a almost complete surprise the militant prohibition- ish Columbia have not, as expected they would, been ommon fairness to give the act a working trial, but meanwhile, without the of the provincial authorities at majority of British Co- o invoke the much-talked- s concerning the practic- ell as the principle and the of which there certainly differences of opinion even most sincere and active of emperance workers.

ent the indications are that soon be taken toward forc- for and against the Scott localities as in the plebis- displayed strong inclination ward. To those who can- ard the matter dispassion- ally this is particularly to ed, primarily because the fair play suggests that the cial act should be given an , and secondarily because in a campaign against a dis- long-considered feature of al public policy, the Local ink the humanitarian and characteristics of their pro- making the temperance a distinctly partisan issue a politics, from which it has been kept desirably separate t.

re other sound reasons for res that the Local Option- een so ill advised to adopt nt course—one being that first suggestion of success may secure in the new have seen fit to adopt, will iction of uniformity and and therefore of effective- ood) in provincial control or traffic. Another is that Scott Act be anywhere this province, the ex- tagonistic course of its as well as its contradic- adopted liquor policy of ment, will certainly deny it power of the province in ment. Who then would The Dominion govern- heitate for long ere it s responsibility and cost- ing the police machinery vices for the express and tpose of enforcing ex- prohibitory legislation, in agnism to the liquor traf- d regulations of that pro- ported by an unquestio- nent expression of con- the electorate in that pro- nment."

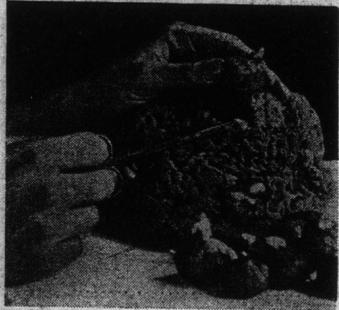
ims to have more motor any other town of its popu- a world.

# RURAL AND SUBURBAN

## BULB GROWING ON SPONGES

In recent years the culture of bulbs for use in house decoration has become such an important feature that any new system is sure of receiving attention from all indoor gardeners. A very novel method which has been recently introduced with great effect is that in which the bulbs are cultivated in sponges, soil of any kind being entirely absent. It is, of course, well known that all kinds of bulbs are really little packets, each one containing so many flowers and leaves; and for the development of bloom and foliage only water is absolutely necessary, so that there is no element of magic about the latest manner of growth. At the same time, to obtain a complete success there are a number of points which it is quite essential to observe, the neglect of any of these leading to failure, as the writer has personally discovered.

First of all, one can hardly insist too much upon the importance of securing good bulbs. If you are dealing with a reliable florist, it always pays to buy the highest-priced bulbs on



Opening the holes in the sponge so as to insert the bulbs in a proper position

his list. The extra money over the cheaper sorts means more and larger flowers. Low-quality bulbs which any dealer can sell at "bargain rates" are dear at any figure, and should be avoided, especially when developing an idea like the present, when every bulb ought to throw plenty of bloom. It is wise to remember that the earlier the bulbs are planted, the sooner will they be in blossom, and this is important if the culture is to be carried through without more heat than is found in an ordinary dwelling-room.

Almost any kinds of the spring flowering bulbs are suited to the purpose, although the lighter and more graceful sorts give the most attractive effects. Thus the elegant Roman Hyacinths are certainly to be preferred above the ordinary lot which, with their massive spikes would make for a somewhat heavy appearance. Crocuses, Scillas and Snowdrops look particularly charming, as also do Lillets of the Valley. Perhaps the various sorts of Narcissus are least useful on account of the exceedingly long stems which these plants produce. The difficulty may be surmounted in a measure, as will be pointed out in a succeeding paragraph.

It is, of course, a waste of money to buy expensive sponges for this purpose, although a careful selection ought to be made. The presence of rather large holes in the sponges is a recommendation, and a fair shape in the article is important. The more each sponge appears to resemble a rough ball in pattern, the better. Size, of course, varies according to the kind of bulbs which it is desired to grow. It is quite out of the question, for instance, to attempt to grow Hyacinth bulbs on a small sponge.

Having secured the sponges and the bulbs, we may now proceed with the planting. It has been mentioned that it is an advantage to have a sponge with plenty of holes, but it is rather doubtful whether it is possible to secure one in which these are large enough, or sufficiently numerous, for the present purpose. It is a simple matter to cut fresh holes and widen ones in the places where it seems advisable to pop a bulb. In imagination it is well to picture which way the sponge will hang when it is suspended, as it is naturally worthless putting bulbs in right underneath. Apart from this, the bulbs should be well distributed over the sponge, so as to provide a good show when the flowers and foliage appear. It is more convenient to place the bulbs in a dry sponge, and it will be found that the natural "pinching" of the substance is quite sufficient to keep them in position. As soon as all the bulbs are in place, the supports for the suspending of the sponge must be provided. These should be fixed in the manner illustrated in the photograph, and the material may be string, or better still, copper wire, which will neither rot nor rust. After this has been fixed, the sponges, with, of course, the bulbs in position, should be soaked in bowls of water until they are thoroughly saturated. This process must not be carried on longer than is absolutely necessary, as it is not good for the bulbs to be submerged for any length of time.

It is now necessary to secure a thorough rooting of the bulbs before they are placed in a light situation. To this end a perfectly dark cupboard should be called into requisition, in which the sponges may be suspended from the shelves. The cupboard should be in the house, where it will be quite frost free, and if it is in connection with a room which is regularly heated, so much the better. Here we must leave our bulbs for at least two months, during

which time they must be kept well supplied with water. As the weeks go by, it will be noticed that the bulbs have become firmly rooted in the sponges while at the same time a fair amount of top growth will have been made. It is at this stage that a little special treatment in the case of a Narcissus bulb is desirable, supposing this to have been included in the collection. The longer the dark cupboard treatment is continued, the more rapidly will the top growth of the bulbs extend so that if we give the Narcissus less time in the cupboard we shall to an extent check the production of a long, ungainly stem.

When it is decided to bring the bulbs out into the light, it is a wise plan to hang the sponges in a somewhat shady place for a few days, so as to prevent the change being too abrupt. Eventually, however, the more light is the position, the better will be the development, and a place in front of a window will not be too much exposed. In such a situation the illumination will naturally come all from one side, and in order to check an uneven development on the part of the bulbs, it is a wise plan to turn the sponges round daily, so that first of all one part is lighted, and then another. If a quantity of planted sponges is on hand, it will be desirable to arrange for a succession of bloom, and ordinary kinds of bulbs, with the exception of the Narcissus, may be left in the cupboard until they are required.

Just about this time it will be well to consider the question of obtaining some material to cover the sponge, which, of course, does not look very ornamental as a background for the "shooting" bulbs. As far as the writer has discovered, moss is the best material for the purpose. This should be placed in position in fairly large pieces, so as to hide the sponge completely, and it may be fastened with thin twine, the moss being simply tied on to the sponge by passing the string completely around it. If the moss is fairly thick, the tying material need not show to the smallest extent. Another method of covering the sponge, and one which gives a very pretty effect, is that of sowing grass seed all over the surface. The only drawback to this is that it is not a very easy matter to sow the seeds evenly and thickly enough to secure a uniformly good coating of verdure. Of course, if the grass is at all patchy, the whole appearance is spoilt. After all, there is little doubt that the best effects are obtained by means of the moss.

If placed in a warm living-room, the bulbs should now grow apace. A little difficulty may be experienced in keeping the moss quite fresh in the dry air of the apartment, and in order to get over this trouble the whole surface should be freely sprinkled with water two or three times a day. Of course, it is very important to keep the sponge in a moist condi-



The sponges should be suspended in a dark cupboard until a certain amount of growth

tion, as when the bulbs start to grow they will require an increasing amount of water. As the shoots continue to extend, it will be seen that the leaves from the lower bulbs curve up in a graceful fashion. It is not advisable to hang the sponges in the direct sunshine, as this will have a bad effect upon the moss. When the blossoms are fully displayed the sponges may be used with charming effect in any part of the room, where they will last in their full beauty for a long while.

After the flowering of the bulbs is past, they are really not much good. If planted outdoors, they may throw a feeble bloom the next season, but most of them will simply decay. In any case, it is quite essential to purchase fresh bulbs every time the sponges are planted, if a good effect is desired. Of course, after use the sponges should be freed from dirt and then stored away in a dry condition, where they will be ready for use the next season.—S. Leonard Bastin in American Homes and Gardens.

## AMERICAN HEN'S EGGS

"Eggs laid by the American hen are too small," if we are to accept as correct the statement of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, Washington. He says that "a hen has just as much egg-producing capacity, taken in bulk, and that the aim of breeders is to increase the number of eggs by reducing their size. We should buy everything by weight. In France the law has gone so far as to make provision merchants sell eggs by weight, instead of by the dozen. Here we stick to the dozen. What is the result? Why, we get the smallest eggs that can be produced. The principles of breeding are applied to hens in such a way that they are laying the smallest eggs possible. In an egg we get less and less weight by nutrition, so that the hen will be able to lay more eggs to be sold at a rate per dozen.

The editor of Poultry differs somewhat from the conclusions of Dr. Wiley concerning

any noticeable tendency to promote the production of small eggs, but agrees with him that eggs should be sold by weight. He says:

"Dr. Wiley's argument is not a strong one as there is no observable tendency to promote the production of abnormally small eggs in this country. The average egg weighs two ounces, and we believe we are safe in saying there is no tendency for the size of eggs to de-



Hyacinth bulbs fixed in the sponge

crease. As a matter of fact, breeders all over the country are inclined to boast about the size of the eggs their flocks produce, when they have reason to do so, and the man who breeds large-egg Leghorns will have no trouble finding buyers for his stock. We are in full sympathy with any movement that will make for selling eggs by weight, as that is the only logical way to sell any food product. In Australia one of the rules of the Laying Competition is that eggs below two ounces in weight shall not count, and the result is that hens that lay small eggs have disappeared from the competition."

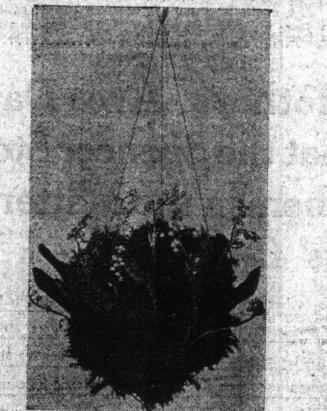
For years there have been those who advocated the selling of eggs by weight, and while that may be the most "logical way" from a consumer's standpoint, we are inclined to doubt whether it will ever become customary in this country. If the breeder will furnish us good, sound, fresh eggs of a reasonable size, the buying public will not, we think, become incorrigibly insistent in its effort to bring into use any radical change in the method of disposing so common an article as eggs. We think the new way too inconvenient to harmonize well with our hustling, hurrying American ways.

## ROILER RAISING

We are told that this is a progressive age. But the farmer to be successful must be scientific. When the land was new the farmer could sow his grain and the land would produce an abundant crop, but today the farmer must consider carefully how to improve his land and his flocks.

Perhaps no branch of farming requires as great an amount of careful study to be successful as poultry. There are men in Ontario who are realizing more net profits from a flock of two hundred hens than many farmers do from ten cows. These men give much thought to their business, everything about their buildings denotes the methodical manner of farming and poultry raising, and they can give reasons for all their actions. But there is one branch of the poultry industry that has been little discussed, and that is broiler raising. We have been raising broilers for years, and I will give the method that we believe to be the most profitable.

Broiler raising suggests to the average farmer a complex method of disposing of his



Lily of the Valley growing in a sponge

chickens; a method that can be successful only when conducted by experts. This, however, is not the case, and any one who will follow the simple we give can raise broilers successfully with only a little additional attention. Broiler raising has many advantages,

especially for the farmers who raise the small breeds. The Leghorn and Minorca chicks will gain rapidly for about eight weeks, and then they will grow more slowly. The American classes will continue to grow longer, yet it seldom pays to keep them until fall, unless they have a free range, such as a large corn field. We have obtained as much for our cockerels when they weighed from two to three pounds as if we had kept them till fall. Anyone within reach of an express office may ship to any of the large cities. Toronto is our best market, as fowl can be shipped to commission men, who will handle them to advantage. When they are shipped to any of the cities where there are no commission men, write to some of the large hotels, whose names may be secured through the daily papers. Many buyers prefer the poultry alive from the farmers, as few farmers understand plucking and packing. Fatten thoroughly and ship alive if you live within one hundred miles of destination.

When shipping alive, write the buyers for crates, as you will lose more on your fowl if they are shipped in improperly made crates, and some may be smothered en route. Feed the fowl before they are shipped, and put some feed in the crates; water them before putting them in the crates, but it is useless to put water in the crates.

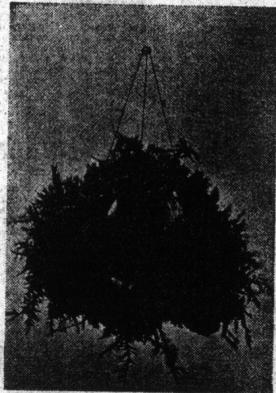
## Housing the Chicks

Housing is very important, as chickens must have comfortable quarters to stand the heavy forcing. Proper ventilation is absolutely necessary. The curtain front is the best method of ventilation. This consists in removing the glass front and placing cheesecloth in its place; in warm weather remove the window entirely and nail wire netting across the window. The floor should be raised about four inches from the ground and the walls below the floor should be closely boarded to avoid drafts. The floor must be close to avoid wasting any grain. Place roosts about a foot above the floor and encourage the chicks to sit on them; never allow any droppings to accumulate under the chicks, as this will cause roup and other diseases.

The run must be large and if possible contain plenty of grass. Place boards about a foot high around the yard to prevent the other fowls being attracted when they are fed. Place something in the yard to give the chicks shade and yet allow the air to pass freely under it. Four stakes driven into the ground and a piece of oilcloth nailed to them answers. Give plenty of dry dirt, ashes and grit.

## Feeding to Fatten

Care must be exercised in order that the



The early stage of the bulb growth

chickens will fatten quickly and not go off their feed. The feed is mainly mash composed by weight as follows:

Corn meal, three parts, shorts and bran, two parts and one part of finely ground oats, and barley. To this add a little beef or blood meal or similar product, which can be procured at most feed stores. If this cannot be obtained use some reliable poultry food, but avoid the foods that are used for egg production, as they contain spices that are not desirable for fattening chicks. Dampen the meal with skim milk; dampen enough in the morning to do during the day, but do not let it stand overnight, as it will sour. Always feed regularly; it is better to feed at stated intervals. They will do better on the same amount of feed if fed several times a day, than they will if fed only three times.

At 8 o'clock give mash. At 11 o'clock give a feed of cracked corn or wheat tailings, whole or unscreened wheat may be used after the chicks have attained the age of six weeks. Whole wheat may be fed in litter. At 1 p.m. give boiled rice if it can be procured cheaply enough, such as cracked rice. Venetian red should be fed at this time every other day. If rice cannot be fed feed mash. Rice acts as a regulator for the bowels and stomach. At 3 p.m. give green food; this will depend on what is obtainable, potatoes, roots, cabbage, lettuce, or fine clover, will do. A meat chopper will be found convenient for chopping the green stuff. At 5 p.m. cracked corn or wheat tailings.

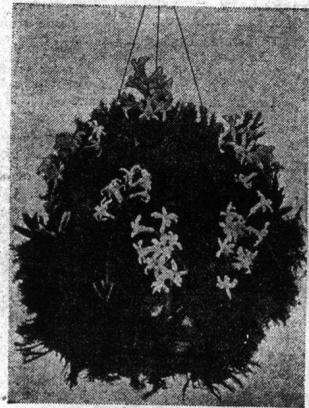
The chicks may be fed this diet for about six weeks, but it is not advisable to feed it for too long. This diet does equally well for cockerels in the fall as for small chicks, and

you may take the cockerels at any time desired and feed them three or four weeks to thoroughly fatten them, but we always think it pays better to commence feeding as soon as the cockerels can be detected. We have found that it seldom pays to feed cockerels any longer than is necessary. Do not try to fatten the cockerels when running at large with the pullets, as they cannot be properly fattened unless the pullets are forced also, which is not desirable, although the majority of pullets should be fed more than they usually receive. Feed in troughs or shallow tins; have plenty in order that they may all have a fair chance. After they have eaten for ten minutes remove the troughs, and what is left feed to other fowl, as it should never be fed twice.

Granulated charcoal is an excellent regulator; this may be crushed with a hammer or mallet as only a little is required.

Give fine grit, never feed the coarse grit that is sold to be fed to hens. If your dealer cannot supply you with the No. 1 chicken grit, sift No. 2 or get some fine gravel.

Warm skim milk is superior to water for



Hyacinth growing in a sponge

drinking, especially where beef scraps are not obtainable.—Robert E. Smith, Colville, Ont.

## HENS VS. INCUBATORS

We have heard considerable about the hen being so much better to turn out eggs than the incubator, and there is no doubt that a good sitter will beat any incubator. But here is something on the other side. Mrs. Newton, of Plaisance, put 142 Barred Rock eggs in an incubator and hatched 113 good strong chicks. Fearing that the machine would not attend to business, seventy-eight eggs were put under hens, and from these thirty-six chicks were produced. Both lots are doing well, of the 113 hatched artificially 110 are alive; one was killed in a thunderstorm and the other two did not die a natural death. This gives a percentage of all eggs set and hatched under hens at 46, while the machine hatched 79 per cent of those committed to its care.

## SEPARATING THE SEXES

Most authorities advise one to separate the cockerels from the pullets as soon as they can be distinguished. It is doubtless a good practice to part them when the cockerels are large enough to be troublesome, but with younger chicks one must be very careful to keep those of different ages apart. The big ones will be sure to crowd the younger ones. All weak chicks or those that are not thrifty should be put away from the others. It is not always necessary to yard each lot; confine them to their house for a short time, and though they may roam all over during the day they will come home to roost.

## GAPE CURE

Gapes are the result of parasitic worms in the windpipe. One cure is to dislodge them. This is sometimes accomplished by placing the chicks in a box covered with muslin and dusting fine lime through the cloth. The chicks breathe the lime, and, as it comes in contact with the worms, these let go of the membranes and are dislodged by the coughing and sneezing caused by the lime. To prevent gapes, keep the chicks on ground where fowls have not previously been. This may be done either by spading old ground deeply, each year, or keeping them outside the poultry yard.

## ALFALFA FOR CHICKS

Nothing seems to make the young chicks grow like a run in the alfalfa field. As soon as they are large enough to do without heat they are put into colony houses in the alfalfa, and the way they grow is astonishing. We put a large hopper for several houses, give them what wheat they will eat, and leave them entirely alone. Morning and night is about the only time the chicks crowd around the grain; during the day they are out through the alfalfa.

Don't forget the insect powder and disinfecting fluids.

Don't let the little chicks trail through the dew in the morning.