

This is the age of utility, the wise men say, and mere beauty is not sufficient excuse for existence. Nothing should be in the home but that which will become really a part of it. A box is no more necessary to the usefulness of every window and porch than is the palm or fern that has found its way into every room until one cannot partake of the simplest of household pleasures without sharing them with some scraggly leaved plant.

The artistic window garden is the one that harmonizes with the style of the house it adorns. Great pots of strange-shaped cacti, century plants or palms are more in keeping with the ornate mansions whose owners imagine they have reproduced the outline of an oriental palace, even though they have filled it with American comforts, than is a box of stiff geraniums or feverfew which never thought of growing in a tropical country. A box-bordered path with prim beds of old-fashioned flowers carries out the suggestion in a colonial house, for a housewife of the year

1700 would not have permitted untidy boxes of "growing things" to be fastened to her windows for a moment. It is the simple, ordinary, commonplace house, of no particular style or period, which takes most kindly to the decorative touch furnished by vines and flowers in the window.

An old house, a big square box of simulated stone, that had been closed for several years, was recently put in order under the direction of a woman who intuitively does all things well. Its unbroken walls presented a difficult problem, and there was much figuring and planning, for there was not money to make extensive alterations and the query how best to increase the beauty was supplemented by the additional question of the least cost. But given a clever woman and a house, much may be accomplished, and the unprepossessing box has been transformed into a prepossessing home through the fairy agency of "growing things."

Two of the French windows in the parlor were made one and thrown out two feet,

thereby breaking the long line of wall and securing an attractive lounging seat within. From the corner was swung a quaint Japanese flower basket under a peaked hood. A chain and pulley enabled the contents of the basket to receive the necessary care and also added to the novelty. The French window in the second room was given a hood or awning whose supports were lost in the tangle of bloom in the box at the base. The upper sash was filled with inexpensive fretwork.

The treatment of the two windows in the dining room was much the same, only as the room was flooded with sunlight the fretwork filled the sashes. The boxes were filled with hardy plants and vines, the awning protected them from the glare of the sun, and they grew into a riot of color that framed each window.

In unrealistic novels Priscilla still trails her muslin skirts down the graveled garden paths, a flapping hat wreathed with roses on her soft curls and a basket slung from her arm. With delicate hands, carefully

gloved, she snips the dead leaves and fills the basket with the choicest flowers. In real life, Mary in a trim shirt waist and short tailored skirt leans from her window to put in order the box of bloom that forms her only garden. Mary may not be as picturesque as Priscilla, but she does not interfere with the cultivation of the lawn, and as has been said, a yearning for a smooth, even, green turf is a passion shared alike by men and women.

Window gardens are no longer a novelty; they are becoming a necessity

What is a Hen Worth?

By W. N. Scott, Traill, B. C.

We were struck by a paragraph in a booklet sent out by the B. C. Poultry Association, in which the author, John H. Robinson, of Boston Mass., states: "It is frequently stated that early hatched pullets are worth \$1.50 to \$2.00, or even \$2.50, each for egg production alone. Such statements are, on their face, absurd, and very few hens are sold for layers at such prices. Persons who buy hens for laying purposes, only, at such figures pay an excessive price for them. Assuming that the pullet will lay, say twelve dozen eggs within a year after beginning, that the eggs will sell for twenty-five cents a dozen . . . for egg production alone, one cannot afford to pay much above their market value as poultry for pullets."

Most of us who breed nothing but so-called "fancy" poultry have been in the habit of valuating a hen by her conformity to standard rather than by purely commercial standards. The argument and conclusion, however, of Mr. Robinson appears to us so wide of the mark that I decided to start off a discussion and would like to see other commercial poultrymen take it up.

In a recent farm journal a dairy expert endeavored to figure out the value of a cow. His summing up was, that if a cow made 160 lbs. of butter a year, worth 30 cents a lb., that she was worth 160 x 30 = \$48.00. If she made 600 lbs. she would be worth \$180.00. Such reasoning struck me as financial rubbish. According to U. S. Experimental Farm Investigations, it costs about \$95 a year to properly feed a cow. On an investment of \$48.00 I get \$48.00 worth of butter, put \$95.00 worth of feed into her and assuming she has not depreciated in value, I am 100 per cent in the hole. On an investment of \$180.00, I get \$180.00 in butter. Allow \$95.00 for feed and am \$85.00, or nearly 50 per cent ahead. Assuming that the 160-lb. cow was worth \$48.00 for beef, a man would need to get her for nothing and sell her in one year to break even. The principle of interest on investment is the only sound basis for computing value of live stock.

The pen accommodation for 1,000 hens in B. C. could be put up for \$1,000. The hire of one man at \$75 a month to give his full time to the birds which cost \$900 a year. Depreciation allowance of 10 per cent on buildings, another \$100, and another \$100 for interest on the investment of \$1,000 at 10 per cent. The feed bill at \$1.75 per bird will run \$1,750 a year, a total annual outlay and allowance of \$2,850, of \$5,700 for two-year period. If 10 dozen eggs a year for a two-year period be a fair average, and price in B. C. will average 40 cents a dozen, to be conservative, the income from eggs would be \$8,000.

At the end of the second year the hens will easily bring \$1.00 each for meat, so that total return will be \$9,000 for two years.

If the expense allowance be \$5,700 the net profit is \$3,300 or \$1.65 per bird per year. If such a bird as a pullet cost \$3.00 she would return 55 per cent per annum on the investment.

The manure from 1,000 birds in two years would total 100 tons, worth at least \$10 a ton as a fertilizer, or \$1,000. Throw this in for contingencies, also \$1,000 worth of grain bags.

When one can save the \$900 a year for hired help, buy feed at carload prices, average 45 cents a dozen for eggs and 22-27 cents a lb. for dressed fowl, as we do in the Kootenays, one need have no hesitation in paying \$3 each for well matured early pullets, simply as a commercial proposition if you know the business. If not, buy 10 hens and learn, the \$100 will come later. "Successful Poultryman."

Wise mothers who know the virtues of Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator always have it at hand, because it proves its value.



Is Your Boy Hard on Stockings?

Of course he is! Every healthy, normal boy is. Buster Brown Stockings stand the wear because they are made of long fibre cotton specially twisted and tested for durability, with a specially knitted double leg and three-ply heel and toe. They are fast dyed in Black and Leather Shade-Tan, shapely and excellently finished.

BUSTER BROWN STOCKINGS



Girls, Too—

Buster Brown's Sister's Stocking for the girls is a splendid looking stocking at a moderate price. A two-thread English mercerized lisle stocking, that is shaped to fit and wears very well indeed. Colors—Black, Leather Shade Tan, Pink, Blue and White.

"Look for the label on the box."

BUSTER BROWN

You will save money and abolish darning troubles by buying your boys Buster Brown Stockings. They cost no more than the ordinary kind. Your dealer carries them.

The Chipman-Holton Knitting Co., Limited

Largest Hosiery Manufacturers in Canada

Hamilton

Ontario

MILLS AT HAMILTON AND WELLAND, ONTARIO

Also makers of the celebrated "Little Darling" and "Little Daisy" Hosiery for Infants and Children