

POULTRY.

Seasonable Poultry Notes.

Now that the hatching season is about over, it is a great mistake to allow the cocks to run with the hens, as a fertilized egg will go off flavor in hot weather much more quickly than one not fertilized, even though they are not set upon by a broody hen. If a hen is allowed to sit upon a newly-laid fertilized egg for only twelve hours, the flavor of that egg is ruined, but an unfertilized egg may be taken from an incubator on the sixth or seventh day and be safely used for cooking purposes. Many of those who use incubators for hatching chickens, take the unfertilized eggs that have been subjected to incubator temperature for 21 days and boil them hard for the chickens.

Very much was said upon this subject at the last annual meeting of the Ontario Poultry Association, where it was generally accepted that there is nothing to be gained by allowing cocks to run with laying hens, except for hatching, and a great deal of loss does accrue by allowing eggs for consumption to become fertilized. Under the present current method of allowing cocks to run with the hens at all times, it is almost impossible to buy, in a town or city market, a dozen perfectly fresh eggs. Some will be added, some half hatched, and almost all off flavor.

In putting down eggs for winter use, or to hold in pickle for a higher market, removing the male birds from the laying hens will be found especially valuable. What is to be done with the roosters? will be a question some will not know how to get over; but the ordinary barn-yard cock is not usually an expensive bird, so that he may be beheaded for a roast or pot-pie, and another one purchased the next spring as a stock bird. There will be a double benefit in this, as there will be less scrubs and mongrels used, which will tend to improve the stock.

If every farmer would pay more attention to the marketing of positively fresh eggs, there is no doubt but the consumption would very much increase, which would give the price a great lift. Says A. G. Gilbert, of the Central Experimental Farm, in the Journal of Agriculture:—"Bad eggs come to be sold for the following reasons: 1st. Because the eggs are not gathered once or twice a day. 2nd. By not having proper places for the hens to lay. 3rd. Allowing the nests in which the hens usually lay to become infested with vermin, and so causing the layers to avoid them. 4th. Allowing male birds to run with the hens, and the eggs so becoming fertilized. 5th. Allowing broody hens to sit upon eggs intended for market. 6th. Collecting eggs from nests stolen by the hens and selling such eggs on the market."

Weed Out "Scrub" Chickens.

BY JOHN J. LENTON.

In rearing pure-bred stock, the industry is very frequently wounded in the house of its friends. It has been the practice of some in the past to keep everything in the shape of a pure-bred that possessed a head and two legs. As a consequence a considerable portion of it is inferior in quality to much that is well-graded. The admirers of common fowls have not been slow to perceive this, and they have fastened on it as an argument in the support of the system of poultry raising to which they cling. If only that which is suitable for retaining for breeding purposes were kept, the prestige which thoroughbred stock would carry would be much better than it is. It is a misfortune to keep a pure-bred female to breed from which is not suitable, but to keep a male is simply calamitous. With the most skillful breeding, there will be some culls. It is better, therefore, calmly to submit to the inevitable and to consign such to the block at the earliest possible moment after their unsuitability to be used in multiplying the race has been discovered. Some breeder may be laboring under the delusion that it is more profitable to sell them for fat prices to inexperienced breeders, or to those who may be desirous of starting a flock, than to fatten them for market. They are slow to learn that every bird they send abroad is an advertisement for their stock, and that, when inferior, it will advertise them more effectively adversely than one of an opposite character would effect them favorably. The "survival of the fittest" is the only safe rule for breeders to follow who are determined to come to the front.

It is said that poultry fanciers are very much given to backbiting or misrepresenting the stock of others handling the same varieties. If that be so, it is a very shortsighted mistake. It will not help one man up to knock down the ladder on which another might climb to success. Be charitable.

Selling Stamped Eggs.

The old saying, "There is always room at the top," is as applicable in selling eggs as in any other line of business. The Poultry Keeper gives one man's plan as follows:—"Mr. T. T. H. knows that customers are willing to buy the best, and pay for them, so he sends out postal cards to all those whom he supposes are desirous of obtaining fresh eggs of finest quality, telling them that they can be purchased from X. Y. Z., K. street." These eggs are produced on the Port View Poultry Farm. Every egg stamped and guaranteed to be not only not rotten, but absolutely fresh, laid by fowls in perfect health, and fed on purest food to be obtained. The eggs are delivered at the store every Tuesday and Friday morning. T. T. H. no doubt sells more eggs, and gets more for them, than any other person in that section.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Horticultural Notes.

BY ELLIS F. AUGUSTINE, LAMBTON COUNTY, ONT.

The severe weather of the past winter has most forcibly demonstrated the necessity of planting none but the most hardy varieties of small fruits if full crops are to be obtained. In black caps, Souhegan and Hilborn have come through the winter practically uninjured, while Gregg has suffered most severely, many bushes being literally killed to the ground. It would pay most handsomely to lay down this variety during winter. With us Hilborn stands pre-eminently ahead of all other black caps as a home or market berry, and it will pay all growers to have this variety well represented in their collection. This variety was originated by W. W. Hilborn, formerly Horticulturist at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and now of Leamington, to whom all fruit growers are indebted for one of the best black raspberries that has ever been introduced. Shaffer's Colossal has also suffered severely, but this variety throws out such strong, fruit-bearing stems that a fair crop is assured even when the bushes have been severely injured. So far as our experience goes, Snyder is the only blackberry that will successfully withstand our severe winters, and even this has suffered to a certain extent; while Kitkatiny and Agawam have been killed to the ground. I have heard glowing accounts of a variety called Western Triumph, but have had no personal experience with it. Do not neglect to pinch back all new raspberry canes when they have reached a height of three feet, as this not only increases the yield of fruit, but acts as a protection against winter killing.

In the accompanying illustration Fig. 1 shows a bush that has been left untrimmed, while Fig. 2 is a good illustration of how a bush should appear after it has received its final pruning, and all the laterals have been trimmed-in.

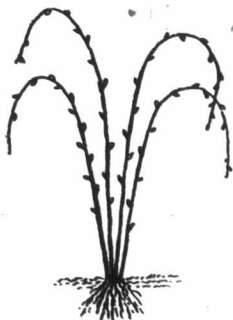


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2

All growers now agree that it is best to leave the trimming-in of the laterals until early spring, as they harden up much better, and as they usually kill back several inches from the end, whether cut back or not, this dead wood is all removed by trimming after all severe frosts are past.

One valuable lesson which we have learned during the late frosts is that the most tender vegetables may be saved after freezing by spraying liberally with cold water before the sun's rays have fallen upon them, and I have no doubt but that the same method would prove effectual in saving large and small fruits. It certainly is worth trying.

VETERINARY.

Joint Disease of Foals.

A disease known as "joint ill," "navel ill," or "arthritis," has become pretty common in many horse-breeding sections during the last ten or twelve years. It has, however, for the last half-century, at least, given more or less trouble in breeding studs of this and the Old Country. In America, the trouble confines itself chiefly to foals, but in Europe, calves, lambs, pigs and puppies are at times affected. Sometimes it occurs as an isolated case in a stud, but it not uncommonly happens that many animals in the same neighborhood are simultaneously affected. Only a few years ago we knew of one district not more than 12 miles square, where one veterinary surgeon treated upwards of 35 cases within the two months following April 1st, many of which died, some recovered partially, and others were apparently restored to perfect health. The Journal of the English Royal Agricultural Society has in a late issue an exhaustive treatise on this subject by John Penberthy, of the Royal Veterinary College, from which we glean the following points:—

In affected animals of the various species there are some points in common. The subjects are very young and the joints are usually implicated. The most important knowledge of any disease of this character is that which concerns its cause. With regard to the cause of joint ill, until comparatively recently there has been a great variety of opinion, which, even at the present time, cannot be said to be unanimous. By the aid of the microscope it has been clearly demonstrated that the cause is not scrofula, as was formerly supposed. Experiments and closer observation of the living and the dead have yielded evidence of the communicability of the disease from the affected to the healthy animal, so that it has come to be regarded as a truly con-

tageous affection, and if communicated from the parent to the offspring it depends on some other cause than that of scrofula.

It is beyond question that the disease is due to the entrance of a germ, and that this entrance may be, and frequently is, effected after birth. Certain circumstances seem to indicate that the germ, or virus, may enter the system of the foetus while in the womb, also that it may gain access during the act of being born. There is ample reason to believe that whenever the germ enters the subject the place of entrance is the navel, and that before it is closed or healed after birth. It is then carried by the blood-stream and distributed to various parts of the system, among other places particularly selecting the joints. In the situation in which the microbe is arrested, it sets up inflammation which results in the collection of quantities of matter of a peculiar character. In addition to this local effect there is the production of a debilitating fever and other systemic effects.

As implied by the majority of names given to the affection, the more prominent symptoms are associated with the joints or the navel. Before swelling in these situations is appreciable, it may, however, be noticed that a few days after birth the young animal has great difficulty in moving; is more or less lame, and manifests the indisposition to move by constantly lying down or standing in one position. Debility is evident; sucking is not carried on vigorously or continued; appetite is sometimes absent, and the little subject is tucked up; the coat becomes dry and harsh. There is often a slight discharge from the eyes and nostrils. The navel is generally swollen, open, and discharging matter; and though sometimes it is healed on the outside, its neighborhood is inflamed. In the course of a few days, at some of the joints or other external parts there are noticed hot and painful swellings, which assume a considerable size. Any joint may be affected, but it more frequently happens in the hock, stifle, hip or knee. In these situations abscesses form which sometimes burst and discharge a peculiarly unhealthy-looking material. The animal loses flesh very rapidly, which condition increases with the disease. The pulse, at first small and weak, becomes weaker and weaker, till it is scarcely perceptible. Diarrhoea is a prominent feature as well as a continued high temperature.

As a rule the symptoms are manifest from seven to twenty days after birth, although in some cases it has shown itself when a foal was two days old; the disease usually runs through its course from seven days to three weeks. Sometimes the patient dies within three days of its being noticed to be ill; others may "hang fire" for months, in which cases it is questionable whether or not to "knock the animal on the head," as it seldom amounts to more than a useless cripple.

The treatment involves the consideration of curative and preventive measures. Clinical experience and the nature of this affection tell us that curative treatment is not hopeful. After entrance of the poison into the system, despite the adoption of all known agencies, a large proportion of the affected will die, while of those which survive many only drag on in unprofitable existence. In all cases with foals it will be advisable to engage the services of a veterinary surgeon, for each individual case will call for treatment special to its circumstances. Occasionally an unhealthy condition of the cord, or navel, and a collection of matter there, may be discovered before the germs have become distributed through the system, when local treatment, by removing the diseased parts and killing the germs, may avert further mischief. It may also happen that the secondary swellings are in a non-essential part accessible to the knife, when opening of the abscess, discharge of its contents, and disinfection of its cavity, associated with attention to the navel, may be followed by good recovery. This treatment, of course, calls for all the skill of the expert, and even with it success is not common. Once the morbid condition is thoroughly established in the body, cure is not likely to be effected, while in most of those cases in which the active process is overcome the subject remains an unsatisfactory animal.

If, however, the curative treatment affords so little prospect of success, such may not be said for the preventive. Preventive measures should commence by the adoption of means to avoid the introduction of germs into our studs and farms. The health of pregnant animals entails proper food, regular feeding, exercise, and sanitary surroundings.

Joint disease usually occurs amongst foals whose dams have been stabled, and rarely among those born and remaining in the fields. In view of preventing this malady, it cannot be deemed good practice to keep one box especially for foaling mares. For if, by accident, the box becomes contaminated, every subsequent occupant will be liable to infection. If possible, mares should be placed for foaling in thoroughly disinfected, separate boxes, in which it is arranged for them to remain with their foals some considerable time. When this is not possible, after each parturition the foaling-shed should be cleansed and disinfected, the manure and straw removed, the walls and surroundings flushed with disinfectants, and fresh straw supplied. If the disease has existed on the place, it will be well to sponge the passage of mares before parturition, with tepid, harmless disinfectant solution, and it is essential that the attendant at the foaling, and anything which may be used in connection with the act, be clean and free from infection. Immediately