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Trees.

January, 1883

Cross-Bred Fowls.

Poultry.

The practice of crossing the different breeds of poultry never yet resulted in the production of a perfect bird, and never will. Fowls may be obtained that answer every purpose for egg-production, and a fair profit may be realized from their flesh, but, as a general thing, they cannot be depended on. For market chickens the common producer is satisfied, but the amateur requires something better. This he finds in the pure breeds. Any cross not only affects the quantity of eggs, but the quality also suffers. The object of the amateur is not direct profit to himself, although this is attended to in the long run, but the pleasure of beholding fine birds that furnish fine eggs, and chickens for the table, all of home production. The caterer to the public market generally employs a cross in which there is largely mixed the Brahma blood. In this he obtains size, and by adulterating the blood with some other, the size often exceeds the original fowl. Quick feathering is often sought for, and this is found in the Leghorn race. This cross makes tolerable layers, pretty good sitters, but miserable flesh, although answering well the purpose of early broilers. The epicure is fond of broiled chicken, and so long as the flesh produced had once worn feathers, the appetite is satisfied, and the price obtained by the producer is in reality more, owing to the advantage in weight, than from pure breeds But when one has really had the opportunity of testing the difference between the pure well-bred bird and the mongrel, the decision is in favor of the thorough-bred fowl, for all purposes where home consumption is concerned.

Crosses have always been employed, and will continue to be, so long as the multitude see an increase of size by the producer. In crossing, the strongest, purest blood will predominate. For instance, a brown Leghorn cock crossed on a Brahma hen will produce a chick with Leghorn color and markings, while size is obtained from the dam. In many instances the feathering of the leg will disappear. Both these breeds possess pencilled necks, and the newly-hatched chicks will show the triangular mark on the top of the head, and the three dark or colored stripes down the back. The Leghorn blood is stronger than the Asiatic, and the strongest will crop out in the color and marking of the chicks. The Spanish blood is even stronger, when in purity, than the Leghorn, and a stronger blood than either of them is the Dorking. A perfect bird is hard to obtain. It is not the result of crosses, but the mingling of pure blood that has been kept distinct through many generations. Uniform birds can only be obtained from purity of blood; and when this uniformity has been established for many generations, we may approach in rearing of fowls as near perfection as is possible. The perfect bird is only seen among wild specimens. Our poultry yards never produced one. The perfect birds are those that for generations beget their like alone. There is never any discrepancy in the markings and coloring of our migrating birds. Did any one ever see a partridge with any markings other than the usual blending and mottling of gray and white?

If the poultry house is cold, bank it up well on the north side with snow.

Early hatched pullets should be laying now, and if they are not the cause why is probably for lack of warmth, food, drink and care.

A piece of liver or other offal placed in the poultry house will be of benefit to the hens; also a chopped turnip or mangold will be appreciated.

As dry earth in which the fowls can dust themselves is often difficult to obtain in winter, a good substitute can be had by using coal ashes, which should be sifted into a box and placed in the hen house.

Any one kind of grain will not satisfy or fulfil the requirements of the animal economy, and keep ers of poultry should strive to procure a liberal supply of different kinds for their fowls, and feed in rotation as they need it.

Weferinary.

Pleuro-Pneumonia in Sheep.

Pleuro-pneumonia of a non-contagious, though fatal character, has recently appeared in a flock of sheep belonging to Mr. G. White, of Windsor, England. It appears that on September 25th last Mr. White purchased two lots of lambs at Werthwell fair. In one lot there were 130, and in the other 100. After purchasing all were mixed together and conveyed to their destination by train. On arriving at Mr. White's farm they were given a run at grass, with dry food, and on the following day they were turned on rape, receiving at the same time a liberal amount of cake, chaff, &c. A few days later two of the 130 were found to be aling, and soon succumbed to acute disease of the chest. Since that time between thirty and forty have died, and nearly all that remain of the larger lot are suffering from the malady. It is stated that twenty of the diseased lambs were placed in an orchard with two others of Mr. White's home flock, both of which soon sickened and died, and it is believed that the latter were infected by the former. Its non-contagious nature, however, is pretty clearly shown by the fact that, notwithstanding the two lots were pastured together, and otherwise treated in every respect the same, the lot of 100 continued to thrive and were disposed of in good condition after cohabiting with the sick animals for from ten to fourteen days.

As Mr. White's sheep, other than those recently purchased, were receiving the same food as the 230 referred to, there does not appear to be any reason to regard the disease as having a dietic origin. The first indication of sickness is marked by dullness and prostration, the stricken beasts separate themselves from the flock, and seek shelter and warmth. Food is early refused, the ears are pendulous, the tack arched, the head droops, the bowels are constipated, and the belly becomes tucked up. These symptoms are soon followed by others denoting pulmonary derangement. A profuse discharge of a mucous or muco-purulent character issues from the nose and eyes, the breathing becomes quick and panting, and later on extremely labored. Simultaneously there is a frequent and painful cough, with soreness of the walls of the chest and liquid evacuations from the bowels. Great emaciation and extreme prostration result in an inability to stand, and then death quickly ensues from asphyxia or suffocation.

The changes revealed by post-mortem examination refer to the sac of the heart, the lungs, and the pleura. The heart sac is thickened, and in many cases adherent to the outer surface of the heart. The cavity of the chest contains a watery or milky fluid, which during life compressed and disabled the lungs. The lining membrane of the chest is variously altered by inflammatory action, and the lungs are extensively consolidated, and in many instances beset with abscesses of considerable size.

SIR,—I have a heifer coming two years old, and she has warts on her neck the size of walnuts, and one or two the size of a hens' egg on her neck, a little in front of the fore legs, on the right side. They are neither hard nor sore; they have been on about two months. Will they hurt her or not. Your dictionary came to hand; it is a very useful book; it paid me well for my trouble. yours, etc.

S. S., Delta, Ont.

[Have them removed with the knife and then dress the part afterwards with a solution of arsenic once or twice a week. This is a sure remedy.]

SIR,—I have a four year old colt which became knuckled in the hind fetters about a year ago. It was not caused by work or hard driving. Do you know what would cause it? Will you suggest a remedy? Please answer in Advocate.

O. U. S., Salisbury, N. B.

[It might be caused by standing on a hard floor without regular exercise, or it might be caused by driving on the road while young. Sometimes it is the first symptoms of spavin, or it might be weakness of the joints. Bathe the joints at night with cold water and bandage, or you might apply almost any stimulating liniment to them, or if you were not using her apply a cantharadine blister every two or three weeks all around the joints.]

SIR,—I have a number of small pigs which have been well cared for, viz, kept clean, warm, dry and well fed. Notwithstanding all this, one after another has been dropping off. They are attacked with piles or the large intestine protrudes from the rectum. Can you name the cause and give a remedy?

SUBSCRIBER, Princeton, Ont.

[Want of exercise causes the piles in pigs. Yours are evidently kept in too confined a space. Administer, according to size of pig, about a table-spoonful of castor oil, and afterwards give them plenty of sulphur.]

Sir,—Please answer the following questions in your columns of the next month. We have a valuable mare imported last spring. She has a swelled leg; it started soon after she came over; it swelled on the inside of hock joint and broke. After that was healed it swelled at fetlock joint and broke; run for a week and then healed up. The leg is still swollen up to the hock, and feels hard and cold. Could you tell me what is best to do? She had the distemper when we got her.

FARMER'S SON, Clinton, Ont.

[It will be necessary to give her a purgative drench (Barbadoes aloes, eight drachms; carbonate soda, two drachms; ginger, one drachm, dissolved in a pint of warm water) once every ten days. Give her a powder every night in her feed (nitrate potash, one drachm; sulphur, two drachms). Allow her to have plenty of exercise.]

The great dairy fair at Milwaukee was a splendid success. The exhibition is said to have been far superior to those in New York, and twice as large. There were houses built of cheese, one of them having 850 cheeses used in its construction, worth over \$7,000. The display of butter comprised hundreds of tons, one pyramid aggregating not less than 25,000 pounds.

The receipts of cheese were quite large at Boston last week, or 14,191 boxes against 9,327 for the corresponding week in 1881. Since May 1, the total receipts have been 285,602 boxes, against 289,619 for the same time last year. The exports have increased of late, and for the last week were 8,009 boxes, against 2,465 for the corresponding week in 1881. Since May 1, the exports have been 119,850 boxes, against 112,023 for the corresponding time last year, or an increase of 7,827 boxes.

CHEESE FROM A BEAN.—A telegram from Marseilles to a London contemporary tells of a wonderful bean which is being imported from China and Japan, and from which can be made a very excelcellent cheese, hardly distinguishable from Parmesan. It can also be cooked and eaten like other vegetables, but cheese making is its "forte.". The next step, we presume, will be to advertise the formation of a bean-cheese company, and produce a whole volume of analyst's reports in its favor.

The continued and prospective scarcity of mutton was emphasised the other day at a meeting of butchers from various places in the south of England. The convention, if the word may be used, was held in Dorchester, and a resolution was passed to the offect that a shilling a lb. should be charged henceforward for all the best joints of a sheep. Mutton is undoubtedly dear, and farmers are now able to obtain extreme prices for anything first-class in quality, while second-rate stuff commands ready sale enough.

Frozen roots, or, indeed, frozen food of any kind, is very pernicious to swine and all other stock, as it is apt to scour them badly, and in any event disturbs their digestion and renders the other food taken into the stomach less nutritious to the animals.

According to late statistics Ontario's growth of fall wheat to the acre is in advance of that of every State in the American Union. This year her average crop of fall wheat per acre was 26.3 bushels. That of Kansas was 19.5 bushels of spring wheat, Ontario's crop this year averaging 16.5 bushels, Dakota's being 16.7 bushels per acre.

The agitation in favor of prizes for Welsh cattle at the Royal shows has ended satisfactorily, the Royal Agricultural Society having revoked their former decision, and agreed to include prizes for this breed in the York prize-sheet. The breeders of English Cart-horses, and of Polled Aberdeen or Angus cattle, contribute special prizes supplementary to those offered by the Society.