

RURAL AND SUBURBAN

ROSES IN VICTORIA, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By James Simpson, 1519 Blanchard Avenue.

Roses, the beloved flower of every garden, by everyone, gentle or simple! What flower can compare with it, so varied in color, in shape, in fragrance; it varies often in all the above qualities several times in one day. No stiff, hard and fast flower this, as many flowers are; but a flower that for artistic shape, color and fragrance, that at its best, has no equal in the floral world; its varieties are almost endless and the multitude of new shades that are being produced by the numerous raisers engaged in that pleasant occupation are marvelous, showing that the wonders of hybridizing the various species are now much better understood than formerly. Where roses are well grown a grand treat is in store for the fortunate owner of the rose garden; and what a blessing to the rose-growing world has the National Rose Society of Britain been to the rose-growers! the standard of excellence through its efforts being so raised that the finest roses in the world are exhibited at its shows. This great society in 1909 added 900 new members to its list, making it by far the strongest society in the world devoted to roses only.

It is the writer's wish, and will be his purpose, to make of Vancouver Island a second Britain in regard to roses, hence he wishes now to give his impressions of the past of roses, as far as he has seen it in Victoria, and as for about twenty years he was a member of, and a competitor at all the best shows of the National Rose Society of Britain, during that time, and moreover a very successful competitor, he trusts his advice may be found useful to many.

It was while acting as judge at the Victoria rose show in 1908 that he saw the great necessity for a forward stride of the Victoria rose-growers, as 99 per cent of the blooms shown would scarcely have been looked at by a National judge, the blooms being much too old, flimsy and out of color. Thanks greatly to Providence for sending a hard frost in January, 1909, and so necessitating a hard and an early pruning of roses, the rose show in Victoria of 1909 was infinitely superior to the previous year, there being a great many fairly good blooms and some which could be reckoned first class, showing that with sensible cultivation what good results can be got in Victoria. The trouble here is that you don't get a hard frost every winter; but you can have a very efficient substitute in a good man with a good knife, who knows what to do when to do it, and does it. Therefore, for the benefit of rose lovers in Victoria I would advise them to prune hard, prune early, and thin severely; and don't be afraid. I know it is very difficult for some people to take such advice, they knowing next to nothing on the subject, and the majority of people they ask advice from and believe in know as little as themselves; and so the poor roses are coddled up with heaps of manure, in some cases a foot high, with branches of trees, etc., etc., all of which tends to keep the poor roses suffering from damp, stagnant air, and so starts into growth the excitable red indica blood now in so many of our best roses, this, with the late pruning so frequently and so foolishly indulged in, making thus a poor, sickly, weakened plant, with its life blood let out by a foolish man's or woman's knife in March or April; and then they wonder why their roses take so much vermin and mildew on them, and are often so poor in flower and foliage. I would advise all such to keep all protection away and especially to keep all manure away from the necks of the plants. Roses are now starting into growth, and should be pruned at once, as this is the most dormant period of the year.

By practicing as above the future of rose-growing would be immensely forwarded, and the beauty of Victoria would be added to tenfold. I don't know any place in it where great improvement could not be made. Of course the best results cannot be got in one year, as some foolishly imagine, but good practice and good cultivation must be done yearly; but the trouble is so small and the results so grand, that growers would find no flower so pleasant, profitable and so little trouble as a good bed of two of roses, treated as they should be.

Here I may state that I am only preaching what I have practiced for many years, and in the climate of cold Scotland, which, on the whole, is much worse than in Victoria. I have by practicing the advice here given shown roses never excelled in Britain, as the gold and silver medals awarded amply testify, in some cases it being startling to Southern growers to find, as frequently happened in a competition for the best rose in the show, that the judge's difficulty was between two roses only, and both were in the Scotsman's box.

In Victoria to date I have pruned a lot of roses, including all my own, and have kicked away all protection, as I found all the plants beginning to move, and wished to give them all the air and sunshine possible; and I have no doubt whatever but that this year I will show at the rose show far better roses than I did last year, and which were so favorably commented on. My opinion is that no rose in Victoria can be pruned later than the first of March without suffering severely in consequence.

FRESH-AIR POULTRY HOUSES

Without fresh air it is impossible to have healthy poultry. The principal reason why some strains of poultry develop a tendency to delicacy is because the fowls are kept in houses in which there is not enough fresh air. The process of breathing in animals or birds consists of taking into the lungs oxygen and

expelling carbonic acid gas, the result of combustion in the living organism.

This carbon dioxide is a deadly poison, and any living animal or bird which is compelled to breathe air tainted with it begins to lose vitality in proportion to the quantity of the gas in the air.

It has been demonstrated that the air in a poultry house should be changed about four times an hour in order to preserve the health of the fowls. It is not hard to secure this change of air, but the greatest trouble heretofore experienced in doing it has been to avoid creating draughts which injure the health of the birds.

There are many systems of direct ventilation which bring about a change of air, but very few of these have been found satisfactory in those parts of the country where the temperature has a wide range.

In the South and the extreme West and Southwest, the temperature is at all times a matter of indifference, except in isolated sections, because it never gets low enough particularly to affect the health of fowls.

In the East, North and Northwest, where severe weather is common during several months in the year, no system of ventilation

whole of the interior to be open to the air or any sides may be closed. Usually the front is open all the time, to give the pilot an unobstructed view of the course he is steering.

When the weather is worst, it is most necessary to have an unobstructed view ahead and the whole front of the pilot house is open. When we first went on the river, we were surprised to find that no matter how cold the weather might be the open front of the pilot house did not seem to let in any considerable quantity of cold air. We soon concluded that when three sides of a building are tightly closed against currents of air, not much wind will blow in if the other side is open, unless the direction of the wind is particularly favorable.

This is exactly the principle on which the fresh-air poultry house is built. Three sides are made as nearly air-tight as possible, and the other side is made so as to be opened almost at its entire length.

The opening being toward the south, the sun can shine into such a house from morning until night, except in midsummer, and sunshine being the most perfect germicide known this alone is a valuable consideration.

If the open side is covered with wire net

above zero. If well made, it will perfectly protect them down to this point or even below, but we fix the limit at to above zero in order to be perfectly safe. As a matter of fact we have known one of these fresh-air houses to be left with the front open during zero weather without any injury to the Rhode Island Reds and Barred Plymouth Rocks housed in it, but for less hardy breeds this might not have resulted in this satisfactory way.

Where severe temperatures are to be expected, the curtain-front porch will provide certain protection in the coldest weather, and at the same time give the birds plenty of pure, fresh air, free from carbon dioxide at all times.

The curtain to be let down in front of the perches may be made of common cheap burlap. This coarse material is thick enough to prevent any rapid current of air from circulating around the fowls, and at the same time it allows the outer air to filter in in sufficient quantities to keep the fowls supplied with pure air for breathing.

If the perches extend entirely across the room, the curtain should be wide enough to reach across the room also. It should be fastened to the roof in such a position that when it is dropped it will just fail to clear the front

freshly fallen they are likely to get combs and wattles wet and then frozen if allowed to run at liberty in very severe weather.

There is much in keeping hens hardened to the cold. Keep the house open in the fall except when driving rains prevail, until the weather is really cold. Let them run out of doors every day that it is safe to do so, and encourage them to dig and scratch by having a straw pile convenient for them to scratch in.

Feed them all they will eat and give them grain to dig for between meals. Keep them fat and hard at work and they will not care for cold weather, while laying eggs every day.

The fresh-air house is designed to solve the problem of profitable poultry-keeping by keeping hens healthy and up to the highest possible point of production.

We have seen poultry houses in New England in which it seemed that hens could hardly live and we would have thought they could not, had we not inquired very closely into the results of using fresh-air houses.

Last fall we described such a house to a poultryman in Ohio. He built a fresh-air house and the other day we received a letter from him saying the house had proved to be entirely satisfactory. We believe this will be the verdict of everyone who uses one.

We began using close windows several years ago and as much as fifteen years ago say a cloth-front poultry house which gave perfect satisfaction. The longer they are used the more satisfied the users are with them.

MEAT FEEDS FOR POULTRY

The natural food for poultry—supposing them to exist in a wild state—is insectivorous to a very large extent. Under such a condition of life they would only obtain grain at harvest time, and at other periods of the year would exist upon insects and worms, and upon green food (including such seeds as they might find).

This is practically how the wild pheasant lives, and we may quite well take the pheasant as representing the fowl in a wild state. A pheasant shut up in an aviary, like a domestic fowl kept in a farmyard, probably gets a great deal more food of the solid cereal type than does its wild prototype; in a state of nature its only solid food is the insect food and the small amount of seed it finds, the rest being vegetable in character, like grass and buds. Yet, as a rule, the wild bird is more healthy and certainly as well proportioned as the domestic, if not so fat and fleshy. This proves the point that the most important part of a wild fowl's food is that of the insect type; and analysis shows that insect food is principally nitrogenous, whereas cereal food is mostly composed of starch. The former goes to build up muscle, bone and sinew, the latter to generate warmth. A pheasant does not, as a rule, glut itself with insect food; it only finds that in small quantity. Yet what it does find suffices for all its bodily needs so far as growth is concerned.

The same applies to the domestic fowl; give it a very limited quantity of food—or, say, none at all on a farm, and let it work for and find its own living, and what will be the result? Simply that it will be very healthy, probably not at all fat, and certainly only about as productive as a pheasant from the egg point of view. Start and feed it liberally on insect food, however, and it will at once become very productive. If a chicken it will grow, if a hen it will lay.

You cannot produce the same satisfactory result by a purely cereal diet. You must give food which is rich in nitrogen. Among cereals none are so rich as beans, peas and oats. Poultry fed on meals should always have an allowance of the two first named, and of grain none give so satisfactory a result as the oat. But the proportion of nitrogenous constituents in these is found in insect food. Therefore it pays to let poultry have a liberal supply of insect food. If they are at liberty on a farm they can generally obtain a fair supply—provided, of course, that they are not over-numerous. If they are numerous, however, the supply must be supplemented. In confinement, too, where they have no chance whatever of obtaining it for themselves it must be provided.

Now comes the question, how can a supply of insect food be provided where it does not exist, or how can it be supplemented where the existing supply is insufficient? Well, there are two principal foods, which analysis shows and experience proves, are excellent substitutes for insect life. One is bone and the other is fibrine meat. To take the latter first it may be said generally that any dried meat is good for chicken growth or for egg production, provided it is composed of lean meat. As to bone, undoubtedly what is known as "green" bone is the best to give poultry. This is simply fresh bone granulated by being passed through a bone crushing mill, and it contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and other chemical constituents necessary for bodily growth, as well as for egg production. Apart from this its "meatiness" makes it relished by poultry even in the raw state, and they will scramble greedily for a handful when thrown to them. Bone or fibrine meat should be added to all meals in the proportion of 10 per cent. to 20 per cent., according to circumstances. Hens are required by chickens than by laying hens. Its use should be regular and systematic if the results are to be satisfactory.

The appetite for squabs is no doubt growing in a very healthy manner, and the price will probably continue to rise, as game birds become scarcer and game laws more strict. The average patron of the city restaurant calls for quail on toast and is served with a squab on toast to his perfect satisfaction and advantage, because a squab contains more edible meat than a quail and is better eating.



A Bowl of Victoria Beauties

by pipes or flues has yet been devised which has given entire satisfaction.

A few years ago it was very common to find poultry houses, built as nearly air-tight as possible, and supplied with heating apparatus more or less elaborate according to the purse or inclination of the owner. These houses were tricked out with ventilators of various kinds, many of them quite complicated and elaborate.

Fowls kept in such houses showed a tendency to catch cold and to become afflicted with roup and other similar diseases, until it became the general opinion that heating poultry houses was the wrong way to secure the greatest comfort for the birds kept in them.

From this extreme of air-tight construction and artificial heat, we have gone to the other extreme, and now the open-front poultry house is found even in the coldest parts of our country.

We have watched the development of the fresh-air poultry house for several years, and have come to regard it as the best possible type for every part of the country. Naturally the house best adapted to Florida or California will not be the best one for Maine or Montana, but with certain modifications which do not materially change the principle underlying the theory of fresh-air houses, this type may be used with satisfaction in every state in the Union.

A good many years ago we were employed on a steamboat running between Cincinnati and New Orleans. Our duties kept us in the pilot house a considerable part of the time, and many times we spent hours there when very rough weather prevailed. The pilot house of a river steamer is the highest part of it. It is made of glass on all sides and is exposed to the weather from every direction. The frames in which the glass is set are so made that they can be slid to one side in a way that allows the

ting with meshes small enough to prevent the ingress of the smallest predatory animal, such as the weasel and the rat, it will answer the purpose of confining the fowls when it is not desirable to turn them out of doors during very cold weather.

To protect the fowls when the weather is very severe, a cloth cover for the open front should be provided. This should be stretched on a frame which should be hinged at the top, so that the cloth screen may be swung back and fastened to the under side of the roof on sunny days or during moderate weather.

The sun having free access to every part of the house, the floor is always well lighted and the fowls perfectly comfortable, even if kept confined for several days at a time. This house is cheaper to build than the combination of sleeping room and scratching shed so highly recommended a few years ago, as it combines the two in one and is better in every way.

When moderate weather makes it advisable to leave the cloth screen open, the supply of fresh air could not be more often renewed, as the heat of the bodies of the fowls keeps a gentle change in progress all the time. When the severe weather makes it better to keep the cloth screen closed, there is ample ventilation, as the warm air from the bodies of the fowls rises and passes out through the cloth just under the roof, while the cooler fresh air enters at the bottom. This does not produce a sensible current of air, but is rather the gentle filtering in of fresh, cool air to replace the warm tainted air that passes out above.

The carbon dioxide eliminated by the respiration of the fowls being heavier than atmospheric air, sinks to the level of the floor and flows out at the bottom of the open front.

A fresh-air house of this kind needs no other arrangement for the comfort of the fowls in those parts of the country where the temperature does not fall below ten degrees

edge of the dropping board. At the bottom of the curtain there should be a strip to weight it down, and the curtain should be long enough to drop a few inches below the dropping board. The weight on the curtain will hold it down and at the same time cause it to lie neat enough to the front of the dropping board to prevent a draught at this point.

If the perches do not extend the entire length of the room, side curtains should be put up at the end of the perches so as to meet at the corner with the front curtain, completely enclosing the birds in a box-like room, three sides of which are burlap.

Such an arrangement will keep a flock of fowls warm and comfortable during the coldest weather. It will allow perfect ventilation, prevent dampness in the poultry house and keep it free from bad odors all the time.

Talking not long ago with a poultryman who is using this kind of a house, we were told that his birds had passed through a severe winter without a touch of frost or any symptoms of cold, catarrh or roup.

While he was using an air-tight house of the old style, he was always working with sick fowls, but now that he uses a fresh-air house he has no trouble and his hens lay regularly during the winter.

It is not a good plan to allow hens to become accustomed to close quarters. If they are allowed to run out of doors every day when it is possible for them to do so, they will be healthier, harder and lay more eggs.

Let them out every sunny day and every other day when the temperature is not below twenty degrees. If the air is still and there is not fresh fallen snow on the ground, even the large-combed breeds may be allowed out of the house in quite severe weather without being injured. Hens do not care for mere cold. They are protected against this as far as their bodies are concerned, but when the snow is