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A. E. BELFRY.

GISTRY ACT

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EXTRA-PROVINCIAL PANY

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D LIVE STOCK ered Jersey bull, 2½ ood, and cheap. Geo. Harbor, Salt Spring

SUMMER EGG PRODUCTION

We have been accustomed in the past to look upon egg production in the winter time as the most important feature of the egg business, but now the high price of eggs and the increasing demand for the same causes us to

turn our attention to other periods of the year. Egg production throughout the year might be plotted in a curve. It starts low down in ovember and December, rises to its height in March and April, in the natural hatching season, and falls off gradually throughout July and August, until it practically ceases in the latter part of September and October. The only way to overcome the deficiency in the fall seems to be by the hatching of very early pullets. This is not practical for the farmer. He can, however, improve production in the sum-mer, and in the following lines we will endeavor to show how:

First-the Stock

Of course, we desire to have purebred stock. There is no excuse for anyone keeping a mongrel flock at the present time. The question of stock is not quite so important for summer work as it is for winter work, yet it is important. For the latter it is absolutely necessary that we have early hatched, fully matured stock, but for the former much of that stock that was not mature enough for winter work will be available for summer work. It does not as a rule keep it over, yet there is much of it in the country.

Second—the Houses

In the early days the hens roosted outside the trees and laid when and where they pleased. We must provide them with light, airy, clean, well ventilated quarters. The curtain front house does this if properly tended. In the south it is often the custom to remove the roosts from the back to the front when the warm weather comes in, or a series of double roosts may be provided allowing the hens to choose for themselves.

The most important feature in summer egg production is cleanliness. In many, many instances it is the presence of filth, insects, and disease that drives the hens out of doors. The houses must be kept clean and cool. The droppings must be cleaned out regularly and the litter must not be allowed to become damp and sour. Dropping boards should not be used unless they can be cleaned off every day. Where no dropping board is used, cleaning twice a week will do, but oftener would be better. It is a good plan to scatter clean, fresh soil around where the droppings will fall, for soil is an excellent deodeizer and disinfectant. When allowed to remain too long the accellent breeding places for lice and mites.

The litter on the floor is of importance. Straw or marsh hay may be used and should be used if it can be readily procured, but it becomes dirty quickly. Some use shavings of soil, but these are not very satisfactory if it is intended that the grain be fed inside. The house should be whitewashed. It makes the house much brighter, and light is one of the best disinfectants we have. Some object to the dust, but the dust is what is wanted. Lice and mites breath through pores in their skin, and the most effectual way to combat them is to clog up those pores with dust, oil, etc. This is why whitewash is used on the walls and the

oily disinfectants on the roosts and nests. The drinking utensils, the troughs, the hoppers, the nests should all be kept clean. The nests must be cleaned from time to time and plenty of clean, fresh hay or straw added. Much profit is lost to the farmer by having dirty nests. The hens refuse to lay in them, the eggs are lost. With no litter in the nest many eggs are cracked or broken, their conover other eggs, and the nest material made foul and dirty. Such will taint the eggs every time and load them with bacteria which cause early decay.

Third—the Feed

The question of the feed is important. The amount of corn in the ration should be reduced in warmer weather. More wheat and oats may be used, preferably a little of both if market prices will allow. The hard grains may be fed on a clean piece of ground outside. Some continue to feed in the litter in the summer, which is good if the hens are closely warded.

Andry mash should also be placed before them. It may be hopper fed and good results obtained. It may consist of varying amounts of several ingredients, but one composed of the following will give very fair results: 2 parts bran, I part corn meal, I part middlings, 12 to I part linseed meal, and I of beef scrap, It is well also to supplement the dry mash with an occasional wet mash, say from two to three times a week. A meat mash made thus: Boil some cheap meat till it is well broken up; take an ordinary 12 quart pail, place in it about 2 quarts of corn meal, pour the boiling liquid slowly over it. Stir till the meal has taken up all the moisture it can, then add about 3 quarts of bran and stir. It may take more, in which case add bran until the has a consistency of brittle dough. If the birds have free range—and it is preferable that they should, for no one can get the best results from a bare yard—the use of beef scrap

If green food will not be so necessary. If the birds are yarded some provision must be made for green food. Rape is very useful for this. If handled carefully and only the outer leaves removed, it will stay green and succulent for a considerable length of time. As a rule it is wise to supply birds with some shell-forming material and grit even throughout the summer months. If they do not need it, they vill not eat it.

The birds must have water. Watering O'e in every two or three days will not do. y must be watered daily with good fresh placed in clean dishes. The dishes are apt to become slimy and ill-smelling. They should be scalded and rinsed out from time to time. The place where the water pail is set is important. It should not be set in a house where all sorts of dirt will fall in. It should not be placed in the sun where the water will become hot. The birds like a cool, refreshing drink as well as a man, and the water should be placed in a cool, shady place.

Fourth-Shade

Birds do enjoy a shady place in summer un-der the trees, in a raspberry patch, in an as-paragus patch, or in the corn. They seem to enjoy a low thick shade the best, and if it is convenient either their house should be moved to the shade or the shade should be brought to them by planting the above mentioned crops.

Some one will say, yes, if we do this our birds will lay in such a place. They will not lay any quantity there if one provides proper cool house, well ventilated, free from lice and mites, darkened nests with clean fresh litter in them, broody hens removed and shut up (nothing breeds lice so fast as a bunch of broody stuff, fresh water in clean dishes, and hens continually sitting on the nests), plenty of cooling food, range and green, a nice cool, convenient shady nook in which to spend the hot parts of the day. If people will but do this, take pains and have a sympathetic interest in those fowls, gather the eggs regularly, discard the cracked and dirty ones, keep the eggs in a cool, sweet place and market them often, they will get more eggs, they will get better prices, their eggs will become known in the community as pure, fresh and as germless as it is possible for them to be.—Professor W. A. Brown, University of Maine.

FEEDING THE CHICKS

Feeding now claims attention. I do not know of any other subject connected with poultry that has, from time to time, been more criticised or written about than that of the feeding of chickens. Every breeder has his own particular feed or system, and many are very careful lest any word they may let drop reveals any of their knowledge. Each thinks his own system the best, but whether this is so or not; it is hard to tell. Some believe in the dry feed system, whilst others would not have it at any price. Some believe in the no water

heory, and other are dead against it.

Both systems have their advantages and disadvantages, as I know from experience, hav-ing tried both systems. I do not think I shall try the dry feed systems again, though I am rather a believer in the no water theory for the first live or six weeks of the chicken's existence, provided they can be put on a grass run when they are turned out of doors. not think the feeding need vary much for the first ten or twelve weeks, for either hard or soft-feathered Bantams. Practically the same food will do for one or the other.

The first feed, which need not be given for the first twenty-four, or even thirty-six hours, must be composed of hard-boiled eggs, and here the clear eggs taken from under the hen at the time of testing the same comes in useful. They must be chopped up fine and mixed with bread crumbs. I find the machines used by canary fanciers for grinding eggs useful. Some fanciers I know do not altogether approve of giving hard-boiled eggs, but prefer the

bread being soaked in the raw eggs.

However, either system will do, and this should form the staple diet for the first few days, varied with plain biscuit soaked in milk. At the end of four or five days good quality broken rice, dried off with thirds or any of the advertised chicken meals can be given. Rice will, to a big extent, counteract any signs a, rather a troublesome ailment among chickens. The way to cook rice is to put it either in a pan or earthenware jar, and cover with milk or water. Cook slowly about three-quarters of an hour, and see that it does not clog together, but remains in single pellets. The meal then easily adheres to it. Cook only sufficient for one day, and it is then more sweet and wholesome.

For the evening feed, canary seed or some of the dry chick foods can now be introduced, and as the chickens increase in age, dari, groats, wheat, millet and a little hempseed can be given. Occasionally, for one of the meals during the day, bread and milk can, with advantage, be given, this being a very good pick-me-up, especially when the chickens are making a lot of feather.

For the first fortnight the chickens should be led every two or three hours. Little and often is a motto that should be obeyed in chicken rearing. One cannot feed too early as soon as daylight appears, and many are the fanciers who late, and very late, go round with lamp and corn bucket to give their pets the last feed of the day. It certainly pays to attend well to the growing stock.

After the first fortnight a certain amount of weaning can take place, so that at the age of three months, four or five meals a day will suffice, and this number should continue for another couple of months, when the normal number of three will be found sufficient.

Green food should be given from the very first, and a small amount of finely chopped meat may occasionally be given. Fine flint or sand grit must always be within reach, this being a very important matter, and it is wonderful to see the amount the liftle creatures will devour. Flowers of sulphur or a little linseed may now and then be judiciously added to the food to help the chickens in their feathering. I prefer the linseed to be boiled or allowed to steep in water for twenty-four

hours before being given. Keep the coops and runs in clean condition. If the floor of the coop is of wood keep it well sanded or covered with chop or peat moss. Dust the hen at least once a week with

SUBURBAN~ insect powder, and at the same time examine the chickens for ticks, etc. These pests will be found on the head, under the wings, and near the vent, and prevent the chickens from thriving. There are many remedies for the keeping down of these insects, a few of them being vegetable oil of tar, sweet oil, weak solution of paraffin, etc. The places infested should be touched with any of the remedies mentioned.—H. Inman, in Feathered World.

HINTS ON HATCHING FOR BACKYARD POULTRY KEEPERS

Love for experimenting prompts one to try one's luck at hatching and rearing chicks; and few hobbies provide so much pleasure for so small an outlay. Having decided upon the breed you intend to keep, do not hatch more breed you intend to keep, do not hatch more breed you intend to keep. chicks than you have convenience for. Some fanciers make a practices of hatching two broods, although they have only accommoda-tion for one lot. They are, they say, then on the safe side if they should be very unfortunate with the hatches, or if the quality out of one be not up to expectations, or if they get a rge percentage of cocks.

Never put all the eggs in a special sitting under one hen; put them under two broodies and make up the full sittings with some from your own pen or of a cheaper quality, because you are unfortunate with one half-sitting you still have the other half to fall back on.

Have the nest in readiness before the hen or eggs, so that you do not have to fit up a makeshift nest in a hurry. A suitable nest can be made in a box 18 inches square with a strip of wood nailed across the front to keep the nest in position inside; or you may make a loose nest in some dark corner or secluded spot, as the hens prefer semi-darkness for their maternal duties. The nest itself should be made of soil, and the centre scooped out, but neither deep nor shallow. The soil should be covered with litter-hay, straw or chaff-and such a nest should throw off sufficient moisture for shells of average thickness. Place some dummy eggs in the nest and put the hen near at night-time. If she is a stranger the nest will be strange to her, so be patient. She will then, if very broody, glide on the eggs to settle down. Cover her up and leave her for twentyfour hours. ...

Some people let the broody hen come off the nest at pleasure, but personally I prefer to know when it is off and on. Remove her next day (but night for preference), and substitute for the dummy eggs those you intend her to sit on. See that she is provided with heat-giving food (Indianacorn is suitable), and that she comes off daily for about fifteen min-utes for exercise, food and water. Sprinkle a little insect powder on both hen and nest, as this will check vermin, which thrive during

the hot weather.

The eggs should be tested about the tenth day, and all clear ones removed, instead of wasting the hen's time and energy on eggs that would never hatch! When the time has expired you may reasonably expect some chicks, which should be hatched out dry and strong, and which should be removed in a lined backet near the fire, as the part-hatched and weakly ones will have a better chance. Remove broken shells, and feed the hen by herself when the hatch is complete, or she may be off searching for food for the chickens, which they do not require for at least twenty-four hours. Stale bread crumbs and hard-boiled egg chopped fine should be the first meal, after which they can be fed on any previously proved successful system. Feed a little at a time, but often, gradually increasing the quantity of food and the time between meals.-Hidlander, in Poultry.

PORTABLE POULTRY FENCE

I have made a substantial, convenient and useful portable fence from 48-inch poultry wire netting. Anything that will make a sufficiently strong stake will hold it up. With an iron bar I make holes about 7 feet apart around the lot where I want my new poultry yard to be. Stakes are driven firmly into these holes. Then a fourpenny nail is driven into the stakes for the wire to hang on.

In hanging the fence, I start at one corner and unroll the petting until I arrive at the starting point. If there is more wire than I feet, I leave it on the roll. Then I begin to hang the netting on the hails, which are only partly driven in, stretching the wire as I hang Plastering laths I then nail over the netting to the stakes with two or three fourpenny nails, whose heads are allowed to protrude just enough so they can be drawn with a hammer when I want to move the fence again. If one roll of wire is not enough, I overlay a second roll and proceed as described. The unused part is wired or tied with string to prevent it

falling down and becoming unrolled. When the season closes, and I wish to put the poultry in permanent quarters, the nails are drawn, the wire rolled up, the stakes pulled and all laid away for another year. I never cut a roll of netting except for a permanent fence.—S. X. A., in New England Homestead.

A NOVEL METHOD OF GROWING PO-TATOES

B. S. Leonard Bastin.

In the gardening world another instance has been found of many most valued discoveries coming to light through chance happenings. This is an entirely new method of growing potatoes for the early markets, one which is so simple and effective that it cannot fail to be universally adopted, and is certainly curious enough to be placed on record. A few years since, on a large private estate in England, a quantity of potatoes had been placed aside in a dark shed, stacked in a heap on the

floor. Not being required for use, the tubers ber until about the time when the outdoor were left in that position for the best part of grown supply is available. a year, and it was not until the autumn following that they were examined with the idea of throwing them away, it being concluded that after the long interval they could not be of any use. A few spadefuls were shoveled into the light, and it was then seen that the tubers had started to do a very remarkable thing. Every specimen was crowded with little potatoes, quite white and about the size of the tip of the little finger. More out of curiosity than anything else, a number of the old tubers were placed on a darkened shelf and left there for a few weeks. At the end of that time it was found that the small tubers had increased very much in size, being as large as walnuts. A number of the finest were gathered and cooked, and were found to be excellent. Indeed they were pronounced by experts to be superior to the ordinary run of new notatoes, in that the consistency of the tuber was firm, not less inclined than usual to waxiness. Soon after the discovery, an exhibit of the novel mode of growing the potatoes was made at the Horticultural Show, London, and this caused a great deal of speculation as to how the new tubers were produced. Latterly a full explanation of the method has come to light, and further experiments have shown that the discovery is one which should rank as of firstclass importance in gardening circles. It will doubtless be of interest to outline the chief points in the treatment, which is peculiarly attractive to the country house owner.

Almost any kind of potato usually grown for keeping purposes is well suited for the novel culture. It is better to produce tubers of a good size, and when making the selection the biggest examples should be picked out. Freedom from blemish or disease is of the utmost importance, as any rotten patches on the tubers might easily spread and endanger the whole crop. The potatoes employed must be those which are technically known as "twoyear-olds"; that is they are products of the previous season's yield. On this account to get the necessary stock the tubers will have to be selected a season ahead. To those who wish to save trouble it may be mentioned that it is always easy to buy "old" potatoes in the month of July, and these will be ready for starting the following September.

It is necessary to find a perfectly dark place in which the potatoes may be stored. The absence of light is an important feature of the culture, as a very little illumination, if it is regularly experienced, will make the tubers expend their energies in sending out shoots rather than in the budding of small tubers. Very good crops might be produced in a cellar or the corner of a basement; on the other hand, it would be quite a simple matter to fix up a emploard suitable for the purpose, some rough shelves on which the potatoes may be placed. These should be arranged with a bordering which projects an inch or so above the level

Now obtain a quantity of fine dry mould and spread this evenly over the shelves to the depth of about an inch. The material should be clean and sweet and free from any stones.

The early fall is about the best time to start the culture of the potatoes. Even if the tubers have already been sorted, go through them again, making quite sure that none is in any way diseased. As a precautionary measure, wipe each with a slightly moistened sponge, thus removing the germs of any fungoid growths which are so destructive of vegetable

If any of the potatoes have started to shoot from the eyes or growing points, the buds must be cut off, care being taken not to bruise

Now take each potato separately and place it on the shelf, so that it is half buried in the mould. Do not allow the tubers to touch one another, and settle them all well down into the soil. There is nothing more to be done now save to give an occasional glance at the potatoes to see that none is rotting. After a short while it will be observed that the old tubers are beginning to be govered with tiny white points, which a few days later resolve themselves into little potatoes, increasing very rapidly in size until they are large enough to handle, when the first instalment of the crop is ready for gathering. When all the sizable potatoes have been picked off, the old tubers may be placed in their former position, which they will go on producing. In a few weeks it will be possible to gather another crop, and this will go on through a rgular succession of gatherings.

Now and again it will be found that the old potatoes will endeavor to start outgrowths, and these should at once be removed.

The trouble in this direction will not be great if the apartment is really dark, the light only being let in on the few occasions when it is necessary to examine the tubers. Even then it is better, if possible, to make use of an artificial illuminant, as very little daylight seems to excite the tubers to send out shoots. It will be found that the budding off process will go on until there is nothing left of the old potatoes but dry skin. Indeed, it has been stated that the tubers will send off more than their own weight in little potatoes, though how this can be so it does not seem easy to ex-

Up to the present time the only way in which new potatoes out of season could be secured was by the costly and difficult method of forcing the plants in frames. This has never been a satisfactory matter, as many gardeners can bear witness, the crops thus secured not being of particularly good quality or large in amount. Moreover, the season for the forced articles is comparatively restricted. Under the new system it is possible to have a succession of crops of new potatoes from Septem-

As has already been indicated, the chief points about the potatoes produced in the manner described above are that they are of excellent flavor and consistency. Moreover, they have a skin which is so thin that there is no

need of scraping or peeling. Owing to the manner in which they are

produced, very little cleaning is required. For those who are interested in the culinary side of the question, it may be useful to add a word as to the cooking of the potatoes. It is declared to be a desirable feature of the preparing that the little potatoes should be put into cold water, and then kept boiling briskly for about ten minutes. Not more of the potatoes should be gathered than can be used at one time, as they are rather likely to shrivel by keeping.

IT PAYS TO PAINT FARM BUILDINGS

The prosperity of the farmer is generally reflected in his farm buildings. These can and should be attractive to the eye. It must be confessed, however, that in most cases barns and outbuildings are a blot on the landscape. This is not as it should be. Paint would right matters. Farm buildings neatly painted are a source of pride to their owner. And this extra touch adds substantially to the value of the

All agree that buildings look much better when painted. The question we want answered is "Does it pay?"

It may not pay, directly, to paint our barns. In fact, its preservative effect on ordinary rough siding would scarcely pay for the paint. On new, smooth siding it would pay. Indirectly it does pay, however, no matter what the siding. Well painted buildings add to the value of the farm, a sum far in excess of the cost of a coat of paint.

Let us look at it in this way: Consider two communities in close proximity to each other. They are equal in every respect, save that in one community the buildings are all painted, while in the other they are not. Farms in the former instance will invariably command more money. Prospective buyers cannot but be attracted to such a section. The business man knows the value of attractive surroundings.

There are several brands of ready-mixed aints on the market which are satisfactory. These should be used by those who have had no experience in mixing paints. Those who plan to mix their own paints should heed the following suggestions: Avoid cheap oil. Use good pale-boiled oil even if it costs a few cents a gallon more. If raw oil is used, dryer must be added.

When we have decided to paint, the question arises, "How shall we apply it?" The ordinary method of hand application is familiar to all. In recent years, the spray pump has been recommended as a cheap and efficient means of painting outbuildings. It proves quite satisfactory. The spray covers the surface well, though somewhat unevenly, and it is necessary to brush it if a good job is desired. This brushing is easily accomplished by means of an ordinary whitewash brush to the side of which a long handle has been attached.

The advantages of the pump as a means of painting are that the paint is applied quickly and cheaply. This practice has its disadvantages in that fully one-half more paint is necessary and one does not get the fine gloss possible when the paint is applied by hand and well rubbed in.

Where a pump is to be used for applying the paint, the cheap, cold water paints are probably preferable on account of waste. For purposes of whitewashing, the pump is always ahead of the brush.

When selecting a color it is well to remember that red will look well longer than any other shade. A coat of paint every eight or ten years will keep the buildings looking well. -Farm & Dairy.

CONCRETE TANKS

Not only on the farm, but in the creamery as well, there are indisputable advantages in a water tank which is both easily cleaned and durable. In both these respects, and in many more concrete tanks seem to fill the bill perfectly: A bulletin has been issued as No. 23 by the Association of American Portland Cement Manufacturers of Philadelphia, Pa., which fully describes the uses of concrete tanks and gives full details for their construction. The advantages of concrete for tank construction are summarized as follows in the

Materials necessary for construction are easily obtained. Concrete tanks are easily built. They can be built anywhere.

They need no repairs. They will not rot and are practically everlasting. They do not dry out if left unfilled.

They do not crack owing to extreme changes of temperature. They will fit any space desired.

They are vermin-proof. They are sanitary. They are artistic.

There are many breeds and all have their merits. He has the best breed who gives it the best care and aims to secure the most good out of it. Feed, in this particular, has a great deal to do with success.

The poultry house should be frequently The dropping boards should be sancleaned. itary and the hay or straw used to line the nests should be frequently changed.