

been winter-killed and completes any work that may have been overlooked at the previous prunings.

Mr. T. G. Ruddell, of Oakville, has five acres of red raspberries that he grows in hedge rows. His method of pruning is somewhat similar to the above-mentioned, except that instead of leaving six canes to a hill, he thins out so that the new canes will stand about 10 inches apart in the row, and in spring, he is particular to cut back to a uniform height, about three feet, so that the hedge row will be level and neat in appearance. Mr. Ruddell grows the Marlboro and Cuthbert most extensively; for black caps, he plants Souhegan, Palmer, Lucas and Gregg. He also has a large plantation of blackberries, made up largely of Snyder for main crop, and Worcester Thornless, a productive, hardy sort, medium size, mid-season, and with smooth, thornless canes.

STRAWBERRIES

In Oakville a large area is devoted to the culture of strawberries. Mr. Ruddell has 10 acres, seven of which consists of Lovetts, which he considers the best commercial berry. It is quite large, of dark color, firm, rather tart in flavor—a good point in a shipping berry, and it is one of the very few varieties that will hang on the vines after ripening for three or four days without deteriorating.

Mr. W. F. W. Fisher, of Burlington, is another strawberry enthusiast. He said: "The Williams is the best and most profitable variety I have ever grown. It is an excellent shipper and can be cropped for two years without diminishing in size or yield." Among other varieties suggested for his locality are Bederwood, medium size, very prolific and early; and Sample, a pistillate variety, large, good color, productive and a good all-round berry for market purposes. Mr. Fisher believes in cropping his plantation twice. In his own words: "Whether one or two fruitings should be taken off depends largely upon the availability and cost of labor. I myself harvest two crops. I keep the soil in good condition and well fed, and when planting I select the best plants for the new plantation. The second cropping is always earlier in season than the first one and this is important in this district."

A NEW SYSTEM

Mr. W. A. Emory, of Aldershot, president Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, has adopted a new system of growing strawberries which he calls the "hedge row system." A side-by-side test with the old "matted row" system has shown Mr. Emory that the new system is the better one. It requires more work than the old method, but returns justify the labor as the profits are doubled. In the "hedge row" system, the rows are kept as narrow as possible; the plants are set at intervals of 2½ feet in rows 3½ feet apart. Each of the mother plants are allowed to set four new plants, two on either side and the rest of the runners are cut off. The earliest runners are allowed to root so as to secure strong, healthy growth before winter. Among the many advantages claimed for this system by Mr. Emory are: 1. It is a happy medium between the matted row and hill systems and combines the good qualities of both. 2. It does away with what is always lacking in vigor of plant and in yield of fruit in the centre of matted rows. 3. All the productive effort of the hedge row is brought to maturity. 4. Each hedge row will produce twice the yield of matted rows. 5. Fruit is larger and better colored than from matted rows. 6. Plants are stronger and freer from disease. 7. Fruit can be picked without injuring plants and crushing over-hanging berries. 8. The plants can be cropped oftener than when grown in matted rows.

I used to go in for general farming but now grow fruit, and find that it pays better than wheat at \$1 per bushel, even if we don't get a crop of peaches more than every third year.—(C. S. Nelles, Grimsby, Ont.)

POULTRY DEPT.
Conducted by
S. Short, Ottawa

JANUARY is the critical month for the poultry keeper. The results of last season's matings and hatches can be seen at a glance, and whether or not any of the young stock are fit for the show ring. The birds are now mature and in full plumage, defects in which are apparent. Notes can be taken for help in mating next spring. April and May hatched pullets should now be laying. If breeding for winter eggs, the pullets laying earliest should be marked so that they may be used for breeding next season. There were a good many flocks of poultry composed of the following: old hens of various ages, cockerels and pullets, kept together in the same pen, and the result is misery to them all. There are but two excuses for keeping hens of the American (Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes) and Asiatic (Brahmas and Langshans, etc.) breeds after they are two and a half years old. The first is—if the bird is a high-class exhibition specimen or breeder of exhibition specimens, and secondly, if she is an exceptionally good layer and likely to be a breeder of good layers. That she is a splendid sitter and mother is the reason given for keeping some scaly-legged spurred old veterans. This is not a good reason.

Seventy-five per cent. of all the hens that cluck make just as good sitters and mothers the first time they cluck as they will at any time in their career. The old hens should have been taken out in October or November, and the pullets would have done better. The cock-

erels are sufficiently mature to select any birds needed for breeders; the rest should be disposed of and in the meantime kept separate from the females from which winter eggs are expected.

The poultry houses should be made as light as possible. Overcrowding should be avoided. Each bird should have eight or ten square feet of floor space. Two pens with 25 fowl in each are better than one pen with 50. Ventilate. Dry pure cold air is better than damp vitiated warm air. The subject of ventilation will be dealt with at more length in our next issue. The successful production of winter eggs and the hatching of chicks from eggs laid in winter quarters, depend more on proper ventilation than any other factor.

NOTE—In adding a poultry column to THE HORTICULTURIST, the management hope that it will prove of interest to our many readers. The addition is in the way of enlarging the usefulness of this magazine. The poultry column will be devoted to seasonable and general information, including the care, housing, breeding and exhibiting; in fact, poultry keeping in all its branches. Believing that many of our subscribers keep poultry in a small way as much for pleasure as for profit, this column will be conducted more for their help and interest than for the expert fancier or large breeder who raises poultry for a livelihood.—(Editor).

The manager of the Oakville Fruit Growers, Limited, the co-operative fruit growers' association at Oakville, that was described in the November HORTICULTURIST, desires to explain that while the fruit of the growers is stored in bins before it is graded, as stated in THE HORTICULTURIST, the apples are not stored in bulk, but kept in barrels in a separate compartment for each grower. The price paid by the association for barrels this year was 33 cents.

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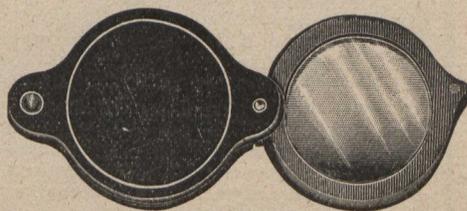
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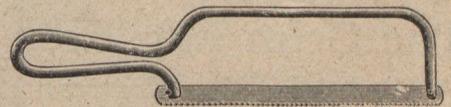


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