

### Ladies vs. Fancy Poultry.

In our cities, where men are engaged in sedentary pursuits, and find it necessary for their well-being, to pass as many hours in the open air as possible, the care of poultry and pigeons to such cannot be too strongly recommended. A very little space in the back yard will suffice for a henery or pigeon-loft, and the care of these pets will keep many at home. I, myself, am conversant with several cases in which the wives of fanciers are strenuously opposed to any illusion to fancy poultry and pigeons, and their reason is that their occupation takes all their husband's time and attention, that the burden of their conversation with their friends is on this subject almost to the exclusion of all other, having heard nothing talked of but chicken since first the h-n fever took in their locality.

Now would say to these ladies and to all others situated like them, is it not much better that your husband's spare time be devoted to the care of the useful and beautiful among the feathered tribe, than that with dog and gun they forage the woods destroying those which the Creator never made for man's cruel sport? the dog and gun when not thus employed to be the constant terror of the household? Or shall they with rod and line wander through the fields day after day, following a sport equally exciting? Or would you have them keep horses, from which, to be sure, yourself with them would have much pleasure, but at a great expense and care, their conversation being "all horse?" Or would it be more suited to your inclinations, if their incomes did not admit of an indulgence in horse-flesh, that their superfluous time should be spent in the club or billiard rooms? There are many ways in which men spend their time, to which the culture of poultry and pigeons are preferable. Far be it from me to say that any husbands could find pleasure in a pursuit which should take them away from their homes and families, but I would in all kindness say to each fancier's wife, do not ridicule such a harmless recreation, but rather fall in with these views, thankful to see a few leisure hours occupied in so healthful a manner.

That the poultry and pigeon fancy is one of the most fascinating and useful of all the recreations which are followed by gentlemen is a fact. The expense of indulging in it may be adapted to the most meager income, or it may tax the resources of the moderately affluent, and it should be the last of all the pastimes, with which the wives of our fanciers should find fault. If they understood the situation better, they would be slow to denounce it.—*Downs, in Fancier's Journal.*

### Oil of Sassafras.

John E. Robbins, in a Southern paper says: "My plan, which I think is used by no breeder; has never failed me in completely ridding my fowls of every insect, and has demonstrated to me its infallibility. It is simply the use of oil of sassafras mixed with sweet oil, and apply a small quantity to different parts of the body of the fowl, selecting those points where the vermin would be most apt to hide.

"In applying the preparation I fill with it a small oil-can, so that I can force out as much or as little of the oil as I wish. A very small bit can be made to go a great ways, for one drop can be rubbed over two or three inches of space, and is not more troublesome to apply than the various insect powders. I use sweet oil because of its curative powers, but any kind of grease, no matter what, will do to mix with the oil of sassafras. The oil of sassafras is the eradicator, the other oil merely the vehicle. I believe common sassafras tea would be wonderfully efficacious.

"Make it in a large pot, then after allowing it to cool, dip the fowls in bodily. In one second the lice will be dead, and in ten seconds the fowls will be perfectly dry, if placed in the sunshine. It is hard to form an idea of the magical effect produced by the oil of sassafras. I have never tried the remedy in greater attenuation than that mentioned, (one to five or six), but I believe that it would be equally good if composed of one ounce of oil of sassafras to ten or twelve of any other oil or grease."

### Mesmerizing Poultry.

The *Scientific American* describes a method of putting any rooster in a state of catalepsy. Select a dark-colored table with a smooth top; place it so a narrow streak of sunlight will fall across the surface. Then set the rooster on the table, and hold his head down so that his beak comes in contact with the wood. Now, with a piece of chalk and in the sunlight draw a line straight from the bird's beak. Move the chalk very slowly, and by the time the line is a couple of feet in length the rooster will fall into a cataleptic or trance-like condition; and although the hands are removed from his body he will remain perfectly rigid for a minute or two. It is said that a black line on a white surface will produce the same effect. Hens may be similarly treated, but it takes much longer to get them into the trance state, it being necessary to hold the head down several minutes before they come under the influence.

France has 40,000,000 hens with only 5,000,000 women to throw things at them.