

Poultry Ward.

Non-Setting Hens.

When, where, and by whom the first hen that refused to set was bred, no record of time, name, or date, has yet been discovered. Certain it is, there are hens that utterly refuse to set, or perform any duties whatever towards their young. Some eleven years ago, the writer was presented with a dozen of eggs said to be Black Spanish. Eleven out of the twelve hatched, and seven grew up. Five proved to be cocks and two pullets. One cock had a pea comb and a spangled plumage, showing little or no Spanish blood. One had red wing-bows and double comb, and a third yellow legs. Two, however, showed pretty good Spanish blood. One pullet had a crest, and proved to be a poor layer. The other was plain, with a large comb drooping to the left, and proved a first-rate layer. (I have a fancy, it may be only a fancy, that hens with combs turning over the left eye are to be preferred for layers.) All her progeny was marked like her, and proved to be good layers. These hens were kept until they died a natural death, and neither of them ever manifested any disposition to set, although some of their chicks did.

I must relate a curious incident concerning a direct descendent from the crested hen. The hen in question had always been a remarkably good winter layer, never showing any inclination to set. Last summer, a brood of Leghorn chicks was placed in a small yard, to run at large—the mother hen being confined in a small coop adjoining. One day this Spanish hen was discovered to be clucking to these chicks, scratching and calling them up, and continued to do so to my surprise all summer. She mothered the chicks, protecting them, and searching for food for them during the day, but she never offered to hover them. She appeared entirely at a loss when she came to that part of maternity. Her duties ceased at night, when she would go to roost in the hen-house with the other hens, but bright and early, poor old Biddy, with her eight years' moult on her back, would be at her post ready to accept her charge, as soon as allowed to go abroad. In the fall she moulted, and laid a clutch of eggs, but towards the end of winter she began to droop, and died the following spring.

Thoroughbred non-setting hens I do not believe will ever set, although there are numbers who believe to the contrary. Of course they have the shadow of reason on their side for support, and allow that their species cannot be propagated without incubation, and hens are the most natural incubators and mothers; but we must in this centennial year of our existence allow room for advancement and improvement. If fowls are allowed to run down and run out, like everything else, they return to a normal condition. Non-setters are bred. No one supposes for an instant that in a natural state the mother hen leaves her nest of eggs to chance. Each one follows an instinct that guides her, after her kind, to have a care over her young, to protect and rear them. Non-setters are made by judicious breeding and care. By selecting eggs for hatching from these breeds that manifest the smallest inclination to broodiness, and by forcing feed that increases a growth of eggs it has been done. We have several distinct breeds of the non-setting varieties. High feed tends greatly to eradicate the broodiness from the Asiatics, so noted for their frequent inclinations to set. It is with difficulty the writer can procure Brahmas that will serve as incubators, as fast as required. Those persons who complain so bitterly of the persistent setting of the Brahmas are poor feeders. There is little difficulty in making them nearly constant layers. As soon as one manifests a desire to set by remaining on the nest over night, remove her to a tight place of confinement, from which she cannot escape, and feed well. A Brahma cannot resist the temptation to eat, and will not wait for a second invitation. Do not give her whole corn that fattens and only increases the fever to set, but prepare a nice dish of Indian meal, (and do not stint her, for she has a capacious stomach,) soft, like mush, with a pretty liberal sprinkling of Cayenne pepper, and place it before her. Leave it with her. You can return within the course of a few hours to find the dish clean. If the bird be infested with vermin, shoot her with the Persian insect powder gun, and my word for it Biddy will be ready soon to give you a dozen more eggs. Patience is always a redeeming virtue in the poultry business. Filth and poor feeding

cause many birds to retrograde. There is little profit in procuring fine fowls of fine breeds, and neglecting them, and then condemning the breed. Country Gentleman.

Nests.

The nest-boxes of hens should be moveable, so that, after hatching, and occasionally when used only for laying, they may be conveniently cleaned. One way is to whitewash them; but another, preferred by some, is to kindle a fire inside and char them. This process will effectually destroy vermin and their larvae, and will thoroughly purify the nests by leaving a coating of charcoal inside. This substance is one of the best antiseptics, and a perfect deodorizer. Boxes made of seven-eighths stuff—pine, hemlock or spruce—will outlast a number of the purifications by fire, as the process tends to preserve the wood, and by using carbolic acid freely about nests and the building generally, there will be little trouble from hen lice or other vermin.

Stock Notes.

Shorthorn Sales.

TORONTO, June 14, 15 and 16.

MESSRS. COCHRANE, BEATTIE AND HOPE'S HERD.

Cows and Heifers.

Table listing various cows and heifers with their owners and prices. Includes entries like Sonata, S. R. Streater, Cleveland, O. \$900; Sonata 2nd, \$500; Oxford Queen, A. L. Stebbin, Port Huron, Mich. \$480; etc.

Bulls.

Table listing various bulls with their owners and prices. Includes entries like Baron Siddington, W. W. Pickrell, Illinois. \$2,200; Lord Hillhurst, H. N. Moore. \$1,025; etc.

Summary table for Shorthorn Sales: 38 cows, average \$2,213 68; 16 bulls, average \$509 27; Total \$92,270.

After the above sale, Mr. Holderness, of Toronto, sold several good imported Improved Berkshires. The sows did not realize high prices; the pigs sold from \$11 to \$25 each. A few Shropshire Downs were sold, realizing about \$60 per ewe and lamb.

THE BOW PARK HERD.

Cows and Heifers.

Table listing cows and heifers from The Bow Park Herd. Includes entries like Imp. Waterloo Cherry Duchess and calf, Mr. S. R. Streater, Cleveland, Ohio. \$640; Mazurka 10th, Mr. S. W. Jacobs, West Liberty, Iowa. \$1,020; etc.

Table listing various cows and heifers with their owners and prices. Includes entries like Roan Duchess 6th and bull calf, Mr. S. W. Jacobs. \$500; Belle of Oneida and bull calf, Mr. S. W. Jacobs. \$600; etc.

Bulls and Bull Calves.

Table listing various bulls and bull calves with their owners and prices. Includes entries like Imperial Caesar, Mr. Thos. McCrae, Guelph. \$110; Duke of Sharon, Mr. W. Raikes, Barrie. \$170; etc.

Summary.

Summary table for Bulls and Bull Calves: 26 cows, average \$337; 9 bulls, average \$152; Total \$11,433.

JOHN SNEEL'S SONS HERD.

Cows and Heifers.

Table listing various cows and heifers from John Snell's Sons Herd. Includes entries like Lady Seraphina 6th, W. W. Williams, Everett, Mass. \$1,520; Annie Gwynne 2nd, Dr. Sumner, Woodstock, Conn. \$400; etc.

Bulls.

Table listing various bulls from John Snell's Sons Herd. Includes entries like Imp. Knight of the Rose, C. L. Davidson, Kettleby. \$25; Aldrie 9th, W. C. Kent, Chicago. \$500; etc.

Summary.

Summary table for John Snell's Sons Herd: 20 cows, average \$444 50; 4 bulls, average \$222 50; Total \$8,800.

MR. BENSON'S HERD.

Cows and Heifers.

Table listing various cows and heifers from Mr. Benson's Herd. Includes entries like Grace Hamilton, George Meredith & Sons, Cambridge City, Ind. \$170; Matilda, H. N. Moore, Red Oak Junction, Iowa. \$115; etc.

Bulls.

Table listing various bulls from Mr. Benson's Herd. Includes entries like Prince Cardinal, H. N. Moore, Red Oak Junction, Iowa. \$55; Sir Edward, H. N. Moore, Red Oak Junction, Iowa. \$45; etc.

Summary.

Summary table for Mr. Benson's Herd: 29 cows, average \$143 10; 3 bulls, average \$58 33; Total \$4,150.

MESSRS. THOMPSON AND LATO'S HERD.

ST. MARY'S, June 17.

Cows and Heifers.

Table listing cows and heifers from Messrs. Thompson and Lato's Herd. Includes entries like Minnie of Willowdale and calf, J. Jobling, St. Mary's. \$340; Minnie of Annandale 2nd, S. W. Jacobs, W. Liberty, Iowa. \$200; etc.