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James Rose, Newport Landing, Nova Scotia; 600, T. W. Pollard, 2 Richmond St., Point St. Charles, Montreal.

HOW TO HUNT AT THE POULTRY STORE.

The housekeeper may learn a thing or two from the following advice:—

The old way of testing a fowl's tenderness or toughness, by jerking it at the wing to see whether the skin directly underneath tears or not doesn't amount to much, and moreover, spoils the prepossession of the bird for the next investigator, in case you don't want to buy. General appearances are better to judge by. If a turkey, for instance, is young, the legs will be black and smooth, the eyes lively and the feet flexible. If old the eyes will be sunken and the feet, red and dry. In choosing hens see that their legs and combs are limber, which means that they are young. If the legs and combs are rough and stiff, they are old, but may be good enough for a pie or soup. A young goose will have a yellow bill and limber feet. An old goose will have both bill and feet red and dry. Ducks, if young, will be limber-footed; if fat, hard and thick on the lower part of the body. The same rule applies to wild ducks, whose feet, though, are red, besides being smaller than those of the tame ducks. Game can be just as easily selected, if you know how, which most folks don't. Partridges, for instance, if young, will have black bills and yellow legs; if old, white bills and blue legs. All old fowls, indeed, both domesticated and wild, may likewise be told by their hard, rough or dry feet. Hares and rabbits, if young, will be white and stiff, with ears that will tear like brown paper; if old, the flesh will be dark, the body limber, and the ears tough. The same conditions may be kept in mind in the selection of squirrels, save that the flesh, which is always more or less dark, must be judged by smoothness and firmness as indicating youngness, while the old ones will be limber and flimsy.

SKIRTS.

Each member of the gentler sex lives in a tent. Her skirts make the canvas and she is her own centre-pole. She carries this habitation around with her, except when she steps out of it, to go to bed. She goes to great trouble and expense in embellishing its exterior, and it is usually a handsome structure to look at. But it is nearly devoid of comfort for its occupant. But of late years it has generally been too small, so that a long stride could not be taken in it, and often of such arbitrary aesthetic shape that one had to distort herself in order to stay within. At times it is so long that it drags and wraps intolerably, and at others it is so short that the feet can't be kept under it. This tent-life is not so bad in summer, when even out-door existence is pleasant, but in winter the suffering which it entails is terrible. No matter how thick it may be made, the cold goes under it, chilling the dweller, and nullifying all her efforts to keep warm. Not long ago I met a young girl who was smoothly and apparently comfortably clad in a tailor-made suit. She was half frozen to death; but did she look so? No, indeed. She seemed as warm, to a casual observer, as a piece of toast. Her pretty face had a roseate glow, her gait was tremulous as well as springy with abounding health, a smile of solid comfort slightly parted her red lips. And yet I say that she was cold? Yes, all but congealed. Her appearance was deceptive. The color in her face was paint, very cleverly put on, with reference to a blending of its effects with those hues which she knew the weather would produce. The tremor in her walk was a scarcely repressible shiver. The smile had become so chilled that she could hardly have ridded her mouth of it if she had tried. Had it not been for the muff which kept her hands warm, she would have been frozen outright.