

My Experience With Orpington's

Alice Turner, Cadboro Bay Road.

I well remember my first little brood of buff orpingtons, hatched on the 4th of July, 1901. I have to thank Mrs. Octavius Allen, of Salt Spring Island, for the pleasure they gave me. They were strong, sturdy little birds, standing on short legs, planted well apart, as one loves to see them, because it speaks of strength and vigor of constitution. And how they grew! They were pretty at all ages (which cannot be said of all breeds).

As chicks, the buffs come next to the whites for beauty, in my estimation. Their deep, creamy tint and well-set up little bodies are most attractive. But a little white orpington just out of the shell seems to me the most beautiful little bird I have ever seen. The white is so snowy, velvety, and the shape of the little creature so perfect. To see a group of them looking up at you with those big dark eyes, and white feet, would turn almost anyone into a poultry lover.

Black orpington chicks were decidedly disappointing to me. They show a good deal of white, and their shape and carriage do not impress one as do that of the buffs and whites. As they begin to feather, it is a disappointment to see touches of white in the wings and round the faces, though in the second feathers this all disappears, and they are "as black as a crow," black, legs and eyes, as well as coat. As these three varieties of the breed grow older, they differ considerably. The buffs are large boned and do not fill out at an early age. They show many traces of black and white feathers, and are very difficult to breed solid buff. They mature fairly early, and my experience has been that they lay very well indeed, provided I feed for eggs, and an careful to make them hunt for their food. If, on the contrary, they are fed "anyhow" and can pick it up right where they stand, they grow fat and very broody. But they are the gentlest, and most docile of the three, and cover a good lot of eggs. I think they look lovely at all times. I am exceedingly fond of the buffs, and regret to give them up, as I intend; but I do it because I think I have found "a better thing."

The dainty white little orpingtons nearly always have an ugly age. They feather slowly, and many of the cockerels show a distressing amount of red skin, that seems so burned by the sun. But they are very strong birds, and as soon as their feathers cover them they are just as lovely as at first. They are all in white—white dress, white beak, white legs. On the green grass they are more dainty than any yellow-legged tribe, in my opinion. They are smaller boned than the buffs, and make good broilers. They are very graceful, and hold themselves like veritable aristocrats in the feathered world. They are less broody, too, than the buffs, and are easily broken, laying very soon. If they are allowed to bring out chickens, they lay again be-

fore the chicks are old enough to be left, in many cases. Like the buffs, they are, as a rule, perfect mothers, but the Leghorn blood in them shows in more excitability. My own birds are very tame, but so easily frightened, a stranger in the yard sends them into a panic. I think of the whole. They lay more eggs than the buffs under the same conditions, and are less inclined to put on fat.

But now I come to the black orpingtons. After two seasons, I feel confident that they are the best of all. They were the original variety, and came out in 1896. They made quite a stir in the poultry world at the time, being quite different from any breed then in existence. They were of immense size, like the Langhans, but with clean, short legs, and very full, deep breasts. They were much better than any other large breed, and as table birds their flesh was white and delicate. The large breeds of fowl, then, being rather coarse in flesh.

Now, after twenty years, they seem still to hold their own, and my own experience has been that they excel the other varieties, and are ahead of any breed I have ever had in my yards. While they are young I do not think them "handsome," but they are always "big for their age," and make splendid broilers and roasters—the flesh white and delicate. Such compact, round bodies they have, and so small-boned, they carry lots of flesh. As layers I have yet to find their equal. I took note of one pen of four hens this year, and in twenty days there was only one egg less than the number they could possibly have laid. That was wonderfully even laying, showing that each hen was a layer. I did not take account of the other yards, but they seemed much the same. And so it has been all the season, the nests were never empty in the black orpington yards, and every hen has given a good account of herself. They mature quickly, some of the pullets laying before five months' old. As they reach maturity they grow more handsome. Their feathers are very lustrous and dense set. People say black fowls are not attractive. Black is hardly a good description. A well-bred black orpington shows such a brilliant beetle-green, that it is beautiful to look at, and it does not lose this lustre at any time of year. It never seems to show a dull coat, or to look rusty. When we add to this its square frame, deep breast, short clean legs, and erect carriage, we may well say it would be hard to find its equal. It is a great thing to find a bird which lays as well as the small breeds, and yet is absolutely fit for the table.

As for the cost of feeding, I honestly cannot say that I see much difference. The smaller breeds are such wild things there is a good deal of nervous waste, and any hen that lays a good-sized egg must eat a good deal of food in order to produce it.

Chickens on a City Lot

A John St. Resident Makes a Handsome Profit From His Poultry.

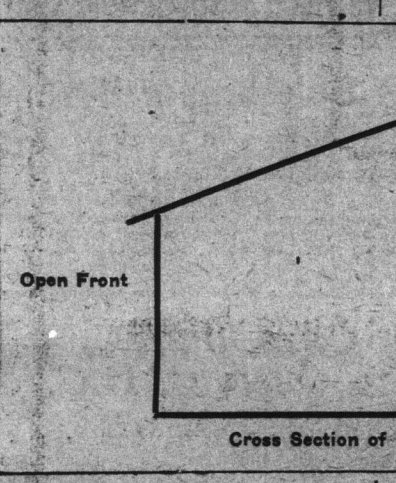
Written for the Sunday Colonist by H. F. Pullen.

It is customary to associate the extensive breeding of poultry with the suburban ranch or farm in the country, but W. E. Nachtrieb has proved to his own satisfaction that it can be done on a city lot. It is to be expected that greater care is needed where the grounds are small. This particular case Mr. Nachtrieb takes no pains to hide, so far as his efforts.

His place is an ordinary city lot, 120 feet by 60 feet, but besides the back part of the adjoining lot on which the dwelling house is built has been utilized for a similar purpose. Several large houses are used, as well as two colony houses, that can be moved from

dots from a special laying strain just lately imported from Australia. The progenitors of these birds won the first prize in the International Laying Contest in teaching, which 450 birds were entered. One of the pullets in this pen won the special prize last year for the best shaped female in the show. As a utility fowl, Mr. Nachtrieb thinks the Wyandotte is a leader. It is a heavy layer, matures early, is a good table bird, has a plump body and fine flavored meat.

While discussing the question of profitable breeds, Mr. Nachtrieb told of the results from his buff orpingtons. He says they average fifty per cent.



place to place. In one of the former he last year kept about thirty buff orpingtons with two cocks. The house is open in front and tight everywhere else, the open side being covered with wire netting and protected during wet weather by a drop curtain of some cotton material. The curtain is used only to protect from rain, never from cold.

There is a method in vogue now for an open front house, in which the open part is about four feet high, the roof sloping backward from this and then dropping within about two or three feet of the back. The perches are above the line of the open part, thus retaining the heat, while the carbonic acid gas as it cools, being heavier than air, descends and escapes through the open front. It has proved a success in the east, and the plan looks reasonable, so Mr. Nachtrieb contemplates trying it for his next house.

All the houses are built on the principle of the open front, with even other part tight. One of these is a double-decker, with the capons upstairs. Some of the capons are immense fellows, weighing from ten to fourteen pounds live weight. Where space is circumscribed, one must either capons or sell off the cockerels when very young. The meat of the capon, as everyone knows who has tried them, is tender and juicy, even after the bird has reached a year old. In one of the laying pens I found nine white wyandottes easy to make. There is a better

laying all the year round, and although he has not made up his returns for the year, he is confident that there will be a margin of from two to three dollars a head profit on laying hens. The orpingtons are good winter layers, but they continually want to brood. He keeps a hanging pen in his house made of slats, into which the brooders are placed as soon as discovered. Two or three days in this cooler is usually sufficient to break them from the inclination to sit.

The colony houses are constructed somewhat on the same principle as the others, but they are moveable. During the day coops and windows are opened on both sides, to admit all the air and sunshine possible. Although the houses are only 6 feet by 12 feet, they will accommodate about twenty-five laying hens. They are raised eighteen inches above the ground to allow of dusting places being beneath the house. In one of these Mr. Nachtrieb keeps Rhode Island Reds and in the other black minors.

A Sanborn home-made, fresh air brooder is the favorite here. Last year a round metal brooder was used similar to that recommended in bulletin 7, issued by the Dominion government. It was successful, but the most satisfactory and cheapest is the Sanborn. The cost of the metal brooder is \$3.25, while the material in the other can be purchased for \$1.75, and they are a so-called Sommer apparatus, in such wise that the very sensitive lever-con-

circulation of fresh air, and the chicks are consequently healthier.

Every chicken breeder has his own method of feeding. Mr. Nachtrieb's is what is known as the dry feed system. No soft mash is ever given, and the grain food is given in hoppers and is always before the bird. When fed in this way the fowls never eat too much and do not get too fat, as they often will when fed in any other way. A smattering of grain is thrown among the litter to encourage scratching. Every grain of this is picked up, even when the hoppers are full.

The food given is a mixed ration of ground grain and beef scraps. They get all of the latter they will eat, it is bought by the sack from the dealers, who get it from large packing houses. Mr. Nachtrieb makes his own hoppers on separate plans. One sort is just a box with slats over one side, above the level of the grain. This box is recommended by the experimental farm at Ottawa. Besides the food, the chickens are given all the charcoal they will eat. This is necessary to keep them laying, and should never be neglected. It is purchased by the sack and put through a Humphrey bone cutter.

Next to running water in a chicken yard, the best supply can be obtained from a self-feeding fountain. This can very easily be made from an old coal oil can. All that is necessary is to have a 1/4-inch screw soldered into the opposite corner from the faucet. The screw is for filling the can. When filled it is laid on its side with the faucet dripping into a shallow pan. As soon as the water rises high enough to cover the faucet, the water stops flowing, thus insuring a plentiful supply without wasting any. The outfit can be made at a cost of fifteen or twenty cents.

If there is a profit of two dollars on about one thousand square feet of land in intensive farming of the most pronounced type. If this can be done successfully, what may not be done where the conditions are more favorable? As with everything else, it is necessary to give much care and attention if the best results are to be obtained, and, more than that, the operator must know what he is doing. The beginner should keep only a few hens first, until he finds that he can handle these successfully. Then the flock can be increased. If there is a profit of two dollars each on hens, and Mr. Nachtrieb says there is a profit of three dollars, a comfortable living could be made from a thousand, scientifically handled. The results depend on giving plenty of fresh air, exercise and regular careful attention.

A Famous Horse That Reads Thought

The Literary Digest.

Our own naturalist, John Burroughs, frequently urges the danger incurred by observers of animals in assuming behind their acts the same motives as those as men would employ under like circumstances. This lesson is the main thought in an article on "The Human and Animal Westernman," by Monastheite (Brunswick, May), by the scientific director of the Berlin Zoological Gardens, Dr. Ludwig Heck. As an instance in point, the article contains the probable best account that has appeared of the case, in that city, of "Clever Hans" (Dr. Kluge Hans), Herr von Osten's Russian stallion, which has attracted so much attention. This horse, ostensibly given by its master a course of instruction patterned after that in the Prussian primary schools, gives by stamping with his hoof the answer to examples in arithmetic, spelling, words, etc. The numbers in the examples may even be known to the prover alone (in one instance, at least, never before seen by the horse), and not spoken. This is a case of a horse has been visited and studied for hours at a time by thousands, including princes, high government officials, privy councillors, college presidents and professors, heads of museums, etc., been described and discussed in the Prussian and German newspapers; and his fame has reached foreign lands, and even the New York Times has once including professional men, exerting their powers to the utmost—was able to detect anything like collusion between master and horse. Indeed, the horse performed equally well in the master's absence for Herr Schilling, the famous African traveler and animal expert, who spent months investigating the "reading" of the horse, and was not at all. The final solution of the riddle was a triumph for German scientific procedure.

Before the psychologists were willing to begin the positive investigation, the head of the psychological University-Institute of Berlin University required a public verdict of non-collusion from a body of acknowledged experts. Accordingly, a committee consisting of practical horsemen, horse-training adepts, zoologists, physiologists, psychologists, and veterinary surgeons was appointed, and after a series of experiments, unanimously reported that no training tricks of any sort of the circus kind were used, that the horse receives absolutely no intentional signals or consciousness from his questioner, and, further, that in the committee's opinion, no unintentional or involuntary signs are used. From this point Dr. Heck's article proceeds:

"Here now, after the ground had been leveled for them by the committee, the psychologists started in with their further investigations. And the extremely acute gift of observation and systematic work of Herr Oskar Pfungst, one of the younger psychologists from the University-Institute, especially, is to be thanked that we today understand Clever Hans case, and know how he did his examples and spelled his words, without rising above his horse's understanding to men's understanding. He has learned to read the answer from his instructor's face, quite small movements, to most people imperceptible, of the person (male or female) standing before him, to recognize when he must stop stamping. Clever Hans is a sort of Cumberland, a sort of thought-reader among the horses, as Dr. Moll in a discussion before the 'Psychological Society' very aptly called him.

"How does that happen, and how was that shown?" "Pfungst, who (as I have said) possesses an extremely keen and highly trained gift of observation, thought he noticed quite small movements in Herr von Osten when Clever Hans had reached the last number of the example. Schilling was unable to perceive the same, though, as master-shot and master-photographer of the animals of the African wilderness, certainly keen observation and quick apprehension may be credited to him. Such fine reactions are concerned here. Thereupon, Pfungst made the following clever experiment: He devised a so-called Sommer apparatus, in such wise that the very sensitive lever-con-

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trivances record even the most delicate movements of the person put into the apparatus in three different directions, greatly magnified as curves. More exactly I cannot express myself, not to forestall Pfungst in publicity. Now Pfungst had questioned the animal and given him, as it was the custom to do with Clever Hans, by various random persons put into this apparatus, and answered them by rapping. The lesson played (so to speak) Clever Hans; and the partner put into the apparatus, Herr von Osten.

"And, lo! each time at the last rap, when the number thought of and designated was reached, the apparatus scored extensive curves, i.e., the persons experimented upon made movements."

"Now Herr von Osten and his Clever Hans were again tested by two observers who were provided with fifty-of-a-second watches, such as are used at races, and who closely watched, one the man, the other the horse. By so doing, by the aid of the timepieces, it was plainly proved that the reaction occurred sooner in the man than in the horse—about a fifth of a second earlier. Thereby the external possibility was proved, the same time a great internal probability given, that Clever Hans perceived these slight movements and had learned to govern himself by them."

"That became still more probable through a repetition of the blinder experiments that had already been made earlier. Thereby it was plainly shown that the ability of the horse to answer ceased as soon as he could no longer see the questioner. Irrefutably proved, however, was the connection by means of further protracted and time-consuming series of experiments, made by observing with respect to the Pfungst, wherein this young psychologist manifested a quite astonishing self-control and nervous force.

"He could soon—and, of course, to day can still wholly at will make possible impossible the answer for the horse, according as he either avoids through the greatest conceivable nervous strain every (even the smallest) detail, or, on the contrary, allows the question without special effort like every other natural person. Pfungst is at present engaged, on the basis of a gigantic collection of observation-notes with all possible series of numbers and tables, in completing an exhaustive treatise upon Clever Hans that certainly will excite much interest in the wildest circles."

Hence it can now no longer be open to any doubt, we are assured, that Clever Hans performs in his answers no sort of mental work in the higher sense, but merely pays attention to the little, almost imperceptible, and quite unintentional helps that the questioner gives him. And the historical evolution of the matter will thus have been this: That, while Herr von Osten believed he was teaching his horse like a child, the latter was being trained merely in the close observation of the little movements of his master, in order to get his bits of bread and carrot the writer goes on:

"Clever Hans is most instructive, however, as an example of how in animals mental operations are possible that externally and apparently specific ally, resemble human ones exactly to a hair, but, internally and in reality, take place in quite different fashion. Clever Hans reckons and spells, apparently, exactly like a primary school pupil; and, in point of fact, he knows nothing whatever of numbers or letters, but merely pays close attention to the smallest unconscious movements of the person standing before him, which show him when he must stop with the hoof-pawing, in order to get bits of carrot and bread."

"At all events, the horse of Herr von Osten remains a phenomenon, the most remarkable animal of his species that has hitherto been known—an incredibly fine thought-reader among the horses, such as previously has not been dreamed of in the history of animal-psychology and of sense-psychology is assured to him and to his master."

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