

THE HOME GARDEN

HARDY LADY'S SLIPPERS

A bunch of the beautiful Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium Calceolus) is a reminder of that interesting race of hardy Orchids, never happier than in the bog garden, which we described recently. Probably no group of Orchids is more familiar than the Cypripedium, whether the Cypripedium of the Tropics or the Cypripedium of our own country, where it is eagerly sought for by the collector. Unhappily, as with so many of the rare and more beautiful wild flowers, the hardy Orchids are rapidly becoming extinct, and the writer never, even to an intimate flower-loving friend, betrays the whereabouts of any uncommon wilding. We know where the Bee Orchis flourishes, its little bee-like, velvety flowers a delight to watch, and the Habenaria scents the wind of early summer, but they are left in peace so increase and give joy to the few who know of their homes on the chalky downsides. The writer has grown most of the Cypripediums, and the species that has first place in his affections is C. spectabile, which is as beautiful in color and in form as any of the much-praised kinds from the Tropics. The place for it is a peaty, moist, but not water-logged bed, where the white Trillium and flowers that appreciate a moist soil and half shade flourish. It is a pretty flower, with a large rosy lip and several narrow, pointed petals, pale green foliage, which is in happy association with the bloom. A variety of it named alba is quite white, but we have a warmer regard for the species with the rosy cheeks. All the hardy Cypripediums appreciate a moist bed, such as the bog garden should afford, and shelter from the hot midday sun and from cold winds. They are not so much as the peat, well-decayed manure and some sphagnum moss, the latter to retain the moisture without rotting the roots. A perpetual slush will rot the roots; there is a great difference between a moist and wet, badly-drained soil, and the plants will show this in their growth.

Other beautiful Lady's Slippers Having started with Cypripedium spectabile, or the Moosasin-flower as it is popularly called, a desire will probably arise for others of the same family, and the writer is glad to state that most appeals to the writer is C. parviflorum, also an Orchid from North America, and quite distinct from spectabile. In this case there is a pretty harmony of brown and yellow, with fragrance and quantity twisted petals. A gem is C. californicum, which, as the name suggests, comes from California. This has not been seen more than one occasion of late, and has always attracted attention. It is not showy, but the little flowers of cream and greenish yellow, with a quiet beauty that is borne several together on a stem about a foot in length, and if they were less numerous would be probably almost unnoticed. C. guttatum is grown from Siberia, the bog garden, and we find that it must not have much moisture in winter. Its flowers are extremely beautiful, snow white, relieved by blotches of purple. C. maculatum, from Siberia, is deep purple; C. pubescens, pale yellow; C. acule, rose purple; C. arctatum, a charming little species with green and brown sepals and petals of white. C. candidum, of similar coloring except for the white pouch, labellum, or lip, as it is variously called; C. japonicum, from Japan, crimson and white; C. calceolus, one of the prettiest of all; and C. montanum, purplish brown and white. All the Cypripediums are a success in pots, and where the outdoor garden is not a possibility for the culture a cold greenhouse or frame will give the necessary protection.

The Importance of Hoeing During the summer months the hoe should be kept busy at work. Hoeing is an operation that has a greater bearing on the successful cultivation of vegetables in particular, than the gardener is aware, and for the reason that it keeps the moisture in the soil, sweetens it and promotes greater activity of the roots. Apart from these great considerations, there is the pleasant fact that well-hoed ground is impervious to weeds. We never water a crop unless the weather is so dry that such is necessary to save the plants; but hoeing, then, use the water-can freely when occasion arises, and one begins to water in prolonged drought, it must be kept up, and always avoid what is known as a "caked" surface—that is, a surface which is so solid as to be almost impervious to water, whether from the can or the sky. As a well-known horticulturist says: "The hoe serves a double purpose—it aerates the soil, keeps the soil moist, and eradicates weeds; in fact it must be classed as one of the most useful tools the gardener has. By its aid the ground is kept clean and in the condition best suited to the needs of the growing crops."

Random Notes The Rose Maggot—Only the closest care and attention have we saved our roses this year, never having experienced so much trouble as we have this year. The roses have been examined, and hundreds of the marauders, in various stages, crushed between finger and thumb. The beetles curl themselves in the leaves and young growths, and soon destroy them, not omitting the buds also. There is no remedy except the personal application of finger and thumb, as any insecticide given would be too strong to kill them without destroying the leaf or shoot too. Patient search has its reward, and we have committed great slaughter, and the happy result that the roses are as fresh as the queenly flower should be in the drowsy, fragrant summer days when all the garden is "blowing." Siberian Iris Snow Queen—A beautiful variety of Iris sibirica was shown recently by Messrs. Wallace and Co., of Colchester; it was named "Snow Queen," and it could not have been more appropriately christened. The flower is as white as a snow-drift,

large of its kind, and relieved only by a faint yellow suffusion at the base. It is a lovely Iris and a peerless flower for the water-side, bog garden, or anywhere where the soil is not very dry. We well remember the species by a pondside in the Wisley garden of the Royal Horticultural Society. It was planted by the late Mr. G. F. Wilson as the forerunner to the Japanese Iris, which made trails of beautiful and varied coloring a few weeks later. The Siberian Iris grows abundantly, sending up its Rush-like leaves in abundance, and above them the clear blue flowers, a shimmering of blue as sweet to look upon as our native Flag by the brook and river brim. A white kind was already in existence, but "Snow Queen" is whiter and larger, without losing in grace.—Country Life.

RANDOM NOTES

A beautiful tree for foliage.—Looking through the collection of trees and shrubs at Cheshnut recent, the noted-flowered Prunus pissardi was noticed, the type has been largely planted in parks and gardens, but the double variety will probably prosper. The foliage is much brighter in color and the contrast is at once apparent when the two are close to each other. That of the more recent acquisition is a rich crimson, through which light seems to shine. Trees with foliage of such conspicuous coloring as this must be used with care, but there is nothing objectionable in the warm rich hues unless the planting is overdone.

Two Beautiful Delphiniums.—This is the season of the year to make notes for future planting. Two delphiniums are marked for planting next autumn. One is called "Ben Davies," a flower of warm purple color, the spikes straight and not unpleasantly symmetrical; the other is Ben Davies, an intense blue color, which stood out in a large collection of many other delphiniums. A group of each of these would add much to the attractions of the border.—Country Life.

THE POULTRYMAN

STANDARD POULTRY

Standard varieties of poultry are those which are recognized by the American Poultry Association as being pure-bred and worthy of a description in the Standard of Perfection. To obtain this position for a new variety, it is necessary to produce evidence which shows that at least 50 per cent of the chicks shall come true to Standard requirements, that is, shall be true to the color and shape of the parent, and be free from any blemish or defect.

This interpretation of the rules is usually very liberally construed and when a breed has 25 per cent of birds which would pass at the hands of any competent judge, there are other varieties, which rarely produce an absolutely disqualified bird, although such quality may not be very common in the young.

In formulating the Standard now in use, 100 points was taken as representing perfection and the requirements were given so severe that it would be impossible for any breeder to produce a bird which might become, to ever produce a bird which would score the full number of points.

It is almost impossible for a beginner in poultry breeding to properly apply the Standard. There are many reasons for this. The first is that very few beginners have ever studied the philosophy so judging as to understand the importance of properly applying the description to the fowl in hand. This may be said of a good judge of our judges also. These apply the Standard according to false teaching, lack of appreciation of certain points, causing them to cut too deep in certain sections and not enough in others.

No judge is as good as all Standard varieties as he is in some of them. This has led to putting a large number of judges on the work in the larger fairs and assigning to each the varieties of which he is the most competent judge. The smaller shows cannot go to this expense, and an all-around judge is secured, who is not competent to deal out even justice to all exhibitors.

The best that can be said of all-around judging is that each exhibitor has an equal chance. If the judge is not competent to judge any particular variety, he is equally incompetent in the case of every other variety, which passes through his hands, and the exhibitors have an equal chance, though their birds may be scored either too high or too low.

We have seen judges cut the comb of a game fowl, in a female, as much as he would a similar defect in a Leghorn, although the comb of the game fowl is not counted as being one-third as valuable as is that of a Leghorn.

Some breeds have thirty points assigned to head gear, while others are given no points at all. If similar defects are cut in the same way, that may amount to one-third the value may be given to one variety in another with higher value for the same point.

The value of each section is an arbitrary one, fixed according to the difficulty of breeding a bird perfect in that section. The breeder should study this difference with care and try to understand the motives of the makers of the Standard in fixing values for the separate sections.

Before we shall have finished this series, we intend to go over all the Standard varieties, pointing out in a brief manner how the beginner may avoid the common mistakes of his competitors, and thus be able to determine which of his birds he should keep and which of them reject. It is not the intention to make this series a course of lessons in judging, but rather a practical experience in breeding poultry, much attention to the work of competent judges in the show room and a great deal of study.

We have in mind pointing out the

fundamental principles of judging as we understand them, and shall be glad to have suggestions and opinions from others concerning the matters treated, all of which will receive consideration and be put before the public as fully as the demands on our space will admit.

Not infrequently beginners reject birds which should have been kept for breeders, and more often they retain birds which should have been sent to pot as soon as they had developed enough to show what they would be when matured. In much the larger number of cases, these mistakes are made through ignorance of the principles which apply in selecting stock which will fill the requirements of the Standard.

While the rules of judging published in the Standard do not give any definite score below which a bird shall be considered as being disqualified, it is generally conceded that a bird which will not score up to eighty points is not worthy of attention as a breeder or in the show room.

No large show is ever held at which birds are rejected, and a breeder could not have any chance to win in any show. To enter such birds is an indication of ignorance on the part of the exhibitor, as well as a detriment to his success. At one time we judged a good many poultry shows, and it was the inevitable rule to find disqualified birds, as well as those which, while not positively disqualified, scored so low as to be of no practical value except as market birds.

The beginner is likely to think that because he has bought eggs and stock of a particular breed, he is bound to buy to secure a number of old ones. Young fowls are better for breeding purposes than young fowls, and a breeder should not be tempted to buy young fowls rather than to attempt to secure a number of old ones.

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In order to insure the best results, eggs for breeding should be obtained as early in the fall as possible, not later than October. They should be kept in a cool, dry place, and should be turned frequently. The most prominent fanciers have attained to their positions by producing fine birds, but in this respect no one of them has the advantage over the others. The variety of the Standard is not a matter of degree, but a matter of fact. The Standard is not a matter of degree, but a matter of fact.

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of affairs. We have hatched chicks in the fall that turned out to be fine fowls after they had matured the next spring.

BUTTERMILK FOR POULTRY

It has long been known that buttermilk is one of the best drinks for invalids and for the average person, but I doubt if very many who are interested in poultry realize its value as a drink or food for poultry. Buttermilk contains about the proper amount of lactic acid necessary to induce perfect digestion. It may also take the place of meat to a great extent.

It keeps the fowls in a laxative condition, and at the same time furnishes considerable valuable, readily digested food. I prefer to give it to them in vessels, but if soft feed is given them, it will mix with it. The fowls are very fond of it, and it has proved as valuable for the hens to produce eggs as for the chicks to grow. It is made by taking a quart of milk and adding a half pint of cream, and then allowing it to stand for a few days. It is a very good food for poultry, and it is a very good drink for poultry.

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can generally be overcome. If the hens have been overfed, they will show it by the lack of eagerness with which they eat new food. After you are satisfied that they have been fed too much, reduce the supply, and add a little oyster shells to their drinking water for about four days. Grit or crushed oyster shells should be fed if want of lime is the trouble.

PIGEON NOTES

Bargains are sometimes costly.

Disappointments oftentimes lead to success.

Pigeons very rarely, if ever, become egg eaters.

You can not give your birds too much fresh water.

Don't say it can't be done. There are plenty doing it.

Never put off till tomorrow what should be done today.

Don't try to raise good birds from inferior stock (wasting time).

Pigeon manure, properly mixed with loam, is an excellent fertilizer.

No, the pigeon business isn't dying out. Only the lazy man dropping out.

Some men use the mistakes others have made as stepping stones to success.

Thomas Wright says a pigeon's prime of life is from five to nine years of age.

Are you trying to raise Hoo and pigeons in the same coop? Many have tried and failed.

If you were defeated at last winter's show, are you trying to improve your stock for this year?

"I have better birds at home," is often heard in the show room. Don't you believe one word of it.

Well, yes; he saved a few dollars when he started, but lost in the end. How? He bought cheap stock.

Never catch a bird in the day time unless absolutely necessary. This alone will make tame birds wild.

The breeding life of a pigeon is ten years, and they are in their prime between the ages of three and seven.

Some fanciers usually take great interest in their birds about a week before the show, and then wonder why they were defeated.

Never feed one kind of grain exclusively, as it is not good for the health of the pigeons, and greatly lessens the number of young birds raised.

It is said by experienced squab growers that in ninety-nine out of one hundred, if two birds are hatched, the first hatchling will prove to be a male.

AROUND THE FARM

PREPARING RANGE COLTS

In an address before the Iowa State Board of Agriculture, Prof. John A. Craig has given some lessons learned by experience in regard to this matter.

In reading the descriptions of the different ways of breaking horses, one cannot but be impressed with the fact that those advocating any system seem to think that it is the only system, and that it should be applied to all horses, and that it should be applied to all horses.

The range colts differ just as much as native colts do in their temperaments and characteristics, and one only needs to observe a few of the actual circumstances of the rearing of range horses to realize that there is a vast difference in the character of the product that comes from the different ranges.

It would be a mistake for any man to say that all native colts are good horses, as well as it would be a mistake to say that they are all bad, and that statements would be just as applicable to range colts as it is to native colts. There are just as well bred horses in the range country as there are in any other section, and it is a mistake to think that a western horse must be a cayuse, broncho, or mustang.

In beginning the breaking of the colts that we have, the first feature to receive consideration was putting the colts on the halters and making the colts accustomed to being tied and led. With some it might be necessary to use force, but this has been used but rarely, and with most of them it was easy to get the halter on. We used a plain rope halter and then they were tied to something so firm that they would hold without any uncertainty.

After realizing the purpose of the halter and becoming accustomed to standing, the colts were then taught to lead. All the colts were subjected to this halter breaking during the first winter, and they were very frequently led, and the chief trouble, as it is with all kinds of colts, seemed to be the difficulty of overcoming the fear of the halter. Every care was taken in handling them at this point to lessen that fear as much as possible, and confidence was afterwards encouraged to the fullest extent by going to the colts in the field and handling them when it was possible to approach them.

Handling consists in putting the colts in the corral and getting them used to the feel of the bit in their mouths and the parts of the harness. This biting rigging consists of a bridle, bit, check, back pad and

can generally be overcome. If the colts have been overfed, they will show it by the lack of eagerness with which they eat new food. After you are satisfied that they have been fed too much, reduce the supply, and add a little oyster shells to their drinking water for about four days. Grit or crushed oyster shells should be fed if want of lime is the trouble.

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crupper. This is put on the colts and they are turned loose in a safe yard for half an hour. They get accustomed to the bit in the mouth, and after they have had the rigging on a few times they stop the restless champing and moving about, which is the result of the resistance which they put upon them. We give our light colts as much of this biting as possible, putting this harness on them more often than on the heavy ones, and as soon as they carry themselves in nice shape and do not seem to be restless under the harness, then this is added to by putting on the whole of the harness, and the colts are turned out to become accustomed to the feel of it.

After this restlessness has passed away, the colt is hitched up with an older horse and usually after going this way for three or four times he is ready to be put into the breaking cart and be driven single. From this time on it is a question of acquainting him with the sights and sounds of the neighborhood, and of getting him to bring out all the style and possible in carriage and gait. Our draft colts are much more easily handled.

Not-West Farmer.

GET IN SHAPE FOR SHOWS

All exhibitors who intend showing at the summer fairs have their animals practically in shape at the present time, and nothing remains to be done but to add the finishing touches. It may be, however, that the practice of a successful breeder and exhibitor of beef cattle, with whom we were conversing, would be of use to the exhibitor of other stock, will be useful as well as interesting.

It was his practice to keep his stock in good thrifty condition, but not to overfeed them, right through the year. He was allowed the run of a well-kept pasture, which contained a fine growth of trees. Though allowed the run of the pasture, they were let out for a comparatively short time each day at first, and were fed as large a ration of their regular rates of hay and chop as they cared to clean up. (We may say that the concentrated ration was composed of oat chop and bran, the proportion of bran being larger.) They were thus kept growing steadily and laying on flesh to a moderate extent, anything that was allowed to scour and lose out doors they had gained. Being high in the fall, and well conditioned, they were let out for a comparatively short time each day at first, and were fed as large a ration of their regular rates of hay and chop as they cared to clean up. (We may say that the concentrated ration was composed of oat chop and bran, the proportion of bran being larger.) 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