

TO CAPONIZE

the hip; pull out enough feathers to make room for the incision. Wet the surrounding feathers with a disinfecting solution. Use a pad of absorbent cotton. Change solution often enough to keep it clean.

Use a separate dish or pan with solution in which to place the instruments, being careful to replace them in the dish instead of laying them on the barrel. You are now ready to do the actual operation:

1. Place the bird with head toward right hand of operator. Stand to left and in line with the bird. Standing in this position, it is easier to locate the incision. There is less danger of making an incision in the wrong place.

If the cut is made between the last rib, besides bleeding, the incision is so far back that the testicles cannot be seen. If the cut is made between the second and third ribs from the rear, the lung is cut and this usually causes death.

2. With the left hand draw the skin toward the hip, then with knife make a half-inch incision through the skin and the body wall between the last two ribs. *Do not cut too deep.* Keep the skin stretched until the spreaders are inserted.

3. Insert the spreaders in the cut, with the right hand, then hold with the left hand and open them slowly, enlarging the incision with the knife until the operator can insert the extractor. Fasten spreader guard and lay the spreader back on the wings. This leaves both hands free.

4. With the needle or probe break the membrane which lines the body cavity, taking care to pull upward, thus avoiding the possibility of pricking the intestines.

5. With the flat end of the probe push the intestines away from the backbone toward the abdomen. Do not touch the adrenal gland (the dark red object next to the backbone) or the bird will bleed badly.

6. The upper testicle now should be easily seen near the backbone—a creamy or deep yellow body from the size of a large grain of wheat to that of a small navy bean.

7. Insert the extractor lengthwise in the incision, turn crosswise, open, grasp the testicle firmly, pull upward gently to be sure that blood vessel is not pinched. Then, if free, pull gently until the testicle is free from the body. Bring outside the body.

8. Twist the cord and cut with the knife. If young birds it is not necessary to cut the cord, as the testicle will break loose.

9. Be sure that the cord drops back into the body cavity or the bird may bleed to death later.

10. Without removing the weights and strings, turn the bird over and repeat the operation to remove the testicle from the other side. Stretch the skin toward the head instead of toward the hip, keeping the head of the bird toward the right side of operator. When the bird is turned, it is easy for the operator to step to the opposite side of the barrel.

DANGER! Some people remove both testicles from one side, but unless one has become quite expert the loss is much greater. The danger comes from catching the large blood vessels leading to and from the adrenal gland (the dark red organ just between the testicle and the backbone).

11. If the operation is performed on one side only, remove the lower testicle first, then the upper one; otherwise, the blood from the upper will make it difficult to see the lower one.

CAUTION! One must be careful in either case to grasp the testicle cleanly for if a part is left the operation is not successful—that is, instead of a capon, a "slip" is the result. A slip has the appearance of a capon until about four months old then develops a large comb and wattles.

If a small yard is available, the chicks should be kept in it for a few days so that one may watch for wind puffs: the skin sometimes puffs up around the wound and if this puff is left it makes the birds look like toy balloons. If a puff appears, prick the skin to let the air out. Sometimes this needs to be done two or three times. The skin may be cut with a sharp knife, razor blade or a pair of scissors.

The birds should be given water at once and mash may be given soon after the operation. It is wise to mark the caponized birds by cutting off the nail of the back toe, punching a hole in the web between the toes, or clipping the web to where the toes join because one cannot notice an immediate change in appearance as the scab of the incision quickly disappears and the birds might be killed or sold as fries instead of being left to develop as capons.

Turning Away Her Wrath.

"Oh, George," wailed the frail and tender-looking young woman. "I have found out that you were devoted to no fewer than five girls before you finally proposed to me. How do I know that you didn't make desperate love to all of them?"

"I did," answered George.
"You did?" she asked, horrified.
"Certainly," he returned. "You don't suppose for a minute I should be so foolhardy as to try for such a prize as you without a little practice, do you?"

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HOUSE

The bath rooms are tiled and the plumbing fixtures are of the built-in type. A boiler room and laundry, together with coal storage, have been provided for in the basement. The heating is by hot water with oil burning equipment. The cost of the house and garage, providing that simple finish is used for the interior woodwork, would be about \$10,000.

Readers desiring further information regarding the plans and specifications of this house should communicate with the architect direct. Address Lawson and Little, 374 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, Que.

