

Best Kind of Poultry to Keep.

This is a question often asked, but without knowing some of the circumstances of the inquirer, it is as hard to answer as would be the simple interrogation, "What dog should I keep, or what horse should I keep?" The various breeds of fowls have been brought up to certain perfection to meet the various conditions; how much is due to accident or design we will not now discuss, but we do find varieties fitted to different circumstances and uses. For instance, a man who wants to raise fowls to kill for market would not think of Hamburgs, nor of the Cochin for market eggs.

A large class of poultry keepers are those who live in small towns, or suburbs of large ones, who wish to enjoy the pleasures of poultry society, and to have a few fresh laid eggs daily; this can be done with a few birds which would consume the scraps from the house with profit. To suit such conditions the Brahmas or Cochins are highly fitted, being very quiet, gentle dispositions. If well fed they will be contented in a very small space, lay well through the winter, and are good for the table at any time of good condition; if not fat, they can be made so in very short time, as no fowls take on fat so readily. They require but little fencing to keep them in; 2 feet high is sufficient. There are other fowls that will bear confinement tolerably well. Some are very handsome—such as the Hamburg Spanish, and Polands, Leghorns and Plymouth Rocks require a little more liberty. Those that require still more liberty or larger space are Games, Houdans, all other French breeds, and Dorkings. Here let me say of all fowls, space or care is the secret of health; that is, the less space the more care. When kept with full liberty, as on a farm, little care is required with adult fowls in summer; but as soon as their liberty is curtailed, more change of food and cleanliness must be given. For a farm some of the best fowls for market are the Houdans, Dorkings and Plymouths, all large, spare-bodied birds. The two former are far-famed for the fine flavor and delicate flesh; they breed large, early Spring chickens when crossed with light Brahma hens. For eggs for market, the Leghorns still hold their own, both in quantity, quality and size, all three considered together. After keeping an equal number of white and brown in a house partitioned in the middle, with a run at each end for each variety, giving them all the same attention the brown proved slightly more profitable than the white, during the spring months, and in hardness and constitution the chicks of the brown were much the strongest. The circumstances were as good as could be with both breeds. Pulls of each were procured from one party, and the cockerels from others, of the finest strains, and the brown came out ahead.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria is a disease which springs from the growth of a real fungus on some of the mucous surfaces of the throat. It may be spread by contagion of the mucous surface of a diseased with those of a healthy person, as in kissing, and is a limited degree epidemic. From the local parts affected, it spreads to the whole body, affecting the muscular and nervous systems, vitiating the lymph and nutrient fluids, and producing paralysis. As soon as the bacterium or fungus appears in white patches on the throat, it should no more be neglected than a bleeding gash, or a broken arm, and there is almost as little need of a fatal termination of one incident as of the other. It has been found by actual experiment, both in and out of the human system, that this bacterium is killed by several drugs, the safest and most certain of which is chlorine water. This wash is harmless, even when swallowed, and is pretty certain to arrest the disease. A well known physician in this city, who has pursued this treatment for fifteen years, has found it effective almost without exception, and has in that period often broken up the disease in localities where it had raged violently, and defied treatment. Prior to its use, he lost three cases out of six, but has since used it with scarcely a failure, during the above mentioned period. The recent great epidemic of diphtheria, gives the highest place to this method of treatment. To keep the patient well housed, and warm, with additional funnel clothing, and to keep the system well nourished, and the bowels open, are matters often neglected, but with care in these matters, and early application of the remedies above suggested, there is no need of the disease proceeding to a fatal termination, or even to the debilitating illness, and painful catarrh which go together in its later stages.—*Springfield Republican.*

Keep Straight Ahead.

Pay no attention to slanders and gossip-mongers. Keep straight on in your course, and let their backbiting die the death of neglect. What is the use of lying awake at nights brooding over the remark of some false friend, that runs through your brain like lightning? What is the use of getting into a worry and fret over gossip that has been set afloat to your disadvantage, by some middle-age busy body who has more time than character? The things cannot possibly injure you unless, indeed, you take notice of them, and in combating them give them standing and character. If what is said about you is true, set yourself right; if it is false, let it go for what it will fetch. If a bee sting you, would you go to the hive to destroy it? Would not a thousand come upon you? It is wisdom to say little respecting the injuries you have received. We are generally losers in the ones if we stop to refute all the backbiting and gossiping we may hear by the way. They are annoying, it is true, but not dangerous, so long as we do not stop to expostulate and scold. Our characters are formed and sustained by ourselves, by our own actions and purposes, and not by others. Let us always bear in mind that "calumniators may usually be trusted to time and the slow but steady justice of public opinion."

Hanging Baskets.

There is nothing more beautiful among floral ornaments for winter, than a well-filled and cared for hanging basket, such as many have become accustomed to seeing only miserably filled and more miserably cared for. Such persons cannot be blamed for not having any particular liking for them, for the really beautiful "hanging garden," as it might be called, is unknown to them.

A great many suppose a hanging basket is merely a small, round receptacle of some kind, filled with a few common climbers and drooping plants. These may be made quite pretty, but the finest style of hanging basket or garden, is made about as long as the window is wide, and about a foot wide, to be suspended so as to be above the bottom sash. Any rough half inch boards, about five inches deep, and covered with pieces of birch bark, nicely tacked on the sides and bottom makes a very tasty and pretty appearance when filled with plants.

For climbing and drooping plants select those of a clean healthy growth; for climbing nothing excels the German ivy, impatiens, morillon, Tropaeolum, lupinus, corton, scandens, sweet potato or Japan variegated, honeysuckle, and for drooping the ly-simichia numularia, saxifraga linaria (coleum ivy), tradescantia, (especially the newer variety t. aquatic) vines, nicania scandens, polygonum scandens, sedum, lobelia, crassula and ivy are, excellent and of clear and rapid growth.

For upright growth, without support, the varieties of dwarf geraniums, the begonias, coleus, achyranthus, cupress, dracena, ferns, centaureas, cyclamen, norenbergia, petunias, peritropae angustifolium and heliotropes are all good, and the list might be made much longer and include many other excellent kinds but the above will be sufficient to make a good selection from. Do not undertake to put in too many plants as it causes confusion and crowding, causing them to drop their foliage and look "so forlorn."

A basket of size named—may hold to advantage geranium ortulatum, germanium Jean Sisley, silver geranium Mt. of Snow, tri-color geranium Mrs. Pollock, dracena terminalis, for centre, with a centreaea gymnocarpa on either side, and two norenbergia (n. frutescens), with lobelia, caelestina or gracillia, and interspersed with linaria, eynularia for drooping, and lilies for climbing plants, making a very handsome and attractive ornament, and if kept in good health, and well watered will last without renewing for a whole season.—*Cor. Our American Farmer.*

Some Western Ranchmen.

During my trip hereabout, I have visited the ranches of several New York, Boston and Philadelphia boys, who have left home luxury to become ranchmen, and who are making money rapidly in the growth of cattle and sheep. Among those who have exchanged the comforts of the east for this life of adventure and excitement are Professor Clarence King; Charles Moley, nephew of the dead historian; L. G. Briggs, son of Richard Briggs, the Boston merchant; Willbur Raymond, who graduated from Wesleyan University, class of 1874; Galusha A. Grow, Jr., a nephew of Sidney Dillon, and many others whose names I might mention. Clarence King says the only true way to live in this world is to raise stock on the Laramie plains during the summer months and spend your winter alternately in New York, London and Paris. There is fascination about this wild, roving, adventurous, independent life of a ranchman, which I can readily understand captivates young men of birth and education especially when there is money in the business. "When I am my own master I am not tied down and can make five times as much money as I could at any business in Pennsylvania, it is not surprising," said Mr. Grow, to me "that I should enjoy this life." Many of the ranch houses a few miles away from here are made of old worn out rail ties, when new were out in the Medicine Bow and other neighboring ranges of mountains, and floated down in the Laramie and other streams to the railroad track.

A man in Kansas who was too mean to advertise land he wanted to sell, put up a written notice in one of the hotels the other day. A man who wanted to buy a small farm was referred to the written notice, when he replied, "I can't buy land at a fair price from any man who does his advertising in that way. He would steal the fence, the pump handle and barn-doors before he gave up possession."

New Haven the other night a woman came to the police station and said she felt so remorseful for having tried to strike her husband she wanted to be locked up as a punishment. If this thing becomes any way common the country will have to build a lot of new and commodious jails.

"Where is the dollars of our fathers?" shrieks an exchange excitedly. You needn't look this way so intently. We're willing to be searched.—*Rochland Courier.*

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

A REMEDY FOR CATARRH.—Dry and powdery mullen leaves, as fine as you would powder sage; then smoke the smoke escape through the nostrils instead of the mouth. This is one of the best remedies for catarrh in the head. It has entirely cured a case of over twenty years' standing, when every other remedy heard of failed to do so. It may require a little practice to let the smoke escape through the nostrils. Mullen will be stronger if gathered before the frost injures it, but will answer even if dug from under the snow. It will also be found an excellent remedy for cold in the head.

CANCER CURE.—An old Indian doctor in Oregon, pronounces this a sure cure: Take common wool sorrel, bruise in brass, spread it in the form of a poultice, and apply as long as the patient can bear; then apply bread and milk poultice until the patient can bear the wool sorrel again; continue this until the cancer is drawn out by the roots.

Stramonium, known also as Jamestown (corrupted into jimson) weed, is an effective remedy for snake bites, and will cure them even some days after they are inflicted. The weed should be applied in the form of a poultice. In the absence of any other remedy, cauterizing the part with a live coal is good especially for horses and cattle.

ANOTHER BIG WHEAT STORY.—The Vaneburg (Ky.) Courier has seen a head of African wheat in bloom that is fourteen inches long and looked as if it would have made a pint of grain. It grows ten feet high, produces two crops from one stalk, and will yield one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre. The Courier thinks it will revolutionize the wheat product of this country.

CENTRAL BISCUIT.—Make good corn mush, just as if you were going to eat it with milk. When it is lukewarm, take a quart of it, work in flour enough to make a stiff dough, make into biscuit, put in your bake pan, set in a warm place over night; bake in a very hot oven, and you have the best and sweetest biscuit you ever ate. Eat while hot for breakfast.

WILD CRABAPPLE JELLY.—Wash the fruit, and with a sharp knife remove the blossoms and stems; cover with water and boil until soft; then strain, add 1 pound of sugar to each pint of juice; boil 15 or 20 minutes. This is very nice.

A subscriber asks: Will you please give your readers a good recipe for making sweet pickles of green tomatoes? The following is one I have tried for several years. It is good and cheap: Slice one peck of green tomatoes; dissolve one pint of salt in water enough to cover them; let them soak over night; then rinse in clear water, and drain. Take one gallon of cider vinegar, three pounds of brown sugar, cloves, allspice, cinnamon to your taste, and boil slowly for half an hour.

New York's richest millionaires are rated as follows: William H. Vanderbilt, \$75,000,000; John Jacob Astor, \$50,000,000; William Astor, \$30,000,000; Peter Goelet (estate), \$25,000,000; Russell Sage, \$12,000,000; Moses Taylor, Judge Hilton, Fredrick Stevens, and Catherine Wolfe, each \$10,000,000.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, the other day: "A hysterical woman is a vampire, who sucks the blood of the healthy people about her." And now the papers throughout the land have leaders on this new "National Domestic Evil," and discuss "vampire women" as a subject of public interest.

Moderately fat animals are the most profitable. Every excessively fat animal has been fed at a loss, during the latter part of its feeding. When an animal is ready for market, sell it; if there is feed left, buy some more lean animals, and feed them. "The nimble sinner" brings the profit.

A California miller lived on a California digger, and he was under the dirt for three days. He asked for fried eggs when taken out, and then inquired if Tilden had yet been sworn in. It seems as though he had been buried two months.—*Detroit Free Press.*

"Knowledge is power."—Policeman! "Now then, move on! there's nothing the matter!" Boy in the crowd: "Yer needn't tell us that; you wouldn't be here if there was."

A teacher in one of our grammar schools inquired, "What was the cause of the Revolutionary war?" The prompt reply was, "The yankees wanted Fourth of July and were bound to have it!"—*Boston Traveller.*

It was a Vassar girl who, when a sailor of forty years' voyaging had been pointed out to her as an 'old salt' subsequently alluded to him as 'an ancient chloride of sodium.'

Among a batch of Russian Socialist prisoners lately sentenced to exile in Siberia were several ladies, young handsome, and of high position.

When a Virginia gentleman asks another to drink, he blandly says: "Shall we give the public debt a lift?" And they lift.

A Pittsburg bar has been fined \$10 for hanging his own dog. The intelligent creature had been killing his chickens.

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