

ORCHARD and GARDEN

SICILIAN FOWLS.

The Sicilian chickens, as the name signifies, are from the island of Sicily. They were first brought to the United States, about 1863, by Cephas Dawes of Dedham, Mass., who was a sea captain. Captain Dawes had a cargo of oranges, raisins and figs destined for America and took on board a coop of these chickens as a supply of fresh meat during the voyage. The hens laid so many eggs, and large ones, that he decided not to kill them; so he took them to his home. One of his neighbors, C. Carroll Loring, Dedham, Mass., observed the excellent laying qualities of the fowls and secured some of the stock for himself, and he has preserved the stock pure all these years.

Only one other importation has been made, so far as any available records show, and that one was by John B. Gough, the late well known temperance lecturer, whose home was at Worcester, Mass.

The male is described by Mr. Loring as of a reddish butter color with neck hackle a little darker. The comb is in the shape of a cap, and this form, together with the color caused Mr. Loring to give to them the local name of Buttercup. The females are laced somewhat on the back and are lighter in color than the males.

The mature males weigh from 5 1/2 to 7 1/2 pounds, and the females from 4 1/2 to six pounds. The dressed fowl is plump and very yellow.

The Sicilian is of a quiet disposition, yet vigorous and always busy. They are very prolific, and the eggs are said to be exceptionally large and beautifully white. The advocates of this breed believe it can, by proper selection in breeding, soon be made to produce three hundred eggs per year. It has already considerably exceeded the two-hundred mark.

It is also claimed for this breed they are non-sitters, which means that they are not much inclined to sit.—American Cultivator.

FEEDING AND LAYING.

The best of feed sometimes fails to induce the hens to lay. This is not because the fowls do not get enough, but because it is not the kind they desire. It may be feed consisting of everything that serves to satisfy the demand for egg material, and yet no eggs will be the result. There are several causes for this, one of the principal being the fact that a plentiful supply of fresh water is not always within reach, and unless water is plentiful the fowls will not lay. Water being the principal substance in an egg, it cannot be limited. And in cold weather it must be situated so as to be either protected from freezing or else have a little hot water added occasionally. Now this is a troublesome job in winter, but water will freeze on cold days and consequently is useless to the fowls when in a frozen condition.

The feed, however, even when of the best quality, may not give satisfaction. In that case, when no eggs are being derived, change it entirely for three or four days. Give something entirely different in the morning from that previously given, even if inferior, but still give whole grains at night in cold weather, for then the fowls go on the roost early in the evening and have to remain in the coops until daylight, which is nearly thirteen hours, and so long a period demands solid food in order to keep them warm during the long, cold nights. Whole corn and wheat is best for them then, but in the mornings any kind of mixed soft food makes a good meal for a change. The changes can be made by using good clover hay, steeped in warm water after being chopped fine, slightly sprinkled, with meal, and fed warm, which will be very acceptable. A few onions chopped fine will also be relished. Parched ground oats or parched cracked corn is a splendid change of food for a few days from the ordinary routine of every day. It stimulates them if warm, and is a good corrective of bowel complaints especially if some of the grains are parched until burned.—E. D. S. in the American Cultivator.

FEED IT ALL ON THE FARM.

Rye is a very profitable crop on the farm, both in its green and ripe stages. The grain is good fed to the poultry, about 2 or 3 times per week, and ground and fed to pigs. Three parts rye, 1 part corn meal and one part wheat bran, mixed with water or milk and fed sweet, makes an excellent feed. In order to make the best profit out of it, the ground should be thoroughly prepared so as to have a good seed bed and retain the moisture. Before the last harrowing I would top dress with stable manure, using from 3 to 6 loads per acre, according to soil. In seeding I use 1 1/2 bushels per acre, sown broadcast. Should be seeded not later than the first of September, and harrowed in well. Where a person seeds in corn, it is better to use a drill, and spread the manure as soon as the corn is harvested. But I prefer the former way; then you have about 8 or 10 weeks pasture before winter, and as soon as the ground is settled in spring it is ready to turn on again. But do not let stock on while ground is muddy.

I sow common red clover in February. I pasture until about the last of May or first of June, then let rye and clover grow. When the clo-

ver is blooming freely, I mow the crop and put up for winter feed. Treated in this way, and using nothing but pure bred calves and pigs for eating the green crop, and feeding the clover hay and rye straw to the calves through the winter, I am sure I can make more profit and bring the ground up at the same time. In sowing rye for the grain, only use 1 1/2 bushels per acre and do not pasture so late in spring. The clover and rye hay mixed is also very valuable to use in the scratching shed for the poultry.—C. O. B. in the Indiana Farmer.

WHAT PURE MILK MEANS.

Many dairymen are complaining that they can not get an increased price for their milk, the same being yearly sum year after year, while certain dairy concerns are selling certified milk at prices which seem very high. Our friends do not consider that in order to produce the milk that will pass inspection many things are required which the average dairyman utterly ignores. The rules governing inspected or certified milk in many States are too lengthy to give here, but the one item of the care of stables as required by the law of the State of New York, which is similar to the law in other States, will interest the dairymen. The ventilation must be sufficient so that the barn shall be light and the air never close. The flooring shall be of wood or cement. The ceiling shall be tight if there is a loft above that is used. Basins, hand brushes, clean water, soap and clean towels shall be provided in the barn or adjacent dairy room. The stable shall be whitewashed in the fall and the spring, if necessary. A sufficient number of lanterns shall be provided to permit the milking to be carried on properly. Clean the ceilings and slings once a month. The bedding shall be shavings, sawdust, dried leaves, cut straw or other material that meets with the approval of the commission. The soiled bedding must be removed daily. The manure must be removed daily from the stalls and open manure gutter. If a covered manure gutter is used, it must be kept in a sanitary condition. If your dairy is run on this line, reader, so far as the stables are concerned, you would be in line, to market certified milk, because you would be willing to meet the other requirements.—Indianapolis News.

THE FARM TOOLSHOP.

It is the exception, rather than the rule, to find a shop as a branch of farm work nowadays. We run to the store for any little thing we want, pay two prices for it and lose valuable time. Our fathers had all of the small tools in the shop and could make any repairs not of a serious nature on any tool or appliance of the farm and do it quickly and inexpensively. Our hired help are kept busy on rainy days going over tools and wagons, painting and repairing. If the harness breaks there are waxed ends of thread ready for use or some rivets to repair larger breaks. The shop contains a small anvil and a vise as well as a wooden clamp in which to hold the ends of leather when sewing them. Nails, screws, bolts, hinges and the like are kept in small numbers, but in various sizes. Oils, monkey wrenches, chisels, hammers and the like are always there and we are prepared for any small trouble. A very small corner of the barn is large enough for the shop, and it will pay to begin now to fit up such a place, adding tools as one can.—Indianapolis News.

Discount for Shortage.

A couple evidently from an exceedingly rural district recently presented themselves at the home of a Buffalo minister, and announced that they wished to be married. The would-be bride was of a homeliness to cause one less pity for the blind, but the groom seemed satisfied, and as they possessed the necessary license the minister proceeded to perform the ceremony.

"How much dew that come to, Parson?" the man then inquired, bringing a handful of silver change from a deep trousers pocket. "Name yer regular agger that you charge th' swells. I'm goin' th' limit, by jinks!"

"Oh, I have no regular charge," the minister said; "just give me what you think its worth."

The groom turned and eyed his bride in a speculative manner.

"She's a good gal, of she ain't much on looks," he said, thoughtfully, "an' I'll be gosh derned ef she ain't with a dollar an' forty-five cents!"

He was about to hand over the silver, when the lady caught his arm, and deducted the five-cent piece from the sum.

"Wait, Si," she said. "Take back this nickel; you don't know it, but when I was a child I chopped off two toes with th' hatchet."—Harper's Weekly.

Consider Cuba's Feelings.

What on earth does a little nation like Cuba want with an army of 6,000 soldiers? Cuba is now a republic, and it seems to us that she ought to be able to get along without soldiers, except possibly a few companies of militia for show purposes on fast days. She isn't big enough to fight any other nation if every man on the island were in the army, and if she were attacked by a foreign foe she would have to yell to Uncle Sam for protection. Let her save her money and build roads with it.—Los Angeles Times.

SWEET'S HELP WEARY.

PROF. LEE EXPLAINS HIS THEORIES OF THE USE OF SUGAR

Work Burns Up the Carbohydrates Which the Body Needs and Sweet Things Are the Easiest Way of Supplying the Want—Alkalis Serve the Same Purpose.

Prof. F. S. Lee of the chair of physiology at Columbia University, who made the statement the other night at the Museum of Natural History that candy was a pretty good thing to freshen up on, said that he didn't want that statement to be taken too literally.

"Any form of sugar taken in small quantities will produce the same result," said Prof. Lee. "I suggested candy because candy is the most agreeable form of taking sugar. Molasses would be just as effective in knocking out fatigue or a few lumps of plain sugar would do as well."

Prof. Lee started his work by observing manifestations of fatigue, both physical and mental, in man and the lower animals. After he had collected a great quantity of data he turned his attention to the chemistry of the phenomenon. By experiments with the muscles of frogs and small beasts he has prepared interesting charts showing by means of wave lines the growth of fatigue in the muscles for a given length of time without stimulation. Then he has observed the same muscles after they have received injections of sugar or alkalis and recorded the results by means of the wave lines.

In every instance the muscle under observation manifested greater energy and became dormant more slowly after it had a luncheon of sugar than before. Prof. Lee has even tried the sugar treatment on himself after excessive muscular action and obtained satisfactory results.

"Other experimenters have gone further than I in that direction," said the professor, "and their observations have confirmed strongly my theory of the chemistry of fatigue."

"Everybody knows that the working of the muscles produces fatigue manifested by two kinds of physical phenomena, diminution of lifting power and slowing up of muscular contraction. I have found that these phenomena are brought on by chemical changes. The causes of fatigue are chemical causes. Get the causes accurately and we are in a good way to find the cure. That applies to persons in ill as well as normal health. It doesn't require a scientist to understand the immense importance of the work."

"The chemical causes are, first, the consumption of necessary substances in the tissues, literally a burning up of these substances; second, the accumulation of waste products in the tissues."

"The most important substance which is burned up when we work or play hard is some carbohydrate sugar or starch, as the case may be. I have treated animals with drugs and have removed from them the carbohydrates. I found they became fatigued, although they had done no work. Then I have given them sugar in the form of dextrose, and found that the fatigue disappeared rapidly. Some investigators have used men, putting them to hard manual labor, and then experimenting when the subjects were thoroughly exhausted. They discovered after the subjects had eaten a little sugar in the form of candy or something similar that in half an hour the fatigue began to disappear and went rapidly."

"Obviously the sugar quickly digested, replenished the wasted carbohydrate, and made the tired men fresh and energetic again."

"As to the second cause, the waste materials which are produced during activity, especially muscular activity. There are at least three kinds of these waste materials which have been recognized as important in causing fatigue. All are acids in reaction. One is a variety of lactic acid called sarcolactic acid, the second is monopotassium phosphate and the third is carbon dioxide, like the used up air we expel from our lungs. I have tested the action of these on the tissues particularly on the muscles, and I have found that each one is capable of producing fatigue."

"It is reasonable to suppose that if acids cause fatigue the condition can be removed by the use of alkalis. That has been proved largely correct. The most eatable form of alkali is ordinary cooking soda, sodium bicarbonate. Doctors give it in diseases where acids are a prominent feature, and it has been found very useful. Acids appear in some diseases, such as diabetes and fevers, to produce excessive fatigue, even coma. The use of alkalis has already done much to relieve that, and will do more if our experiments work out properly. In my own work I have found that injections of alkalis remove fatigue produced by the waste materials I have mentioned."—New York Sun.

THIRD RAIL EXPERIMENTS.

How Best to Avoid Trouble From Snow.

On many short electric railways in this country the current is supplied to car motors, not by an overhead wire and grooved wheel, but by a rail laid beside the two on which the cars run. "Contact" is effected by a sliding shoe at the side of the car, which is connected with the driving mechanism by a suitable conductor. Inasmuch as the New York Central experiments in the course of a few months to begin operating a portion of its line near this city by electricity, it is interesting

to use the third rail system, it has been making a lot of experiments on a short section of track in the vicinity of Schenectady to discover how best to overcome certain difficulties that are to be anticipated in winter. The third rail there is arranged in several different ways. In one place it is bare, in another it is partly covered by a shield, fastened three or four inches above it, and in a third place it is turned upside down, so that the shoe presses upward against the inverted rail instead of sliding along the top.

Early in the current month there was a fall of several inches of snow in the neighborhood of Schenectady, and the big electric locomotive that was built nearly two years ago for test purposes was trotted out. "The Railroad Gazette" says that on the first trip of the engine little trouble was experienced on the unprotected rail which was right side up; but subsequently the snow was packed down by the shoe so that a coating of hard ice remained. This was enough to interfere greatly with the passage of the current from the rail to the shoe. The protected rail did little better, because the snow plough would throw snow out sideways, and it would lodge under the cover. Except at one point the inverted rail behaved admirably. The exceptional trouble resulted from an accumulation of snow on the upper surface of the shoe; but contact tended to clean it off, whereas no such effect followed when the shoe was applied from above to a rail that was right side up.

After an inspection lasting all the afternoon, it was agreed that the conditions under which the locomotive was operating were more severe than in regular service, because no flaggers were being run over the line; also, that the snowplough at present used on the locomotive can be improved; that the operation of the shoe on the under contact rail is much more satisfactory than on the other types, and that the rail is much easier to keep clean. The under-running rail, to which reference is made, was designed and patented by Mr. Wilgus, one of the vice-presidents of the Central, and Mr. Frank J. Sprague, a prominent electrical engineer.

MOTHER ANTELOPE'S INSTINCT.

Her Provision for Her Young a Wonderful Instance of Providence.

The manner in which the mother antelope protects her young until they are old and strong enough to join the full-grown bands in their wanderings is an interesting and wonderful instance of Nature's providence. These beautiful creatures live in an open country infested by all kinds of enemies, and especially prowled over by the coyote, the gray wolf and the timber wolf, which subsist upon the young of all kinds of animals; yet the mother can easily protect her babies from the fiercest of these marauders. The enemy most dreaded is the soaring eagle.

There is a variety of cactus, a prickly plant which grows in great abundance all over the Western plains, which furnishes her the means for this protection. Horses, cattle, buffalo, and in fact, all animals know the danger of treading on this plant. It grows in large patches some four or six inches in height above the ground, and forms a thick mat varying in breadth from the size of the top of a man's hat to many feet. It is in the center of one of these patches that the female antelope prepares a place of safety for her young. The thorns of this cactus, while very poisonous and terribly painful to every other animal, for some reason are almost harmless to the antelope. The cactus may lacerate her legs, making them bleed freely, but neither the stickers nor their poison remain; while other animals seldom bleed, but retain the poisonous stickers in their wounds until they become malignant sores, causing excessive swelling of the limbs and very great and long-continued suffering.

When the antelope has selected her patch of cactus, backing away a few feet, she will make a running jump, bounding high in the air and alighting in the middle of the patch, with all four feet close together, the hoofs pointing downward. Then, springing out again and repeating this operation until she has chopped the roots of the cactus plant to pieces, she loosens and clears a space large enough for standing room. She then will enlarge it by pawing and digging with her sharp hoofs. Here she gives birth to her young in undisturbed security, knowing that she can leave them in comparative safety during the day and return to them at night to give suck. Should it be in a locality where eagles abound however, the mother does not venture far away, as the soaring eagle often swoops down on the young, taking them away if she is not there to do battle for their lives.—From H. H. Cross's "How the Antelope Protects Its Young" in the Century.

A Maiden Speech.

Very few persons acquit themselves nobly in their maiden speech. At a wedding feast recently the bridegroom was called upon, as usual, to respond to the given toast.

Blushing to the roots of his hair, he rose to his feet. He intended to imply that he was unprepared for speech-making, but, unfortunately, placed his hand upon the bride's shoulder, and looked down at her as he stammered out his opening (and concluding) words.

"This—er—thing has been thrust upon me."—Tit-Bits.

WORTH QUOTING

In Cook County exactly fifty murderers have been hanged in seventy years. Sixteen murders have been committed since New Year's Day states the Chicago Tribune.

Mrs. Craigie in a London interview says American women don't have large families, but they are very fond of their children. Too indulgent, perhaps; America is the paradise of the young of both sexes and of women at all ages.

A young man who is in love with a pretty girl thinks that he is fated to marry an angel. When it is all over, though, he sometimes regrets that he wasn't shunted by fate into marrying a cook instead.

The Electrical Magazine says: Quite apart from the electric lamp in street and window, the electric tram and car in country and town, and the electric motor in mine and workshop, electricity now pervades every aspect of our existence. The electrical idea is held in common by all; it has broken loose among the multitude.

Doubtless, observes the Chicago Tribune, there always will be persons so constitutional as to have more sympathy for condemned criminals than they have for the victims.

The New York Evening Post states that handwriting experts may express differing opinions on the stand as to the essentials in signatures, but there is one question in answering which they are unanimous: "What compensation do you receive?" "Fifty dollars per day, hotel bills and traveling expenses." Is there an "expert" labor union, with its minimum wage?

The Pennsylvania Railroad's report shows that its net income last year was \$38,000,000. It is going to be difficult for politicians to understand why a road so prosperous will not invite friends to an occasional free ride, comments the Washington Post.

Fifty-two entries in "The English Catalogue of Books for 1905" (Publishers' Circular, Limited), states the London Mail, refer either to reprints of or to works on Sir Walter Scott, forty-four to Dickens and fourteen to Thackeray.

We talk about the return to the simple life, extol it, advocate it, and adopt it in so far as it does not affect our social existence; but restaurants will go on flourishing, supper parties will continue and woman will eat all she can get; and if her complexion goes she will more and more resort to artificiality's artful aid, concludes the London World.

An English scientist has developed an apparatus for measuring the seventy-millionth of an inch, states the Buffalo Courier. With such an instrument, apparently it might be possible to measure the size of the souls of some of the big American corporation managers.

A trust is a trust, whether it be the monopoly of steel production, the beef combine, the sugar refinery, the cotton field, or the labor organization. Whatever hampers, restricts, or nullifies the law of supply and demand is a monopoly and a trust. If it is wicked in one case, it is wicked in all. If it is virtuous in one case, it is virtuous in all, declares the Washington Post.

Some shrewd Kansas farmers have taken to raising corn husks for hot tamales, a Mexican importation that is sold in Kansas City and towns in Indian Territory, relates the Springfield Republican. Twenty bunches of the husks make a full gunny sack, and these sacks are worth \$2 apiece. The Kansas City packing houses are also using the husks for casing sausages, which increases the demand for them. The husks have to be produced with care, so as to be nicely bleached and in good condition. It is claimed that there is more money in raising these husks for market than in feeding the corn to the cattle.

The season for the slaughter of eagles has set in. American eagles and golden eagles particularly have fallen victims to the insatiable desire of men to kill. Just why the sight of a large fowl flying harmlessly overhead or taking its rest on tall trees or hill top drives every hunter to his firearms we leave for others to figure out, says the Indianapolis News. If there is any sentiment in this country at all it ought to be of sufficient strength to prevent the destruction of the American eagle, as this theoretically is our national bird. It has already become so rare as to be a novelty, and to lead correspondents to consume much space in giving the details when some hunter brings an eagle down. It is singular that men with guns want to destroy the very last survivor of a disappearing species of bird or animal. One would think that the rarer a bird or beast became the greater care there would be to protect it. But the lust for trophies will not have it so, and the slaughter of eagles will go on until this great bird shall be extinct, except perhaps in the national reservations, where the Government's strong arm extends.

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