

FARM AND GARDEN

A PLANT INCUBATOR.

Unless one has an exceptionally protected garden spot or unusually good window facilities for starting plants, try the following incubator.

The quickness with which the seed germinates in it will more than make up for the lateness of the start, for I did not wish to write of it until we had tested the plan.

Ours is a box tall enough to hold a common lantern, with a tray to set in grooves above the lantern, much as a trunk tray fits in. Good loose soil was filled in the tray, the tomato and cabbage seed planted in rows in the soil, not covered quite as deeply as if sown in a bed. A damp cloth was spread over this to prevent the soil washing when it is watered.

The lighted lantern is set in the box, the tray fitted in, a glass laid over the tray, and there you are.

The lantern wouldn't stay lighted, so auger holes were bored in the end and sides of the box to furnish the necessary oxygen.

The cabbage seed were planted at each end of the tray, the tomatoes directly in the center, nearest over the heat, but it would be better to have two separate incubators, as the cabbage germinates much more quickly.

Notwithstanding we didn't have the glass covering until the third day the cabbages were all up nicely in 48 hours, and the tomato seed beginning to sprout.

The incubator stands by a small east window, in a room without heat.

One year we successfully used an old chicken incubator to start tomato plants in, and it was fine; there being more room transplanting needn't be done so soon.

It seems one could use an oil stove for this, placing the seed box on top of the stove covering the box with glass, and not turning the blaze too high. One could have the tomato seed box over one burner, the cabbage over another, and keep the tomato burner turned the highest.

Quick and frequent transplanting, with judicious hardening off is what makes nice stocky plants for the garden. Frequent transplanting develops fibrous or feeding roots, and they are ready to go to work searching for food as soon as set in the garden, and if the food is supplied the plants make a surprisingly quick growth.—E. C., in the *Indiana Farmer*.

FEEDING BROILERS FOR GROWTH

At one of the institutes, a gentleman in speaking of the scheme of feeding broilers so that they might receive the greatest growth in the shortest time, said that he thought a great deal depended upon the kind of food given, how prepared, and when given. Of course, the principal food must be the different grains. Corn alone would not make a good chicken, as it is most valuable for its fattening and warming qualities. Wheat contains the material for bone, feathers, etc., oats for muscle, so he feeds corn, two parts; wheat, one part; oats, one part, and by this secures a fast-growing chicken. Feed these grains alone and we have all kinds but fast growing, weak-legged, sore-eyed, no feathers, and every conceivable deformity. Add to these grains a quantity of meat, which will take the place of insects, which form a part of their natural food.

See that the fowls have plenty of sand or gravel, as they have no teeth, and must have this gravel to grind the feed in the gizzard. Give oyster or clam shell ground or pounded as fine as wheat. Keep also by them some powdered charcoal—it prevents the digestive organs from becoming clogged with soured food if they have eaten too much.

If all these things are provided for them, the houses kept clean, and occasionally sprinkled with carbolic acid and one a month given a coat of whitewash, the chickens should keep in perfect health. But if any signs of roup or other disease, to which they are subject should appear, use a liberal supply of Douglas mixture, which is simply one pound of sulphate of iron (coppers) and one ounce of sulphuric acid dissolved in a gallon of water. Dose: two or three table-spoonfuls to each one hundred chickens, in their food or drink, for each day until they are better.—*Weekly Witness*.

HOG NOTES.

A man must be very poor not to be able to get a good small start in well-bred hogs, and they will multiply fast and give quick returns.

Paste this up where you will have to look at it every day: The South uses much pork and raises comparatively little; hence, Southern markets must be good for a long time to come.

It is all right to give hogs good attention—feed them with judgment, keep their quarters decently clean and free from wetness—but hogs are hogs, and there is such a thing as wasting too much time with them.

Never let the growth of hogs be checked. The cheapest gains in weight are made when they keep increasing in weight from birth to the block; and if one will manage well, he need not spend much for feed to do this.

The reason many hog raisers do

not make much money is that they spend too much for feed. They should grow most of it at home, and let the hogs do the harvesting. Hog raising can be made expensive if a man is used to do work hogs can do.

Feeding a sow too much milk-producing feed before her pigs are old enough to require so much milk may cause congestion of milk in her udder and give her pigs the scours. Feed her rather lightly at first and increase the amount as the pigs get older.

Any of the clovers, alfalfa, or vetch combined with hog manure scattered evenly over the land, as hogs do the work, will certainly improve the land; and improving the soil is the problem the good farmer will constantly keep before himself. Thereon rests the kind of farming that enables the farmer to jingle the coin in his pants.—*Progressive Farmer*.

THE THOUGHTFUL COW OWNER.

The thoughtful cow owner certainly will not want to keep in his dairy herd any cow that does not show a reasonably good profit. The man that finds out just exactly what each cow is doing will not hesitate to dispose of every cow that is not paying for what feed she is consuming, plus for cost of caring for her and a reasonable per cent. of profit on the investment.

I must say that it is really astonishing that after this matter has been discussed at so many different times at different places for about the last quarter of a century, that every investigation that is made by an expert station in any state shows a great percentage of dairy cows that do not pay any profit. Still it is well known that dairymen do not keep cows for pleasure or health. The fact is they do not take time to plan, or pains to apply good business principles as they should do.

The thoughtful cow owner will not be long delayed in discovering his most profitable cows and will only use them in breeding for dairy purposes. The dairy cow that does not yield any profit should be prepared for the beef market and sold at once. She should not be bred and the owner ought not to wait for her to dry up at the end of her lactation, because if she is not giving any profit what is the use of keeping her any longer than is necessary to get her in shape for the butcher.

It is because dairymen do not actually study out these cow problems that there are in this country today as many cows that are unprofitable to the men that own and care for them.—R. B. Rushing, in the *Indiana Farmer*.

THE VALUE OF HORSES.

Horses may not maintain the present high prices, but it will be a long time before they go out of fashion. No doubt the motor class of vehicle has come to stay in some form or other, but it is every bit as certain that the youngest amongst us will be pretty old men before the extinction of the horse. A good deal of water will run under the bridges before these days arrive, and meanwhile the date of the latter will be postponed by our producing the class of horse that is wanted by the public, and not delegating the work to foreign rivals.

It is a fact that all mechanical contrivances for transporting passengers and freight increases the demand for horses on the same principle that a labor-saving machine in a factory increases labor because it requires an army of men to prepare the raw material and to get it to the machine. Railways must be fed with freight. Each new line creates a demand for more horses to haul the stuff from farms and factories to fill the freight cars. Even the passenger traffic demands the service of a great many horses to haul the passengers to and from the trains.

No horseman has even seriously considered automobiles as competitors in the horse business. So far they have had very little influence one way or the other. They have their uses and limitations, they are valuable in the right place, but horses will continue doing business as formerly.—*Epitomist*.

BUILDING A SILO.

When I built my silo I did not put paper between the boarding and had poor ensilage. Then I coated it with paper and put on another lining of boards and had good ensilage after done. Conclusion—Work well done first is twice done.—Daniel W. Bill, in the *Epitomist*.

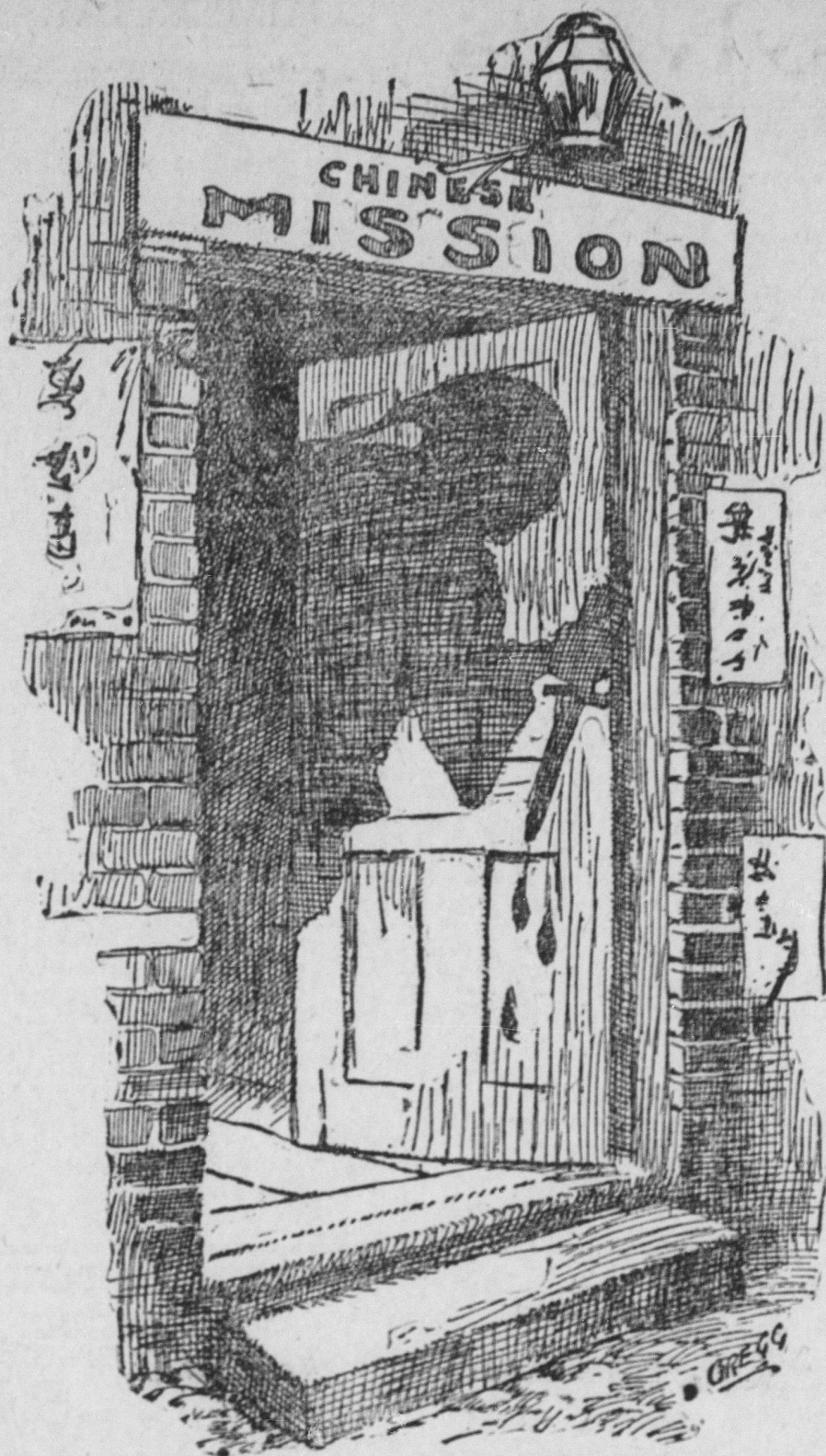
GREENS FOR CHICKENS.

Green corn-stalks, lettuce and other garden greens should be cut up fine and given to fowls confined in yards. When deprived of it, hens lack the red color in their combs, and the blood will become impure.—*Farmers' Home Journal*.

CARE OF CHICKS.

As soon as the young chicks are hatched, it is a good plan to remove them to the garden or out under the trees, if the weather is favorable, where they can get plenty of insects to eat and scratch all they like.—*Farmers' Home Journal*.

ANOTHER OPEN DOOR, ANOTHER YELLOW PERIL



—Cartoon by Gregg, in the *New York American*.

LEON MERELY A TYPE OF "CONVERTS" THAT ATTEND CHINESE MISSIONS

New York City.—Every city in the United States where three or four Chinese can be gathered together in a Sunday-school has a girl trap like that in which Elsie Sigel went to her death.

Wherever the crafty William Leon, or Leung Linn, to give his Chinese name, goes in his flight he will be aided by kindred spirits willing to do all they can for him, because they can never know when they will be in the same predicament.

A Chinaman hunt is not at all like an ordinary man hunt, where all honest men are willing to tell all they know about the murderer's whereabouts. Every Chinese community has its clique of criminals, willing and eager to protect any fellow countryman the police happen to want, and always blandly misunderstanding every question that is put to them.

Elsie Sigel's fate awaits, almost certainly, every white girl who permits herself to get into the power of the smug, palm-singing "Christianized" Chinese who frequent the Chinese Sunday-schools. Such tragedies are grievously familiar on the Pacific Coast, where of late the Chinese mission is looked upon with severe disfavor. It was long ago discovered there that when a Sunday-school was taught by men the Oriental zeal for a new religion became suddenly cooled.

When Father McLaughlin, now of New Rochelle, was in charge of a street church a company of Chinese came to him and politely requested that he establish a Sunday-school for their benefit. Father McLaughlin assented, and being a man of wisdom announced that he would teach it himself. When his yellow visitors requested that they be taught by young white girls he indignantly

told them to leave the premises. Father McLaughlin is large and muscular, and his usually benign countenance can look stern on occasions. The visitors left without good-byes.

The "Girls' Recreation Home," run by Mrs. Frances Hodd, at No. 10 Mott street, has been closed. This home was frequented by Elsie Sigel and her misguided mother, and it was there that the girl often met the man who is now being pursued by the police.

Every man who has been brought into contact with this type of Chinaman, or who has had opportunity to observe the workings of a Chinese mission, knows that there are no greater plague spots in the country than such establishments. Masters, who with more zeal than intelligence, assemble Chinamen together and permit them to be instructed under the tutelage of young girls, are merely lending themselves to the knavery of their charges.

The Chinese are taught American hymns, and hymns translated by missionaries for them into Chinese. These they recite forth lustily, all the while squinting insolently at their teachers. During the week they make frequent visits to the homes of the girl, bearing Chinese sweetmeats and ginger. At Christmas they shower upon the young women gifts of shawls and costly fabrics, with an object in mind which would probably make a murderer of any father that suspected it.

In manner they are always bland and suave, being very careful to say nothing that will give offense, but one look into their leering faces is enough to convince a person of experience that a young girl would be better trusted with the worst cadet on the East Side. At least the cadet's language would be a warning.

THE ELSIE SIGEL CRIME PECULIAR TO U. S., GERMANS SAY

Berlin Newspapers Blame America For Artificial Standard of Morals.

Berlin.—The newspapers here describe the murder of Elsie Sigel in New York as a tragedy which could have been enacted only in a religious atmosphere peculiar to America. Says one newspaper:

"If the scandals that involved Prince Philip zu Eulenberg and the Knights of the Round Table were characteristic of Germany, it can be said with equal truth that the tragedies arising out of this weird and unhealthy mixture of religious passion and sexual passion are characteristic of America."

"Germany," it adds, "can learn a lesson from decadents on the other side of the Atlantic—not to permit pietists to be so prominent in leading social usage; not to set up a wholly artificial standard of morality."

Bryan Would Withdraw

From the Public Eye. Denver Col.—"I do not wish to discuss politics nor myself," said W. J. Bryan here. "No, I am not a candidate for Senator from Nebraska; I do not wish to be considered one."

"I believe the public generally would appreciate it if my personal doings were left out in the future," he continued. "The public doesn't understand how I am continually bored by reporters seeking interviews. I am ready to withdraw from the public eye."

Berlin maintains, apropos of the Sigel murder, that religious ardor and sexual passion are bound deeply and abidingly. Their unity is sometimes celebrated secretly with mystic rites; sometimes breaks out openly in orgies like those celebrated by devotees of strange sects in America, Russia and elsewhere.

The Berliner Zeitung Mittag adds: "Conventional morality is strung to so high a pitch in America that he or she who renounces it often degenerates to religious practices unhealthy in character."

"America is full of such perversities—fuller than Germany, because traditional morality is more stringently exercised there than in Germany. We hope this murder will open the eyes of advanced New Yorkers to the fact that the rule of the too truly good is harmful."

Visits His Mother's Grave

After Seventy-five Years. Norwich, N. Y.—Isaac Brown, ninety years old, living on a farm in Otseck, Chenango County, took his first trip in three-quarters of a century last week, when he visited Syracuse. It was the first time he had ridden on a railroad, although he had seen steam cars a few years ago. On the trip he visited his mother's grave, at Stockbridge, twenty miles from his home, for the first time since he was a boy of fifteen. The huge buildings and electric cars amazed him.

Household Notes

FRUIT SALAD.

Drain the syrup from a can of firm peaches, slice the halves, arrange on crisp lettuce leaves and sprinkle with chopped nuts and preserved cherries. Put a teaspoonful of mayonnaise on each plate of salad and serve with toasted crackers and cream cheese.—*New York World*.

NUT CARAMELS.

Heat in a saucepan a quarter pound of grated unsweetened chocolate, four ounces of butter, one pound of brown sugar, a half cupful of molasses, a half cupful of cream and a teaspoonful of vanilla. Cook until dropped in cold water it will become brittle; then add a pound of chopped nuts. Cut into squares as the caramels harden.—*New York World*.

PEAS IN PASTRY.

Take three-fourths cup of flour, a teaspoonful of sugar, one-half teaspoonful of salt, a cup of milk, one well-beaten egg and a teaspoonful of olive oil. Whip the batter with an egg beater until perfectly smooth, dip in the hot rosette iron and fry in deep hot fat. Have the peas well cooked and drain them, then season with salt, pepper and butter. Do not fill the pastry rosettes until ready to serve. Serve with olives and squares of sharp cheese.—*New York World*.

SMELT AND POTATOES.

Clean and dry the fish and roll them in well-seasoned cracker crumbs. Set away on ice for an hour and fry in deep, very hot fat, in a frying basket. Cook until they are golden brown, then drain on heavy brown paper. Arrange on a big platter and surround with a fluffy mound of potatoes put through the ricer. Sprinkle the potatoes with grated cheese, chopped parsley and bits of butter and put in the oven until the potatoes brown slightly. Serve piping hot.—*New York World*.

STUFFED OKRA.

Wash two dozen okra pods, cut a piece from the pointed end and slit up far enough to remove the seeds. To three slightly beaten egg yolks, add 2 table-spoonfuls of finely minced cooked ham, the seeds that were removed from the pods and fine breadcrumbs enough to thicken, seasoning with salt and pepper. Fill each pod with this mixture, and tie with a piece of thread. Put into a baking pan and sprinkle with a layer of breadcrumbs, a layer of grated cheese, a table-spoonful of butter and a cupful of either veal or chicken gravy. Bake for half an hour, covered; then remove the cover and finish cooking.—*Boston Post*.

HINTS.

If wall paper has been rendered a bit oily by some careless boy resting his head against it, put a white blotter over the spot and pass a warm iron over it.

All good housekeepers have their mattresses and bed springs covered. Take unbleached muslin and make a regular fitted cover just the same as a mattress cover. It will keep your mattresses new and clean for years.

When your sauce has happened to get burnt don't throw it out, for that is all waste. Just stand your saucepan immediately into a basin of cold water for five minutes. This will have the effect of eliminating the burnt taste.

The fine ash found over the oven of a cook stove in which wood is used furnishes (when used dry) a silver polish equal to any on the market.

To make a drawer slide easily, if too tight, rub the ends well with a piece of fat salt pork. It will give no further trouble.

Turn your coffee mill down very tightly, fill the hopper with granulated sugar, grind it through once or twice, or even three times, and you have an excellent powdered sugar.

To clean cut-glass wash thoroughly with warm soapsuds and cover with sawdust for an hour or two, or until perfectly dry, then brush off with a soft brush, and it will be clear and sparkling.

Oxalic acid is excellent for removing stains from your finger nails. Dissolve the acid in water, and apply to the nails with an orangewood stick, and you will find all stains will be instantly removed.

Do not put a tomato aspic to harden in a tin or iron baking pan; the acid in the jelly acts on the tin and makes the salad taste, while the black pan gives an unsightly black rim to the aspic.

Try a little lemon and salt mixed the next time a price mark sticks to the bottom of china dishes or bric-a-brac.

A sticky cake or bread pan should not be cleaned with a knife or anything which will scratch the surface and make sticking more probable thereafter. For this reason the crust of bread often advised as a cleaner is not desirable.

There is nothing that will render you so susceptible to cold as to sit all day in over-heated rooms. Get out in the open air. Ventilate your house night and day. Don't keep it an oven, and get yourself so tender that you shiver whenever the wind blows on you.

A little good toilet water or cologne poured into a bath is delightful in its effects.

POULTRY DEPARTMENT

RAISING DUCKS.

Case in Point Where They Did Better Without Water.

We confess that after raising ducks in a small way for three years we cannot satisfactorily say whether it is profitable to raise ducks without giving them access to water. This year we raised them without letting them have access to water, excepting for drinking purposes. During the summers of 1906 and 1907 we raised 200 Mammoth Pekins and the youngsters took to the water within eighteen hours after being taken from the incubator or within twenty-four hours after the old hen came off the nest with them.

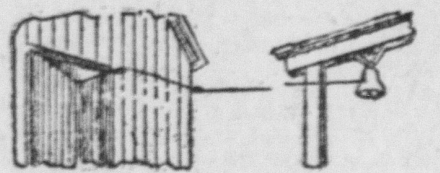
The water, a small stream, was within 300 yards of the hatching place and every duck, with one accord, took a bee line for it, says a writer in *Farm and Home*. We had good luck with them. This year we kept watch of the youngsters for several weeks, keeping them away from the water. In a few weeks they would range around the feed within twenty paces of the brook but have never taken a swim. We have the Pekin and the Indian Runner breeds, and for the past sixty days or more they have grazed in the pasture, often going almost to the edge of the brook.

They seem to be perfectly healthy and content and we have not lost a duck by disease, nor had any sick or ailing. After eating, they go through all the motions of a swim, dipping themselves and going through the motions as if they were in the water.

We like ducks because they are so healthy and so easily controlled. We aim to market the Pekins at ten weeks old and expect such ducks to average fully five pounds or over. To reach these figures they must not have too much range or too much exercise. It seems to me that the breeding ducks should have free access to water. I believe the eggs will be more fertile and the ducks healthier and stronger.

Alarm For Poultry House.

By arranging a wire to pass from the hen house door to a bell on the veranda of the house, after the manner shown in the accompanying illustration, warning will be given when



A Poultry House Alarm.

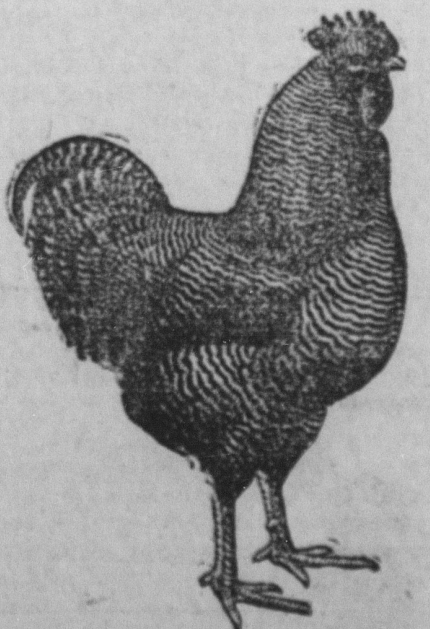
the door of the poultry house is opened. If anything is wrong in the hen house and the alarm is given, a man can close the door of the hen house while standing on the veranda by pulling the wire which is attached to the bell. During the day the wire can be unhooked and thus relieve the bell from duty.

If desired, suggests *Prairie Farmer*, the bell can be placed outside in a box, which will make it sound louder.

Cost of Food.

According to the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, the cost of food per chick, to weigh one pound, on ground grain, is three cents; on whole grain, three and seven-tenths cents. After making repeated tests in feeding, this station says the ground grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole grain ration for the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight and age, fed alike before caponizing. No difference was noticed in health or vigor of chicks or capons fed either ration.

A Prize Bird.



BARRED P. ROCK COCK.

Good Morning Feed.

Two parts oats, two parts cracked corn and one part wheat, make a good morning feed to be thrown into a litter. Feed what they need to keep them busy till noon—about a quart to ten fowls, amount needed varies with different breeds.

The beginner finds many stumbling blocks in the artificial methods, but experience shows the trick of how to easily step over them.