

**TURKEYS FOR MARKET**

**Not Difficult if Proper Attention Is Given to Work.**

**First Week is Critical Period in Young Bird's Life—One of Greatest Mistakes is Overfeeding—Keep Them Growing.**

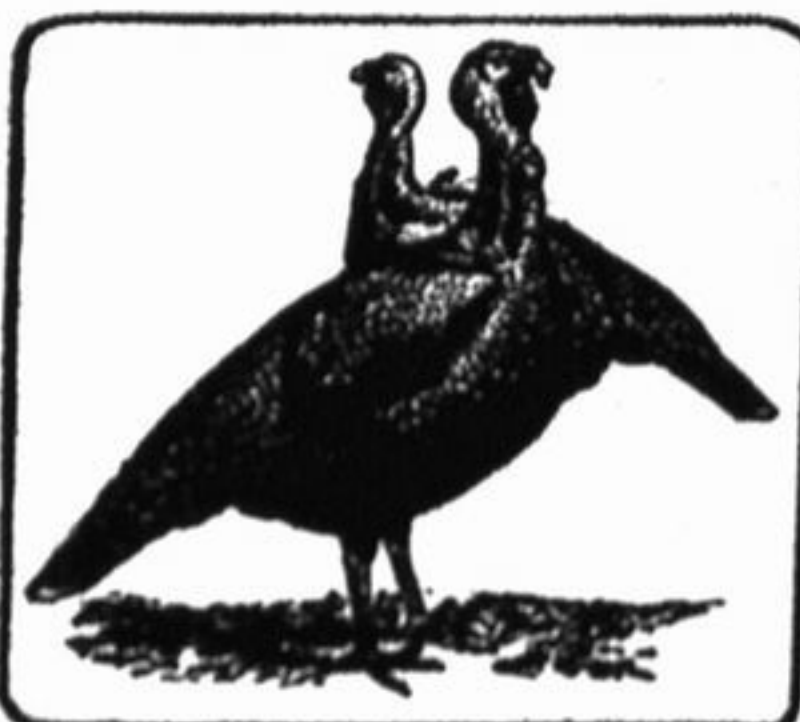
One of the lines of work that is capable of returning good profits is the rearing of turkeys for the markets. Year after year the price climbs upward, which may be taken as an indication that the supply is never quite equal to the demand.

Turkey raising is usually regarded as an arduous and uncertain task, and it is unless the keeper is well posted as to the requirements. Many think it impossible to bring more than one-fourth of the hatch to maturity, but I know that with the proper care it is possible to bring the entire hatch through.

The first few weeks is the critical period of a turkey's life. At that time quick changes of temperature and dampness are fatal unless the turkeys are given the proper attention immediately. I have known of flocks being caught out in the spring showers and every one of them would perish from the effects, while a flock of little chickens would suffer no ill effects.

As young turkeys are very delicate creatures it is but natural that great care be exercised in feeding them. One of the greatest mistakes is over-feeding. While they should be fed frequently they should be given only a small amount at one time.

The first step is to get the young turkeys to growing. They should have warm, dry quarters and access to water and grit. For the first week or two bread crumbs are a very good ration and at the end of that time be-



Profitable Specimens.

gin working in a small amount of milk cheese, also a small amount of black pepper now and then.

Seeds and insects are the natural food of turkeys, and as soon as they are large enough they should be allowed to run among the grass with the mother hen whenever the weather is suitable and they will make a rapid growth. By midsummer they will pay but little attention to any feed given them, but will forage through the fields eating seeds and harmful insects.

One of the greatest faults of turkeys is their inclination to wander away. All efforts should be made to have them roost at home if possible. The giving of some very tempting feed at night frequently gets them into the habit of coming home each evening.

**MANGEL BEETS FOR POULTRY**

**As Green Feed for Hens There is No Vegetable Better—Can Be Kept as Long as Potatoes.**

Evidently, poultry-keepers are getting wise to the value of mangel beets for fowls. We have heard of ever so many poultry farmers who are planning to grow beets for the first time this year. One poultryman of our acquaintance has gotten an acre of ground into beets, says a writer in an exchange. We are pleased to learn of the interest that is being taken in the culture of mangel beets.

Farmers who do not have silos should raise enough beets to feed to their cows every day that the cows are not upon good pasture. Beets have a place upon every farm where cows, hogs, poultry and sheep are kept. As green food for hens we know of no vegetable that takes the place of beets. Cabbages while they last are excellent, but it requires a heap of work to put up cabbages for the winter. The writer follows the plan of growing both cabbages and beets. The cabbages are stored in the basement of the barn and are fed out during November and December. As soon as the cabbages are gone, the feeding of the beets begins. In a good cellar beets will keep as long as potatoes.

**Business Methods Needed.**

Few owners of the smaller poultry plant know what percentage of profit their flocks do yield. Many of these may know how much they spend for feed during the year, and how many eggs the hens laid within the 12 months, but further than that they cannot give any figures of the cost of production or the actual profits from the sales. Adopt business methods in your poultry plant.

**Best Insect Killer.**

A pheasant with a single toad of the hill kills more insects than a turkey gobbler will eat at a whole meal. Too, the gobbler eats his insects after they have gotten fat eating the crop, the pheasant eats his when they are still in the egg and before they have taken a bite.

**FEED FOR FATTENING FOWLS**

**In Some Corn Districts Corn is Main Item and in Others Oats, Barley or Some Other Grain.**

(By PROF. JAMES DRYDEN, Poultry Department, Oregon Agricultural College.)

There are several rations that can be fed successfully in fattening chickens. In some districts corn is the main item, and in others oats, barley or other grain. The price of grain will govern the ration fed, largely.

There is no better fattening food, probably, than good plump oats fine ground. Barley, ground up fine, is also good as part of the ration. A good ration would be ground oats, barley and middlings in equal parts and a little bran mixed with buttermilk or sour milk.

If one cannot get milk it will be necessary to feed some animal meal or beef scrap, or a little blood meal. About 10 per cent. of the weight of the grain is the right proportion of blood meal.

If corn is as cheap as the other grains, I would feed corn liberally. The grain should be mixed with about twice as much milk as of ground grain, so that it will be very soft and drip from the end of a stick. No green food is necessary.

The chickens should be fed all they will eat twice a day. At first one should begin by feeding light, but after two or three days they should be given all they will eat up twice a day. Food should not be left standing before them, however.

The chicken should be confined in a small pen or fattening crates where they will get no exercise. They will be quieter and do better in a dark pen. The feeding may be done by lamplight at night if that is more convenient.

**WORK IN THE POULTRY YARD**

**First Thing of Importance is to Open Houses, Allowing Fowls Benefit of Fresh Air.**

(By M. K. BOYER)

The routine work on the poultry farm consists, first, of opening up the houses and allowing the fowls the benefit of the fresh air.

Then comes the breakfast; then the drinking water; then cleaning up the droppings of the night.

Following this is looking after the trap nests, making repairs, taking care of the incubators and brooders, and general chores.

At night, again the feeding—and at dusk emptying out the drinking vessels, examining the houses that all may be found well, and locking the doors.

But there are other duties—changing male birds, examining the fowls on the roost and removing such as show signs of colds or illness, watching for feather pullers, doctoring torn combs and wattles, and a multitude of things that call for constant attention.

All these matters repeat themselves from Monday morning until Sunday night.

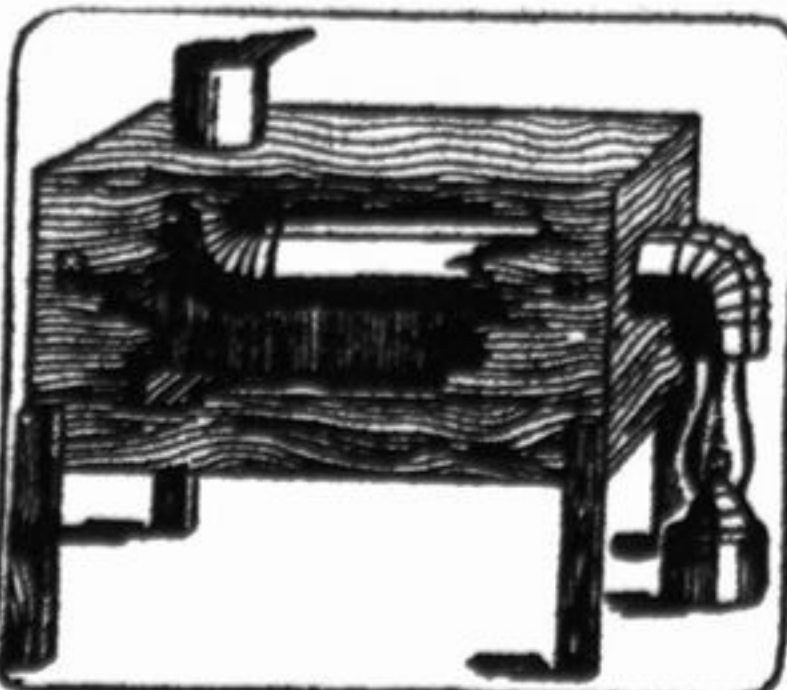
It is the routine work, this sameness that so quickly discourage the beginner and makes him quit the work early in life.

More people would be fitted for poultry work if they could content themselves with this repeated sameness. To them it becomes monotonous. They want something different; they cannot get it in the poultry business and so they change their occupation.

**SAFE AND SIMPLE BROODER**

**Ordinary Lamp is Placed at End of Piping to Furnish Heat—Little Danger of Fire.**

I have a brooder made of a tight box, one joint and two elbows of stove pipe. The pipe is placed in the brooder as shown with an ordinary lamp at the lower end to furnish the



Home-Made Brooder.

heat, says a writer in an exchange. The damper is a piece of tin laid on top of the upper opening by which the heat may be regulated. I find this to make a safe and practical little machine.

**Egg-Eating Habit.**

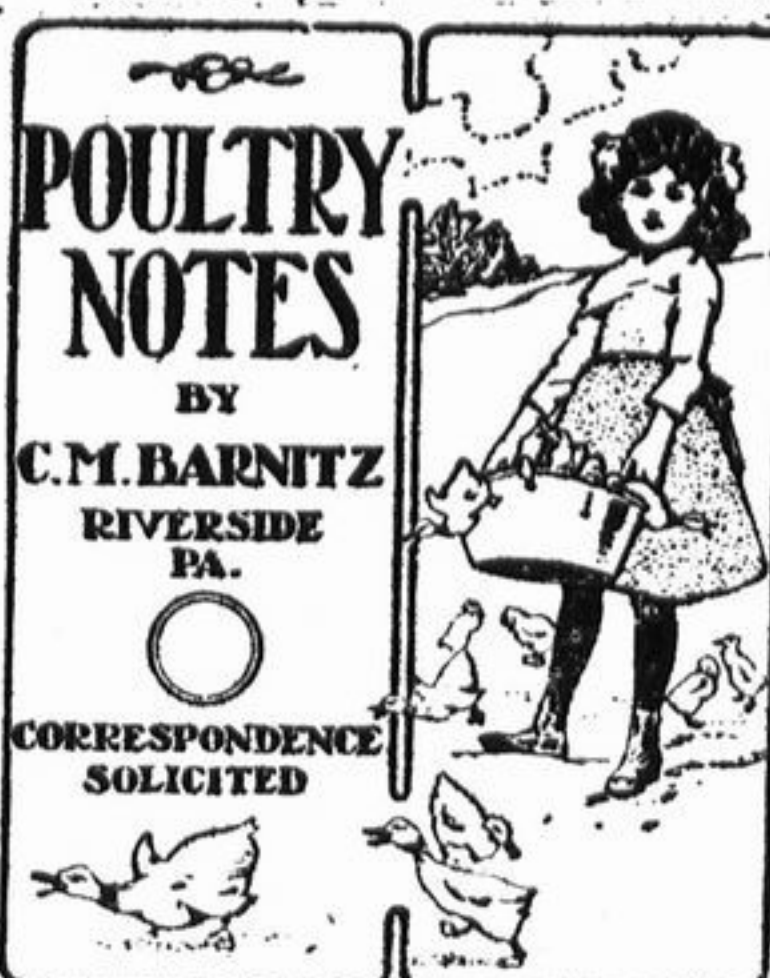
Egg-eating is a habit that starts with hens, generally, that are out of condition. In other words, when the hen gets too fat and also when there is a scarcity of lime in the bill of fare, the shells of the eggs become thin. When being laid these soft-shelled eggs usually break and the hen thus acquires a taste. It is always best to gather the eggs several times a day so that there will be no chance for breakage by hens crowding on the nest of by a newly laid egg striking those already laid.

**Shift the Trays.**

Shift the trays from left to right with each turning.

**Too Much Moisture Kills.**

Too much moisture has killed more chicks than top tips.



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**SWIMMING FACILITIES FOR DUCKS.**

A visit to most of our prominent duck plants will disclose the fact that, while they raise millions of young, green ducks for market without their having had a day's swim, yet they furnish swimming facilities to their breeding ducks. This is because ducks naturally pair in the water, and thus those that swim lay eggs with a higher average fertility and greater hatchability, and the ducklings are of stronger vitality, better breeders and can stand more forcing for market. The great aim in market ducking is to get quick, big growth, and to keep the duck soft and juicy. Exercise in swimming, like other healthful exercise, makes muscle.



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

**ALONG THE SHORE.**

hardens the flesh, retards fat, creates stamina and uses up food in the process.

That is why the swimming duck is harder, stronger, tougher and thinner than the market duckling, and that is why, on the contrary, the market duckling is such a fast grower, so toothsome and juicy. It melts in the mouth, is so large and lovely because it exercises but little and eats and eats much, and most of its food just quickly turns into layers of fancy flesh and fancy fat. The only time it goes to swim is when it is driven in to wash off before killing, and so unused to swimming are they that we have seen them refuse to do that.

Duck growers along streams simply inclose water along shore, or others

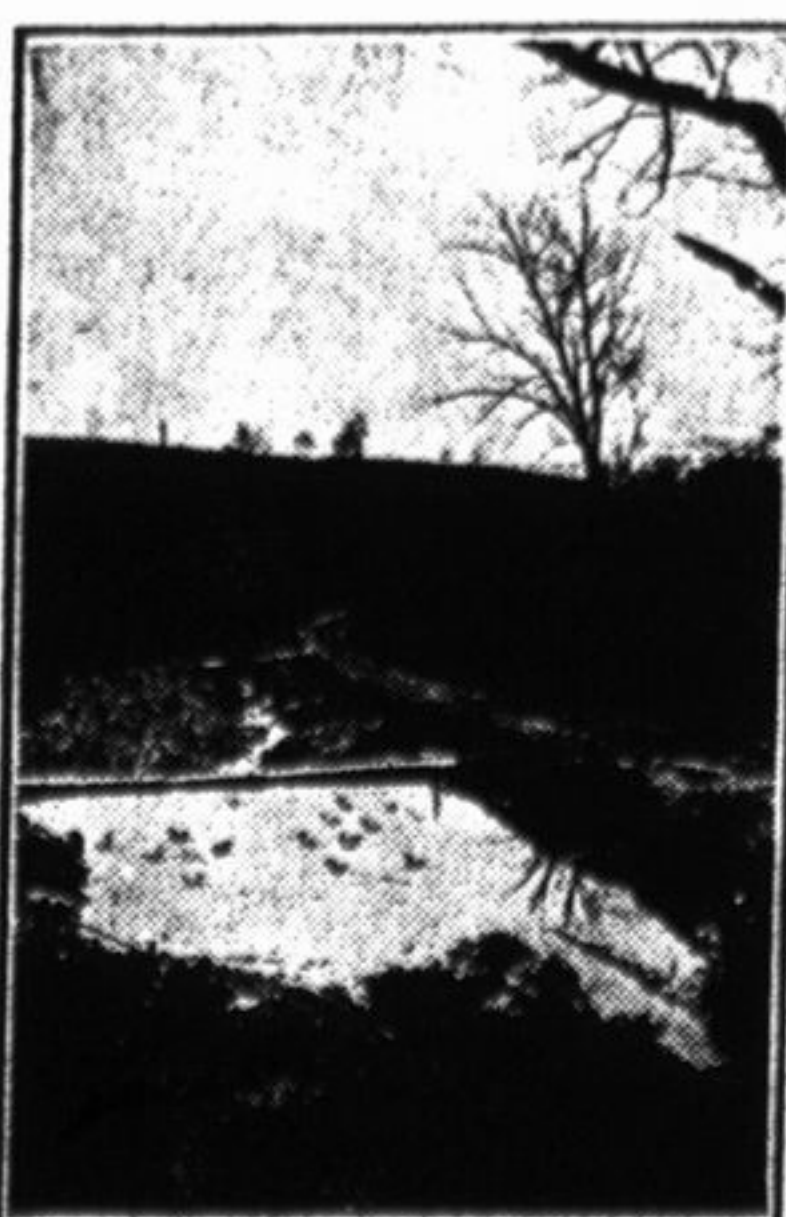


Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

**DAM FOR DUCKS.**

make ponds or dams, the thickness of the dam wall depending on volume and velocity of water and made thicker at base than top. The proportions for making the concrete dam wall shown were one barrow of sharp sand and two of clean gravel to one sack of cement. The majority of duck raisers feed their breeding ducks fish, either fresh or fish scrap. This tends to vigor in breeder and offspring and increases fertility.

**DON'TS.**

Don't cultivate pessimistic traits, but hoe your own row

Don't be mercenary. You may pile up money by the plan, but be stigmatized "a miserly man."

Don't write the editor for poultry information, but write us, and don't write us until you have tried to think it out for yourself first.

Don't throw dead fowls where they will rot and breed maggots. A blow fly may come from that carcass to your table and bring disease and destruction.

Don't buy a stack of poultry wire unless sure the chickens can't go through. Leghorns go right through wire that grades from small to large squares toward the top and over anything with top rail.

**A SERMON FROM NATURE.**

Let us be cheerful like the birds. Old robin, singing there, Has little hungry mouths to feed And other earthy care. Yet he starts singing at the dawn. And when the sun has gone He sits beside his nesting mate And sings an even song.

Let us be busy like the bees. My, how the bees do work! And yet with all their daily toil They never shirk nor jerk. How happily they buzz and fly From flower unto flower! So may we work and store away Treasure from every hour.

Let us be useful like the trees. The apple, peach and pear Blossom so sweetly in the spring. What luscious fruit they bear! Thus life is meant to bear good fruit. And we should fill our sphere That others, seeing our good works, May glorify God here.

Let us be harmless as the rose And other lovely flowers That shine like stars upon the earth And glorify its flowers. The lily speaks of purity So may our souls be white And later bloom in paradise In gardens of delight.

C. M. BARNITZ

**KURIOS FROM KORRESPONDENTS**

Q I note in a recent "Kurios" you state you saw a hen that laid when her abdomen was so full of tumors that her oviduct and intestines could no longer perform their functions. Can a hen lay without an oviduct? A. No. The printer failed to get our correction of proof in time to insert the word gizzard for oviduct; thus the mistake. In same column 90 per cent of an egg is water should read 65 per cent.

Q I have used your gasoline-carbolic house powder on my fowls with success and am wondering if you haven't something as effectual for the green lice that kill my rosebushes. A. Simply dissolve half a five cent cake of common store washing soap in two gallons of water, place in this a teaspoonful of kerosene and spray the bush thoroughly. One thorough application will be found sufficient.

Q How many varieties of Wyandottes does the new Standard of Perfection contain. Please name. A. Silver, Golden, White, Buff, Black, Partridge, Silver Pencilled, Columbian.

Q What should one do for that large swelling that appears on the sole of a chicken's foot? I have a large Brahma cock bird with the trouble. Is it contagious? A. Your fowl has bumble-foot. Not contagious, but from a bruise, perhaps in your bird's case from jumping down from too high a roost. Simply cut deep across swelling, squeeze out pus, paint with carbolic acid or some other antiseptic, bandage and keep fowl on straw floor until it recovers.

Q I have a very fine Minorca cockerel and think of showing him, but I notice one of his feet has webs a great deal like a duck's. If he is about perfect in all other sections would not his other good qualities overbalance this defect so that the judge would just cut him slightly? How about breeding him? A. No. He would be debarred from competition. Don't breed from him.

**FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.**

One way to get ducks off their feed is to get them excited. A dog or a boy chasing the flock can so disturb a flock of market ducks as to put them out of condition. Same way in the laying house. A disturbance that puts the hens on nerve knocks the egg record.

Some one says, "The best way to tell whether an egg contains a rooster or a hen is to hatch the egg under a hen and watch the chick for a year, and if it crows it's a rooster, and if it lays eggs it's a hen."

It is occasionally the case that a breeding pen contains hens that are not popular with the male or which give him the cold shoulder. A testing of the eggs will show some of the eggs infertile, and they may be easily traced. Such hens should be mated to another male, as it is seldom they become reconciled to the head of the harem or the male makes up with them.

When the American Poultry association met at Nashville, Tenn., most restaurants put on lots of chicken frills and chicken soup, chicken salad, chicken sandwich and stuffed eggs were on about every bill of fare. The members felt like the boy who said to the friend who entertained him: "Don't want none of that. Got plenty of that at home."

The Single Comb Brown Leghorn seems to be dropping out of sight, very few being seen at shows, and one seldom sees a flock of them. One reason for this is because show requirements are such that the ridiculous double mating system must be resorted to to get birds to win. This unnatural method applied to Barred Rocks has also retired them from the head of the procession.

A way to interest that boy and to keep him busy and happy is to give him an interest in the flock, whether chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese. Make him a member of the firm, give him part of the profit and watch him get busy. Busy boys, with work that gives them a sense of proprietorship and a chance to make money, are not among our dime novel readers nor associates of the bad boys of the streets.

A fencer was recently tried at Williamsport, Pa., for shooting and killing a chicken thief. The jury brought in a verdict of not guilty after five minutes' deliberation. Judges in Pennsylvania are getting away from the idea that stealing a horse and a chicken does not show the same moral turpitude, and juries no longer consider chicken stealing a laughing matter.

C. M. Barnitz

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