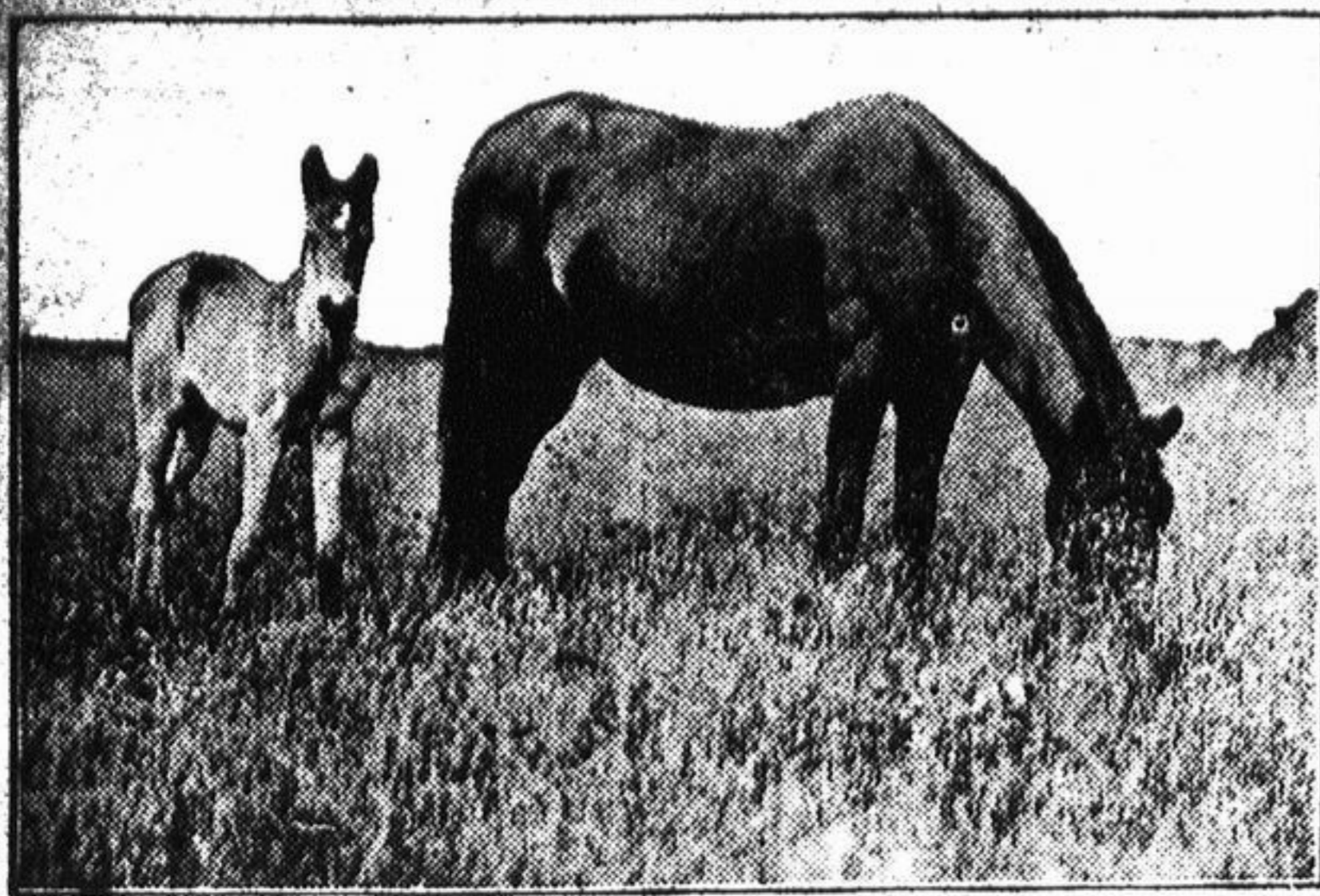


HALTER-BREAKING COLT NOT DIFFICULT



Turned Out to Pasture.

(By J. M. BELL.)
Twenty-odd years ago the writer met a New York horse dealer; this same dealer came to Virginia and bought a farm. He wanted to raise colts in addition to small farming.

First there was a pure bred Percheron stallion, then a number of well set, well made draft mares—good individuals, no nondescript, but as this article deals with the colt proposition we'll get back to it.

At thirty-six hours of age they were haltered and left in the stalls—one to a stall, of course, as their dams slept there at night.

Very soon the colts were perfectly halter-broken (long before they were weaned) and in being halter-broken they were taught one of the most important things in horse breaking, namely, to stand tied when hitched.

This one quality is about half of the education of a horse, and without it no horse is properly broken.

The dams of these colts were worked regularly on the farm, earning their own living and at the same time making something for their owner.

When old enough to eat solid food they were fed each day and later on turned out to pasture, but still were given some extra feed and their mothers' milk until ready to wean, when they were put out in a good grazing field.

The dams were well fed and regularly worked at least eleven months out of the twelve, if the weather permitted.

They kept in good working order, did good work all the year round and four out of five raised a thrifty colt.

Never let a colt grow to any age and size without halter breaking him. Hundreds of valuable young horses are much injured in disposition by letting them run until they are from two to three years of age and then for the

first time cornered in a stall by several farm hands, which may be a frolic to the latter but quite contrary to the former.

A wild, green colt is as strong as a bull when thus cornered, a man tries to throw a noose over the terrified animal's head, he misses, the colt springs to the far side of the stall, rears and attempts to break over the partition; back he is forced by a fellow with the handle of a pitchfork or some other equally serviceable weapon.

Again they try the noose, and this time successfully. The sweating, plunging young animal is now drawn up to the partition by three husky farm laborers, a bridle is placed on his head, the doors are opened and with a bound the colt plunges out.

Men are hanging to the end of the long rope, an end of which is run through the bit.

The colt reaches the end of its tether with a jerk which nearly dislocates his jaw; he is brought suddenly to a stop, when one of the men walks up to him.

The colt backs, the three fellows at the end of the rope jerk and swing on it until the colt comes to a standstill, with eyes staring and the sweat running out of every pore.

Now he is forced to move. Away he springs, to be jerked back suddenly. In the course of an hour the men and the victim are equally worn out and the colt, having received his first lesson, is put back in the stable with the bridle on and the rope dragging to be left in this way until another day, when the same idiotic performance will be repeated.

So much for this kind of halter-breaking. There should really be no kind of halter-breaking except the sort that takes place when the colt is from three days to three weeks old.

PIG-EATING HABIT ONLY IN OLD SOWS

Characteristic Never Laid at Door of Young Mother—Remedy Found in Exercise.

It is a well known fact that the pig-eating propensity is an attribute of an old sow; the characteristic is never laid at the door of the young mother. If not the old it is the mature bred sow; she with the second or third litter, and it will be found that she is usually of the slow, sluggish disposition.

An argument put forth is that this is the failing of the domesticated, but uncivilized hog alone. Under natural conditions the mother will sacrifice her own life for that of her young, but the reverse has never been heard of.

Why, then, with this fact should we be led to believe we feed our hogs too much; that the cure is more animal food and protein? Why cultivate a taste for meat?

Which sow is it that most needs protein? Is it the gilt that must grow both her own frame and her litter, or is it the mature sow that has only her litter?

It is a known fact that on stock farms where as many as fifty or more brood sows are kept they and their progeny run after the cattle.

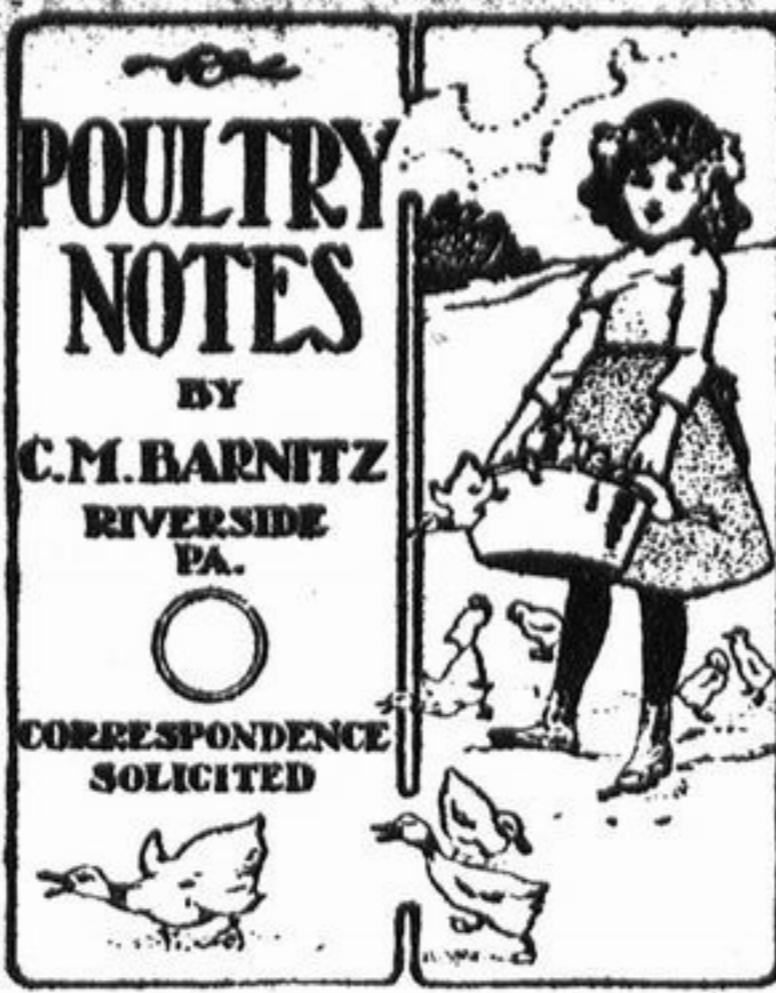
The only feed of these sows may be corn in the winter, either fresh or in the droppings of the cattle. In the summer corn and grass. In this bill of fare it is seen that protein is conspicuous by its absence, yet from these farms come no reports of pig-eating sows.

Instead, the complaints of the sow with a tooth for her own offspring come from farms where the sows are kept in a small 8x10 pen, living a life of idleness and suffering from a sluggish liver, constipation, malnutrition, anaemia, melancholia and various other ills, and curable, all of them, according to experiments in turning them out to exercise and scouring for a morning's breakfast.

However, if exercise must be denied, the man who must needs keep his sows in this 8x10 pen can at least see that her bowels are well exercised.

A little amount of bran is a good thing to add to the ration. It is used for mechanical effects only, so enough should be used daily to keep the bowels open, their action vigorous and the gummings soft.

Withering Work Team.
Water the work team between meals if possible. They sweat out less of water these days.



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YOLK ABSORPTION.

Your great grandmother might consider you cruel if she saw you make newly hatched chicks wait thirty hours for their first breakfast, but there's a reason, as our cut shows.

Nature surrounds the embryo in the egg with nutriment from which to draw for blood, bone, flesh, organs and feathers, but this germ does not grow like a plant in the garden, for the chick develops systematically and draws on the mass of egg food as it is needed for the developing parts until at last the empty egg shell lies on one side and the live, big chick on the other.

About the yolk is the transparent vitelline membrane, and on top of this bag is the germ and there is a joining



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.
CHICK CONNECTED TO YOLK.

pipe between this germ and the yolk, and this pipe is connected to the navel of the embryo, and veins and arteries and cords run through this pipe into and ramify over the yolk bag, and the outside albumen soaks through the bag, and the blood vessels suck it and the yolk up and apply it to the nutrition of the growing chick.

The crowning, final act that makes it a perfectly constituted chick is when the chick draws the remainder of the yolk up into itself before coming forth. If it ruptures the yolk bag it often drowns in the shell or may struggle out dabbled with yellow to die, for a chick without the absorption of the full yolk into its system cannot endure. For an interval it needs no food, but rest, sleep, warmth. It has worked hard to get out of the shell. It needs heat to dry off and fortify itself. To feed it now is to overfeed, and that means indigestion, death.

DON'TS.

Don't joy ride the hours away in an automobile that belong to the business side of life. Neglect of responsibility means lack of tranquillity. The more pleasure the less treasure.

Don't forget that good, new, practical ideas are at a premium. An active, burnished brain is a great source of gain.

Don't fail to see and enjoy the beautiful in nature as you pursue your daily work. Nature is an open book from which we are to learn and by which we are to become better acquainted with the Creator.

Don't get garbled facts or exaggerate. Hyperbole may be used by a novel writer, but it often proves an ordinary citizen a plain liar.

Don't forget that the big mouth of a mad man is a bad advertisement with a wide circulation. Advertise what you have to sell, but sell goods true to your advertisement description or customers will get mad, brand you bad and you'll be bad.

Don't muse while the fire burns out. Don't envy. Envy has made many a life bitter and a regret which might have been full of love, light, goodness and joy.

Don't be bound by prejudices of the past or let your opinion be turned like a weathercock by every wind of prejudice that blows.

Don't cherish ill feeling toward those that differ with you and be honest enough to acknowledge when your argument is proved false or your method not the best. Be glad and alert to learn even when some of your idols and ideals are shattered.

FOR BILLY'S MA.

Don't make a doll of Billy.
Let him roll in the dirt.
Why, if he ate a peck of it
It wouldn't do any hurt.
Remember that we're made of mud.
Why, mud baths are the fad.
So if Bill gets all over mud,
Dear mother, don't get mad.

Don't make a lily of Billy.
Let him run in the sun.
Why, freckles aren't a disgrace,
Though ladies faint at one.
Let Bill get tanned, but don't tan him
For swimming in the creek.
If pas and mas would take more baths
They wouldn't so oft be sick.

Don't make a sis of Billy.
Remember he's a boy
And not a sweet canary bird
Or little poodle toy.
If Bill comes home with a black eye,
Dear mother, don't complain.
Bill's got to stand up for his rights
And fight with brawn and brain.

Ma, make a man of Billy:
Help him to grow backbone;
Help him that he may brainy be
And face the world alone.
And then when you are old and gray
You'll proudly think how Bill
Has reached the ladder's highest rung
And is your big boy still.
C. M. BARNITZ.

A SENSIBLE MOLT METHOD.

There was a time when poultrymen experimented with their hens during molt. They paid for secrets on how to make them molt quick and lay early, but this happens in the greenhorn stage and has been so generally cut out that those selling such gold brick advice have ceased to advertise. The trick most generally tried was to starve the hens down for a few weeks, just feeding them enough to keep alive, and then to rush rich feed into them, and this was supposed to make them shed old feathers quick and put on a new coat and lay in the twinkling of an eye. Hens in a normal condition simply need shelter from storm, rest from annoying mate birds and a nitrogenous ration food rich in feather making material.

We have found that it is not necessary to feed any of the molt dope advertised or advised and so liable to upset the digestion. Besides mixed grain and mush, fresh cut bone and green clover fill the bill and our hens come through reasonably soon and go to laying naturally.

The best bones are the soft bones and ribs should not be cut, as the curly slivers are apt to cut crop or gizzard. Our place is surrounded by clover and the hens eat it all will.

We find under this plan that the average duration of molt is as follows for

White Wyandottes: Yearlings, 80 days; two-year-olds, 102 days, and three-year-olds, 106 days.

The molt proceeds naturally, old feathers dropping and new plumage filling in so that hens were at no time bare.

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

That it pays to insure show birds against loss, theft or accident was shown at the last Chicago show, when eleven birds failed to reach their rightful owners. A fancier who knowingly keeps another man's bird is simply a chicken thief, should be prosecuted and shut out of every show in the country.

Dry picked poultry brings a better price with the poultry dealer because it looks better, keeps better, tastes better and sells better. Scalded poultry has a cooked skin, which is an avenue for microbes to enter. This cooked skin dries and hardens and easily discolors and often becomes unsightly.

We note that some of our poultry editors are knocking the experiment stations on their work. City farmers, who press cushions in glass editorial sanctums, should never throw stones.

It is a wise plan to grade eggs and to grade dressed fowls. Small and large eggs mixed, large, small, plump and scrawny carcasses in the same shipment, not only do not look nice, but can't command first grade price. If soiled hands will spoil an egg for hatching do dirty nests and dirty hands have no effect on the eating quality? Eggs laid under the hopen or in the cow stable stall are, of course, hopen and cow stable eggs.

A neighbor lost fifty chickens before he discovered they were being poisoned by water placed in fresh paint buckets. They had a case of lead poisoning plus the Paris green with which the paint was colored.

The Princess Montplyn has gone in for chickens and established a large plant at Argentine, Fla. She has an international fame as a dog fancier, having won many prizes on her colles. As she once paid \$20,000 for a dog, she knows a thoroughbred and will not haggle over paying a good price for roosters.

Poultrymen are rejoicing over the change in parcel post rates. The old plan was certainly a lemon for them, and very few used it. A further change beneficial to them will be permission to ship live as well as dressed fowls. This is done both in England and Germany.

Confining turkeys to runs of two acres covered with a quick growing green crop is getting to be popular with turkey raisers. A tom and six hens are kept on such a space the whole breeding season. Shade, of course, is necessary.

Some fanciers have certainly been a spectacle in the egg laying contests. Their pens have laid very few eggs, and to have this all appear in the public prints certainly has been shocking. What wins in a horse race is blood, training, grooming, feeding, driving. The experts who feed these hens are the drivers and know their business, but a number of the pens come from poor laying ancestry or are not fitted for the contest.

C. M. Barnitz.

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