WE SHORTENED OUR WORK

BY W. C. SMITH.

We have been paid in real money as well as in time and steps to rearrange the interior of our poultry house. A investigator for a large feed concern told us once that he had visited most of the larger poultry flocks of several states and that in his honest opinion at least two-thirds of the arrangements were not more than 50 per cent. efficient for housing and feeding. In grouping his specific reasons for this condition we found it largely due to the following causes:

Poorly arranged, inadequate, unhandy water supply.

Lack of mash hopper capacity and wasteful hoppers.

Feed rooms, usually the barn or granary, located too far from the poultry buildings.

Floors cluttered up with unnecessary appliances, wasting room needed for the birds and making extra work.

Lack of dropping boards and nests made of boxes, old pails and odds and ends, making the house difficult to keep in a sanitary condition and adding extra work in cleaning.

We found that, without being conscious of it, we had been wasting time and efficiency through some of these things and set about to correct them. Our first improvement was in the water and feed supplies.

Our main houses are 16x48 feet, holding approximately 275 birds. In addition to these, two or three 9x12-foot colony houses are used for breeders, surplus cockerels and other needs which arise from time to time. The first step was to group these colony houses where they could be passed without extra steps on our way to the main buildings.

Water bothered considerably. It is no small task to supply 400 or 500 hens where water must be carried a hundred yards. We had no water system except a pump that could be operated either with the gasoline engine or by hand, and no supply tank of any sort except the stock tank. All that was necessary to do away with the water toting was to lay a few hundred feet of iron pipe from the lower pump outlet to the houses. It was not even necessary to bury it below freezing depth, for the grade was sufficient to keep the pipe drained, and so far it has given no trouble.

At the outlet a half-barrel was set in the floor of the house. This has a hinged lid and is provided with an overflow pipe so the fowls cannot get into it and there is no surplus water. Pails are used for the colony houses and are filled from this half-barrel.

Had it not been for the natural grade we would have buried the pipes below freezing depth and forced the water. However, that would have been a wonderful improvement over carrying the daily supply in pails. Pipe was bought second-hand and this simple but efficient system cost less than a five-dollar bill.

Some extra mash hoppers were built and the feeding troughs of the old ones widened slightly. This gives a two-weeks mash supply and less feed is wasted by the birds. Each hen can feed without being crowded. More eggs have resulted. At one house an outside grain bin was built from used lumber. This, supplemented by some heavy oak barrels and bought at the grocery for a dollar each and fitted with tightly hinged lids, hold a two-weeks supply of grain. Each two weeks a supply of mash and grain is loaded onto a one-horse sled or wagon and the houses supplied.

Where there was need, wall nests took the place of boxes. These are merely shelves with partitions. The wall of the house makes the rear of the nests. They are swung at the top so they can easily be removed for renovation.

Altogether we spent $15 for improvements. It formerly took at least thirty minutes night and morning to feed, with an extra trip or two during the day to refill the water vessels. Now fifteen minutes is ample time for feeding and there is no water to carry.

THE "BULL OF BASHAN" IN CANADA

Field Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby, the conqueror of Palestine and the deliverer of the Holy Land from the Turk and the modern Crusader who has achieved what had not been done since the Crusades, landed at Victoria recently from the S.S. Aorangi, which has come from Sydney, New South Wales, and touched Honolulu en route. His Lordship is known because of his thrusting offensive in the war as the "Bull of Bashan," will make a trip across the Dominion. Photograph shows Lord Allenby with Lady Allenby.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF PREPARING VEAL

A Calf's Head will make several excellent meals. Split the head open, remove the brains and tie them in a thin cloth, chop off the jaws and discard them, along with the eyes. Wash the head and put to boil in water to cover. When partly done drop in the brains. Boil slowly until the meat will leave the bones, then chop it finely along with a slice of fried ham. Season with salt and cayenne pepper, stir in a beaten egg, a few bread-crumbs, and the brains (unless you save them for making croquettes) and put in a baking-dish. Sprinkle bread-crumbs over the top and dot with butter. Add enough liquor to half-cover the mixture and bake in a moderate oven for one-half hour. Strain the bones from the rest of the liquor, season with salt, a dash of cayenne pepper, a few drops of lemon juice, and slice a hard-boiled egg over the top and serve hot. Bread cut into dice and fried in butter may be dropped into this soup when served. The tongue can be boiled for another meal.

Mock Birds are nice for a company dinner. To make use veal cutlets, one-half inch thick. Divide each cutlet into pieces about 2x4 or 2x5 inches, dust each piece with salt, pepper and poultry seasoning, roll and fasten with wooden toothpicks or tie with string. Brown the birds in the fat from the cutlets or other dripping, then add one-half cupful of water or enough to cover the bottom of cooking utensil. Cover closely and simmer very slowly until tender, adding more water if this cooks away. At serving time, remove fastenings and lift carefully to platter and cover with a gravy made by adding flour to the fat, blending until smooth and then adding milk to make sauce the consistency of thick cream.

Veal Pot-Pie: Cut meat into small pieces, drop into boiling water and cook until tender. Then add twelve potatoes, six small onions and two carrots (quartered). When the vegetables are tender, thicken the gravy, put all in a baking-dish and cover with strips of pastry in lattice fashion. Bake for one-half hour in a hot oven.

For Mock-Turtle Soup, clean and scrape a calf's head, discard the eyes, cut off and throw away the jaws. Cover with water and boil until the meat is tender, then cut the best pieces from the bones and set aside. Return the bones to the broth, and add some chicken bones to flavor, if you have them. Add two sliced onions, a sliced turnip, some sticks of celery and a few sprigs of parsley. Add a piece of stick cinnamon, one clove, one or two allspice, a grating of nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Cook one and one-half hours, then strain through a sieve and thicken with a little browned flour stirred smooth in cold water. Then add the veal cut into dice, a little chicken meat, if you have it, and simmer 20 minutes. Dish into hot plates and drop a slice of lemon in each to improve the flavor.

Roast Veal is improved by a stuffing of mashed potatoes seasoned with a finely minced onion and chopped parsley. Make a pocket for the stuffing by removing the bones. If the bones are well cracked and rice or barley added, they will make a fine broth. Brown gravy for veal (or lamb) is particularly good if a little tart jelly is added to it.

Veal Loaf is nice for luncheon or supper. It requires three pounds of uncooked veal, one-fourth pound of salt pork or ham (both finely chopped), one cupful of rolled crackers, three eggs (well beaten), one teaspoonful of sugar, two teaspoonfuls of salt, one-half teaspoonful of pepper. Form into a loaf and bake two hours. Slice cold.

I Got Rid of Quack Grass.

I have completely eradicated quack-grass from my farm, and I believe you would like to know how I did it.

Commence any time in the year that you can get at it, but be sure that you can remain right with the job faithfully until completed. If a firm sod, you should use a breaking plow with a jointer instead of a coulter. Thus, you can turn the sod completely over and leave it smooth and flat.

Plow six inches deep, or deeper if possible. This will give a few inches of soil on the surface, which the disk, set at as steep an angle as possible, will pulverize. At the same time the disk wil cut the root-stalks and throw them to the surface.

Always lay the disk half-way; by so doing the surface is always kept smooth and level. Now disk crosswise in the same manner and continue until you have formed a perfect dust mulch all over the field. This dust mulch will prevent evaporation of moisture. As soon as the green blades begin to show, commence disking again, and keep going until every spear of green has been destroyed. Do not bother to rake up the root-stalks and haul them off and burn them. Leave them right there for they will add humus to the soil — a mighty important factor. Where these roots are the thickest, there you find the best growth of corn.

When this work is commenced after harvest, continue the disking till May 24 and plant to corn, or a cultivated crop.

One plowing of quack is enough if properly done. The dust mulch will hold the moisture, and the roots below said mulch must either grow or decay. Your continuous disking prevents the roots from getting a green leaf on the surface, consequently the roots must die and decay.

Have the disks good and sharp, so they will shave the roots right off. Step on the gas, so as to give motion enough to throw the roots out to the surface. Remember—no raking and hauling off the roots, no second plowing. Do this work in a workman-like manner and you will have satisfactory results.—A. A. H.

Bowel Troubles in Fowls.

Olive oil (the dose is a tablespoonful) has been successfully used for bowel troubles in fowls. Castor-oil is also valuable in cases of diarrhoea. A dose will remove irritant matter from the intestines, and cool the bowels. Some poultrymen use castor-oil and follow with a dose of olive-oil. Other recommended treatments for diarrhoea are:

1. A few drops of spirits of camphor in the drinking water.
2. A half-teaspoonful of paregoric per fowl daily.
3. A teaspoonful of soda water (made by adding three teaspoonfuls of bicarbonate of soda to a pint of water).
4. Finely ground charcoal added to the mash food.
5. A tablespoonful of lime water in each pint of drinking water.
6. Ten drops of tincture of nux vomica for every half-pint of drinking water. There are some who claim this will check bowel disease when all other remedies fail.
7. Rice boiled to a gummy mass and fed by itself for a few days.
8. Ten drops of laudanum in a teaspoonful of water. If this dose does not correct the looseness, the dose should be increased next day. Two or three doses generally effect a cure.

When the excrement secreted by the kidneys, which is normally pure white, appears yellow, though the droppings are solid, and the bird appears perfectly healthy, look out for bowel troubles. When the discharges are streaked with blood, it is time to give preventives for diarrhoea. Greenish discharges, turning to frothy white, are a symptom of cholera.

For severe dysentery, a tablespoonful of common baking soda, mixed in water (using plenty of it) is excellent. Repeat three times a day until the fowl recovers. This is especially recommended when the bowels indicate a cholera condition.

Th general causes of diarrhoea are indigestible food, a chill, coarse or half-cooked feed, too much bran, scarcity of grit, exposure to heavy rains, irregular and improper feeding, filthy water, and too much fat.

Diarrhoea may also be produced by keeping the fowls a long while on hard, dry feed, and then giving a liberal supply of green feed. Deprived of green feed for any length of time, fowls eat so greedily that they become gorged, and the result generally is diarrhoea. When diarrhoea starts the feathers become soiled around the vent.

Looseness of the bowels is an indication of indigestion, or derangement of the digestive organs. Fowls that are in good health seldom suffer from bowel trouble.

To Prevent Horns on Calves.

Dehorn your cows when they are calves from one to two weeks old. Here is how: Clip the hair away from the little horn button and rub the button with caustic potash. Rub until a spot about the size of a dime appears red, but not bleeding.

Put caustic on the button only. Don't turn the calf out in the rain immediately after putting the caustic on, for this will wash the caustic into the calf's eyes. You can get caustic at the drug store for a few cents. Do not handle caustic with the bare hands; use an old glove. Caustic must be kept in an air-tight container to preserve its strength.—W. F. H.

"Keeps My Feet Dry."

"It keeps my feet dry," said the hired man. He cut from an old inner tube a piece of rubber a trifle larger than the sole of his shoe. In resoling his shoes he placed this piece of rubber between the shoe and the new sole, after which he nailed firmly and trimmed.—J. L. B.

Well-placed windows in a hog house that runs east and west, will admit nearly twice the amount of light that would enter a similar house extending north and south. Sunlight is a necessity in keeping the hog house dry, warm, and sanitary.

When the farmhouse medicine cabinet contains only the simplest of first-aid remedies and when the doctor is called in to prescribe for all illness, the health of the rural family will be much improved.

Don't feed the sow for the first twenty-four hours after farrowing. She should, however, have all the luke-warm water that she desires. One should gradually increase her ration of light feeds of bran and ground grains, so that in ten days or two weeks she will be receiving a normal feed.

Care of the Hair.

The number of hairs on the scalp of a full-grown adult is supposed to be about 100,000, but the average scalp seldom has that number. An expert says that cases of falling hair are divided into two classes. One class is idiopathic, which means that nobody knows any real reason why the hair falls out. It just falls out and that's the end of it. The other big class includes all those cases in which the hair falls out as the result of some disease.

In the first class the hair may fall out all at once or it may fall out in patches. In such cases in which the loss of hair seems to have some vague nervous origin it seldom is permanent and the hair sooner or later grows back again. After a severe fever there is a tendency for the hair to fall out. This usually takes place about three months after the time that the fever was at its highest.

It takes a hair about six weeks to grow an inch, and cutting the hair does not improve its growing qualities. The hair is not a hollow tube. This fact will surprise those who are inclined to have the hair singed occasionally. Singeing the hair is often recommended to overcome splitting of the ends and to prevent falling of the hair. According to the beauty specialists, "it closes the tube and keeps the fluid in the hair." But the hair has no sap. The long hair of a woman has a tendency to split at the ends and the singeing of the tips substitutes a charred blunt point for one that is cut clean. Greasing the hair lightly will supply oil, the lack of which causes the hair to split.

The hair is nourished by the blood that comes to the hair roots. In order to prevent the hair from falling out, a certain amount of time each day must be devoted to head hygiene. Keep the scalp clean. Wash the hair once in two weeks, using a good soap. After lathering the hair well it is important to rinse repeatedly with warm water, to make sure that all the soap is removed from the hair and the scalp. In drying the hair it is not necessary to rub vigorously, but rather to pat it with warm Turkish towels. After drying the scalp, start a vigorous circulation of the blood by rubbing with the ends of the fingers. Avoid scratching the scalp. If it seems dry, a small amount of pure olive-oil may be rubbed in. Part the hair and rub the oil into the scalp. If warmed, the oil will penetrate the scalp more readily.

Oily hair is usually caused by some disorder of the digestive organs, and frequent shampooing will stimulate the oil glands and increase the oiliness. Once a month is often enough for the soap-and-water shampoo. Between times, the dry shampoo will cleanse the hair and improve its appearance.

For the dry shampoo, use powdered orris root, dusted evenly over the hair (not the scalp). Allow to remain two hours, then brush out. Cornmeal is also good. Talcum powder may be used in an emergency, but is likely to sift into the pores of the scalp, and that is what you want to avoid.

The beaten white of an egg will cleanse the hair quickly and easily. Allow the egg to remain in the hair until it is dry as powder, then brush out. This does not clog the pores, but it will straighten out artificial curls and waves.

Wearing a tight hat does not cause the hair to fall out, so much as wearing the hat for long hours at a time and a lack of open-air exercise. The scalp must not only be kept clean, but it must have air and sunshine. In fact, modern life has brought about many changes, and the fact that we no longer depend upon a heavy head of hair for protection has had a serious effect upon the scalp.

Aluminum Paint Checks the Heat.

If the steam or hot-water radiators in your home are painted with aluminum paint their radiation effectiveness is reduced about 15 or 20 per cent. This means they are giving off that much less heat than they would were they covered with a more effective paint. In other words, all conditions being equal, larger radiators are required to heat your room in cold weather. These are facts, proven by government tests. However, on steam or hot-water pipes leading to radiators or storage tanks, the aluminum paint is an advantage as it helps keep the heat in. The tests also show that where aluminum paint is applied to the under side of thin metal roofs, it reduces by half the amount of heat radiated underneath, as compared with under surfaces of corroded metal or those covered with ordinary paints.

It is not necessary to remove the old paint before applying the aluminum. Nor is it necessary to remove it from radiators to increase their effectiveness by applying another kind. This is due to the fact, paradoxical as it may seem, that in radiation it is the character of the surface that is important, and the effectiveness of aluminum paint in suppressing radiation, or of non-metallic paints in promoting it, is not affected by what they cover up.—H.

Honey for the Table.

My fondness for honey led me to consider keeping a few bees some years ago, although I had no time to spend as a bee-keeper. By chance I happened to hear of a simple way to have my own honey. The plan, which I adopted, is as follows:

I keep my bees in a cupboard, the dimensions of which are 2 x 2 x 4 feet. In this cupboard are two shelves, with an equal space between each shelf and the top and bottom of the cupboard. A space is left between the shelves and the sides so as to let the bees circulate freely, the shelves resting on brackets nailed to the back of the cupboard.

This improvised "hive" is placed in a corner of my barn. A runaway extends from the bottom of the cupboard out through a hole cut in the side of the barn, acting as an entrance and exit for the bees.

The door is the same size as the face of the cupboard, 2 x 4 feet. It is equipped with a window so that the activity of the bees can be watched occasionally. This window is shuttered so that the light is excluded at all other times.

I have never been troubled by swarming, due to the fact, I imagine, that the bees have plenty of room. Neither have I been troubled with millers.

I do not even bother with boxes, as the bees use the shelves for their honey. I remove the honey on frosty mornings.

Professional bee-keepers may laugh at my plan. Personally I am willing to admit that I know nothing of the technical points of bee culture. The one thing that I do know is that this plan has worked fine for me. My table is always supplied with honey—at the least possible effort on my part.

Throwing mud at a good man soils your own hands.

THE OVERSKIRT FIGURES IN AFTERNOON MODES.

A note of chic simplicity is a feature of this satin frock, which has its graceful overskirt curved to form a deep V in the front and back. Long full sleeves of contrasting-color satin are trimmed with bands of embroidery and gathered into tight little bands at the wrists. The diagram shows just how the dress is put together, and pattern No. 1268 is in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years (or 34, 36 and 38 inches bust only). Size 18 years (36 bust) requires 5⅛ yards 36-inch, or 3 yards 54-inch material, with 1⅜ yards trimming-braid for the sleeves. Price 20c.

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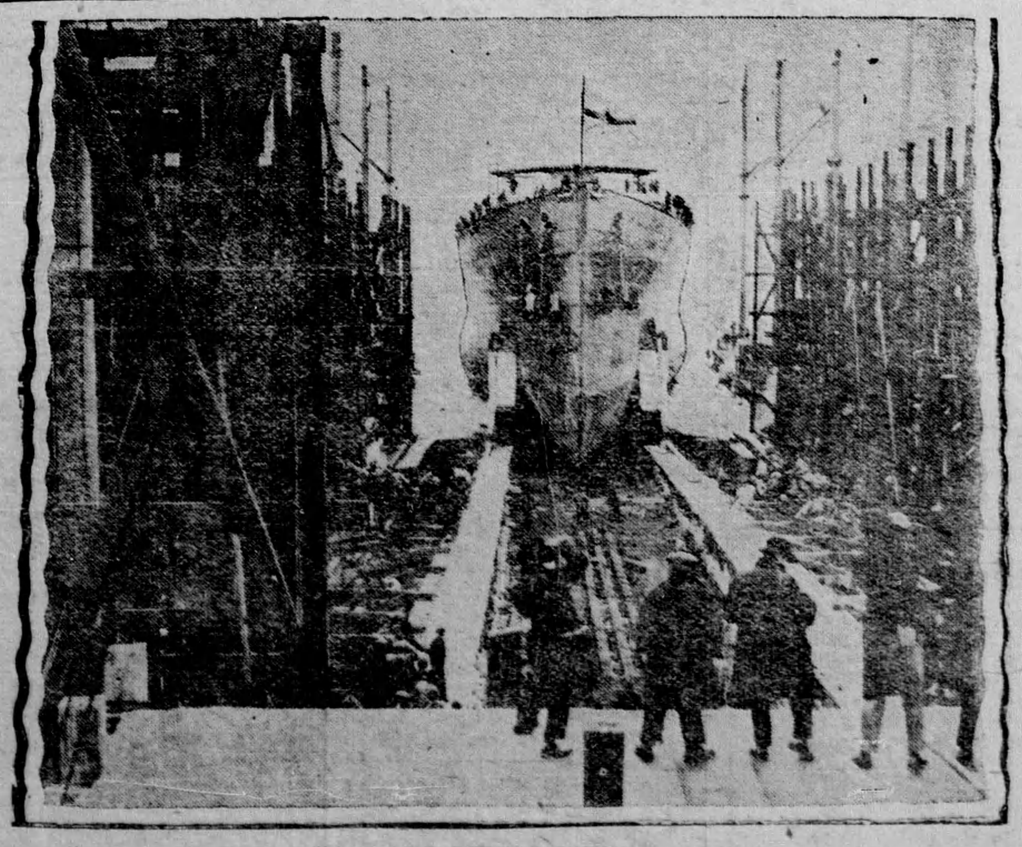
Making Medicine Palatable.

It is always an unpleasant task to give a small child a dose of medicine which it dislikes. When I had to give my small daughter daily doses of one of the mineral oils so much used now, I tried putting just a few of the chocolate sprinkles, or shot, which are used to decorate cake icings on top of the medicine. Now she takes it eagerly. Finely cut chocolate would work as well.—R. B. G.

I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts.—Locke.



NO DETAILS GIVEN

The utmost secrecy has been observed regarding the constructional design of the new British cruiser, Suffolk, the recent launching of which, the other day at Portsmouth, is shown above. The vessel is the first of five cruisers of the county class now under construction.