

EFFICIENT FARMING

GETTING READY TO MAKE CAPONS.

The best capons are fowls hatched in June or July, so that by the time they are three months old—the proper age for caponing—the hottest days of the summer have passed and the fowls will not be stunted in their development.

Every complete set of caponing tools consists of a knife, spring spreaders, nippers, sharp steel hook, probe and a cannula. A keen, razorlike blade makes the incision with little, if any, pain to the bird, which is not true of a dull knife.

The cannula is a nickel-plated tube about six inches long, through which is inserted a fine steel wire or horsehair, to form a loop. This loop is pushed over the organ by aid of the probe; drawing the wire back through the tube closes the loop so that the organ is easily drawn away.

A kitchen table will be found convenient for operating. The other requirements are a bowl or granite basin—to hold about a quart of water to which have been added a few drops of carbolic acid to make it strongly antiseptic—and a few pieces of soft sponge or medicated cotton.

Preparation of the cockerels for caponing should begin thirty-six hours in advance of the operating by placing them in a building where they can be kept during that period without food or water.

STARTING THE JOB.

To hold the fowls motionless upon the table I use two pieces of soft cord with a slip noose at each end, one end of each cord supporting a rock of four or five pounds' weight and the other ends securing the wings and legs of the fowl. The loop holding the legs of the bird is tightened about the hock joints and the weight suspended over the edge of the table at the right of the operator. The other cord is looped over the wings close up to the body and the weight suspended over the left side of the table. When the fowls thus secured it should lie with its back to the operator, who should proceed immediately by plucking a few feathers from the side—just a little in front of the thigh—to make a bare spot an inch in diameter. Moisten a piece of cotton with the antiseptic solution, holding it in the tweezers for the purpose, and sponge this spot, as well as the surrounding feathers, to prevent infection.

The incision should be made just over and parallel to the first and second ribs; and should be a full inch in length. If the cut is made with a drawing motion there will be little danger of cutting too deep.

The spreaders are now inserted to

hold the wound open, and the steel hook used to make a second incision in the thin membrane over the intestines. If the fowl has been sufficiently starved the intestines will have fallen forward, revealing the organ, which lies along the backbone; but in case the intestines obstruct the view the probe is used to push them aside.

INCISIONS HEAL QUICKLY.

In shape and size the organ closely resembles a yellowish bean and lies in such a position that the loop of the cannula may be slipped over it without difficulty. By drawing back upon the wire to close the loop and applying a slight twisting motion the organ may be drawn away and any clinging ligaments cut away at the opening.

With the exercise of care and caution the large artery which lies close beside the organ will be left unharmed; but if it should be injured the bird should be killed immediately and dressed for market.

As soon as the operation on one side of the fowl is completed it should be turned and the operation repeated on the other side.

The incisions will close of themselves after the spreader is removed and will heal in a few days. It is safe to turn the birds loose to feed on a soft mash, which should be their only feed for a few days.

I have had a few suffer from "wind puff" a day or so after operating, but this was readily cured by puncturing the puff with a sharp needle, and no bad after effects resulted.

PLANT BREEDING ACTIVITIES AT THE O. A. C.

The plant breeding work carried on by the Dept. of Horticulture is summarized as follows:

A strain of greenhouse forcing leaf lettuce of the variety Grand Rapids has been developed at the College during the past. Seed of this sort has been propagated in some quantity. The strain is light green, long-standing and produces a very vigorous growth. For unforeseen reasons, however, we will not be able to distribute this seed in quantity until the season of 1924.

Iceberg Lettuce—A strain of Iceberg lettuce developed at the College has been propagated and distributed in some quantity during the past season. Reports from growers indicate that it has been satisfactory and a greater quantity of seed will be distributed during the coming season.

Asparagus—As a result of cutting tests on 1,396 plants for two years, 45 of the heaviest yielding plants were selected during the past season. The variety is Mary Washington. Unfortunately, of the 45 heavy yielding plants 42 were male and, therefore, very little seed was obtained.

Onions—Inbreeding and crossing of onions has been continued. A few strains which had reached the state of perfection required were propagated this season and seed will be sown for a larger crop next year.

Tomatoes—All crosses of outdoor tomatoes have been dropped in favor of the John Baer X Earliana, which apparently will be of great value in this country. Seed was distributed in the spring of 1923. Many reports have been received as to the value of this strain. The Jerome B. Rice people of Grass Lake, Michigan, report that from their trial plots the first tomatoes picked were of this cross.

They state that the quality and continued yielding ability make it a very superior sort. A somewhat similar report was received from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington; special comment was made upon the quality. A report from the Vineland Experimental Station shows it to have a long-bearing season. Our own results with it have been very satisfactory. However, there is some variation from plant to plant and during the coming season this sort will be more carefully selected.

Celery—All strains of celery have been dropped except the dark and medium green strains. Some of these strains seem to be quite superior and will be further tested.

Beans—Owing to the large bulk of seed accumulated as a result of our white bean crosses it was found necessary to drop this work. The beans were turned over to the Dominion Cerealists at Ottawa, and to the Experimental Farm at Ridgeway to be continued. These strains seem very valuable and it is to be hoped satisfactory results will be received from them.

Garden Beans—One strain of vigorous, wax-podded, anthracnose resistant beans has been produced. We are increasing our stock of seed.

In addition to this work, during the past season crosses have been made of both indoor tomatoes and indoor cucumbers in an attempt to get some satisfactory strains for indoor work.

The tiller who tills wisely fills his own till.

Before the advent of the radio "listening in" was a snoop and unrespectable practice. Now it is a popular and respectable thing to do.

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 27

Amos and Hosea Pleading for Righteousness—Lesson V.—
The Lesson: Books of Amos and Hosea—Golden Text:
Hate the evil and love the good.—Amos 5: 15.

CONTINUATION OF THE STORY—The great grandson of Jehu, Jeroboam II, who reigned in Israel from B.C. 781 to 740, was an able and successful ruler, but it is recorded of him that he departed not from all the sins of the first Jeroboam. Israel, in his long reign, was comparatively prosperous and peaceful. The long continued wars with Syria came to an end, for Syria was now fully occupied in guarding her eastern boundaries from the constantly repeated incursions of Assyria, whose capital, Nineveh, on the river Tigris, had become the seat of an ambitious and powerful empire. Both Israel and Judah, during this period, increased in wealth and in territory, until they held dominions almost as great as those of David and Solomon.

With wealth, however, came luxury and vice. The rich increased their riches, often at the expense of their poorer neighbors. The poor fell into debt, and, failing to pay, their lands were seized and themselves or their children enslaved. Violence and robbery were frequent, and gross uncleanness was practiced at the altars of Jehovah in imitation of the altars of Baal and Asherah. Hosea declared that there was "no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land." The very priests were robbers, and fed on the sins of the people, and it was "like people, like priest." Of the rulers of Samaria Amos said, "They know not to do right, saith the Lord, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces." Outwardly strong, the nation was rotten at heart, and its rottenness and weakness was evident in the faction, strife and civil war which followed the removal of the strong hand of Jeroboam. Amos and Hosea, with their stern denunciations and messages of doom and pleading for repentance and righteousness, were the men needed for such a time, and with splendid courage and faith they performed their task.

Amos 6: 1-3. *At ease in Zion.* The luxury-loving people of Jerusalem and of Samaria are meant, who sought the gratification of their own selfish appetites and desires, and cared nothing for the suffering of the poor. Amos dwells upon the pride and power of their country. The countries to the north of Palestine, which had for Orontes River, and Calneh (exact site unknown) and Carmel (exact site unknown) were greater than they. But their pride and power would not avail them in the "evil day," which Amos foresees to be swiftly approaching. He sees the rising power of Assyria, the first of those great military empires which sought to make themselves masters of the world, and looks for the time when Assyrian armies will invade Israel and carry the people captive, he says, will be those of Israel captives. The first to go and selfish revellers (v. 7), whose pride Jehovah abhors, and whose palaces, built by the price of blood, he hates, v. 8.

Hosea 6: 1-3. *Come and let us return.* The invitation to repentance is, supposed, by some recent writers on the easy confidence of the sinners of Israel that a more greater than Jehu will bring a speedy removal of his favor. But it is much more probable that we should take verses 1-3 as the prophet's own serious and earnest pleading, and promise of the forgiving grace of God. He has just said, at the end of the preceding chapter, that Jehovah will leave them alone until they acknowledge their offence and seek His face. Until, in their affliction, they seek Him earnestly. And now he pleads that they turn with him, and seek the Lord, who turn not delay to forgive them, and that they persevere in seeking to know Him better, the Lord will reveal Himself as the light of morning and bestow His blessings like the rain. In many other passages of prophecy, and again and again in the Psalms we find the same assurance of the free pardoning grace of God to the penitent and returning sinner. See Amos 5: 4-6; Isa. 1: 18; 12: 1; 55: 6, 7; Jer. 4: 1-2; Ezek. 18: 23; Psalm 32: 5; 40: 12, 13.

The prophet lived through the period of civil war which preceded the fall of the kingdom of Israel in B.C. 722. He regarded the evils of the time as God's punishment for sin. But the same hand that has torn will heal, and with genuine repentance will come again God's favor and blessing.

Abruptly the prophet turns to chide Israel for the fecklessness of its moods of penitence. Knowing this weakness of character in his people, God has sent his prophets with stern reproof, with words that cut like the blows of an axe or the thrusts of a sword, that he might arouse the conscience and lead to real change of heart. In the teaching of the prophets God's laws (his judgments) have gone forth to the people as a light, making clear the way of righteousness. For it was the prophets who, from the days of Samuel, declared that God's requirement was not the formal worship of the heart, but the inward service of the heart, manifesting itself in deeds of mercy and in knowing and seeking to do the will of God.

Amos was a stern prophet. Yes, he was very stern. But why? He had come to know the Lord as a God of righteousness; one who was compelled by his own good character to punish all wrongdoing. The sins of Israel that aroused his indignation were, especially, the social injustices that prevailed. The wealthy oppressed the poor. The wealthy and highly placed drank and caroused. The poor man had no chance, 2: 6-8.

What, then, was Amos' message? What did he plead for? He bitterly denounced the popular religious ritual (remember Bethel) as mockery, 5: 20. He called for fair play between man and man, simple justice, common brotherhood, mercy, 5: 24. "If your attitude toward your fellow men is not changed," thundered Amos, "the lightning from above will fall on your kingdom and shatter it to pieces. You cannot trifle with God. He himself is good, and He demands goodness from you."

It is well to get a very clear idea of Amos' way of thinking about God. He imaged Him to himself as the almighty judge who could not permit the idle grandees and revelling drunkards of Israel to break the hearts of their poor fellow citizens. No, they would be punished, and the nation would go into captivity, 6: 1-7.

What of Hosea? Was his message simply a repetition of that of Amos? Far from it. It supplemented the touch of tender emotion that was lacking in the terrific invective of Amos. The passage selected for our study shows this beautifully, 6: 4-6.

If Amos thought of God as the unending judge, Hosea thought of Him as the eternal love. If Amos said, "Reform your ways," Hosea cried out, "Do not turn your backs on the offer, making to you." Amos exclaimed, "Punishment will follow your drunkenness, revelry, bribery, oppression of the poor." Hosea sobbed out, "Oh, my people, will you not listen to me before it is too late? The Lord's heart is toward you. You are His son. He called you out of Egypt. . . He draws you with cords of love, with the bands of a man, but your sins will break His Himself says, How shall I give thee up?" ch. 11: 8.

Sheep Notes

As soon as the lambs have arrived and straightened around for business, attention should be given to feeding the ewes for milk flow. How well the ewes can keep the lambs growing rapidly and ruggedly, depends upon with to keep up the flow of milk for the offspring.

I find it good practice to look ahead in the management of the flock. Plenty of pasture is essential. Also one ought to have it arranged, at least we have one pasture to another at least once a week during the growing season.

On account of the succulent nature of the early pastures, we have found it advisable to continue giving the ewes grain ration after they are out to grass. The ration of oats, corn, and bran, mixed as we do for winter feeding serves very nicely for this purpose.

Be sure your dealer understands where the cloverseed he is trying to sell you comes from.



This Barred Plymouth has started on a long journey from Toronto to Barcelona, Spain, to represent its class at the World's Poultry Congress to be held next month. It belongs to Gordon L. Collins, of Toronto.



How contagions spread

In the world of school and play all children are equal. Youngsters from homes less clean than yours come into intimate contact with your children.

To guard against contagion, make sure that your children are completely cleaned and purified whenever they come in from play.

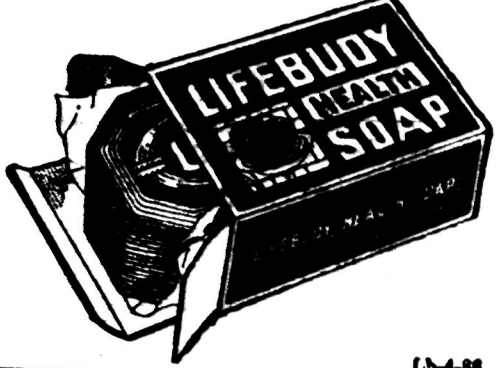
Your great ally is Lifebuoy Health Soap. The safe antiseptic ingredient of Lifebuoy penetrates each dirt-laden pore. Rich, creamy lather carries it into every cranny of the skin. The healthful odour vanishes a few seconds after use, but the protection remains.

LIFEBUOY HEALTH SOAP

More than Soap—a Health Habit

Keep your children safe with Lifebuoy. Teach them to use it often.

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Leg Weakness in Chicks.

By S. W. Knipe.

Leg weakness is an ailment prevalent with closely confined chicks. Probably it is more correctly termed a "symptom" rather than a disease since it apparently may occur under different methods of feeding and management and in different forms, such as rheumatism, neuritis, and rickets.

Symptoms.—As the name implies, the legs become weak. It starts with an unsteadiness and the chicks soon lose use of the legs. The appetite usually continues to be good at first. The largest and most vigorous chicks are often the worst afflicted. It occurs in chicks from one to six months of age. Rheumatism and gout usually show enlarged joints.

Causes.—Little is definitely known as to the cause of leg weakness in chicks. Lack of green food, mineral matter, fresh air, exercise and sunshine, deficiency in the vitamins content in the ration, overfeeding of highly nutritious feeds, too much heat, damp quarters, and overcrowding are causes most often assigned for leg weakness.

Prevention and Cure.—It is a generally recognized fact that chicks which have access to the ground outside after they are a week old, rarely ever become affected with leg weakness. Whether this provides exercise, sunshine, fresh air, green feed or mineral matter is an unanswered question. Nevertheless, the results are certain. When the weather is cool even a few minutes outside daily will be effective in preventing or curing leg weakness.

When weather conditions are bad and the chicks must be kept indoors the following will be beneficial:

Keep sand or fine litter on the floor. Provide fresh pieces of sod each day.

Feed grain in clean dry litter to induce exercise.

Keep the brooder house well ventilated.

Supply green feed such as sprouted oats, lettuce, green alfalfa or clover. Mix 5 pounds of granulated bone in 100 pounds of mash or feed the bone in a hopper.

Sometimes wood or hard coal ashes placed in a corner of the brooder house apparently have a value in preventing and curing leg weakness. The chicks will eat it readily and it can do no harm.

The surest means of both prevention and cure is to get the chicks outside as much as possible after they are a few days old.

To Rescreen Window Frames.

Some people find it difficult in putting wire screen on window-screen frames to stretch it taut and to do so smoothly even job. Here is a simple method that anyone can use:

Put two screen frames top to top on a table with the screen side up. Raise the outer ends about a foot from the table and block them there. Tack the wire, drawn moderately taut, to the two ends, which will be the bottoms of the frames. Then take out the end supports and press the frames flat to the table. This will draw the wire as taut as required. Tack it and cut the narrow strip from between the two frames. It will waste a two or three-inch strip of wire but will give a smooth and satisfactory job.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH PERENNIALS

By a Member of a Horticultural Society.

My experience with perennials has been many and varied; sometimes a splendid success, then a dismal failure. In spite of failures, however, I have found them well worth cultivating from the first pansy and Iceland poppy in the spring until the last pansy and poppy in the late fall. For, indeed, these two plants will bloom all the season if dead blossoms are all picked off before seed forms.

I should advise beginners to avoid planting strong growing shrubs and trees near their perennial borders or beds. We have fairly large tennis and croquet lawns, and in past years the borders surrounding them were gay with flowers all summer long, but unfortunately a variety of shrubs and trees formed a background, and now they have starved out my beautiful plants.

I had quite a measure of success with roses, and the dahlias were immense. The latter were all shades of blue and purple, single and double. I have rescued a portion of the smaller growing kinds, and have them in some beds near the house, where I can step out a nonstop them, and pull up a weed or tie up a plant at any odd moment. My perennials have been relegated to the kitchen garden, where they ought to flourish.

Would-be gardeners with a full purse, can consult a catalogue and order all they fancy; the person with a thin purse must go more slowly, and to such a way is open, as seeds of many desirable perennials can be bought very cheaply, germinate easily and bloom the second season (some even the first). Among these are Iceland and Oriental poppies, delphiniums, aquilegias, lychnis, calceolarias, viscaria, campanulas, pinks, gypsophila, feverfews, sweet williams, arabis and many others.

While most perennials will winter without covering, it is good policy to give a light covering of short, well-rotted manure, about freezing weather, and pointing it in the spring. This is especially good for bulbs, such as tulips and scilla, as it prevents heaving by frost. There are many other delightful things which I have not mentioned, but I think I have said enough to encourage beginners, and I do not presume to instruct veteran gardeners.

Outdoor Whitewash.

Weatherproof whitewash can be made as follows:

1. Use sixty-two pounds of quicklime; slake with twelve gallons of hot water.

2. Dissolve two pounds of common table salt and one pound of sulphate of zinc in two gallons of boiling water.

3. Two gallons of skimmed milk—pour No. 2 into No. 1, add No. 3 (milk) and mix thoroughly.

None can injure him who does not injure himself.

TREES, SHRUBS, ROSES, PERENNIALS

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Information for Farmers

The following bulletins and many others, of which these are examples, are available to farmers, and will be sent free on request by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The information they contain is both useful and practical, and may point the way to greater profits from farming operations.

If interested, clip out this advertisement, check bulletins desired, and mail, without postage, in envelope addressed to:

Publications Branch,
Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada.

New Vetches of Great
Recommended Varieties of Field Beans
Good Treatment for Grain Beet
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