

MANAGING SITTING HENS AND THEIR CHICKS

Where one has a good many hens and is striving to raise a considerable number of chicks without the incubator it is quite essential that some system be adopted. This is necessary for several reasons. In the first place the matter of attention or work necessary to look after a lot of setting hens is considerable and the work should be systematized.

Our plan has always been to have a house for setting. This can be built specially for the purpose or any old shed with a little renovating can be made to do good duty for that purpose. It should, if possible, be well shaded, and while it should be ventilated, it should be rather dark so that the hens will feel that they are in a rather secluded place. All hens for brooding purposes should be removed to this house, as soon as they become well settled in business. It is a long-since exploded idea that a hen must not be moved when she wants to set, but must be set to her own free will in the selection of a nesting place, although it be one of the most outlandish to be found. With a little care, ninety-nine out of a hundred can be successfully moved and do much better work than when left to themselves about the barn, cow shed or pig pen.

Good rooey boxes should be used as nest boxes such as cases that tomato cans come in and other similar grocery boxes. These can be placed around in the shed on the floor, whether it be of earth or boards; the ground is really better, as it gives a little added moisture to the nest and eggs. Whenever a hen has been wanting to sit for two or three days she should be removed to one of these boxes in the shed which has been well supplied with nice nesting material of fine straw or chaff well rounded into a good nest. Make the change at night, putting a nest egg under her and cover with a board that will prevent her from leaving her nest until you are ready to let her off in a day or two for feed and water.

It is a good plan to let some of them set for a few days until you have some more that are ready and then give them all eggs at the same time so that when they hatch the chicks can be dubbed up with less hens than it took to set them and some of the hens re-set.

Hens which have been moved will need some very careful attention for a few days after they have been moved to take them off for feed at a certain time each day and then in a little while see that they go back on the nest alright. If they do not, then they should be caught and placed carefully on the nest. One can care for several hens at a time in this way, letting a number of them off at the same time. Sometimes they will get their places changed, but that does not make much difference, so they do not get two on a nest. Corn and good fresh water with a lot of good gravel for grit is all they need for feed. Do not give them any soft food during the hatching period. Where one is willing to go to a little extra trouble and expense a wire netting frame can be made to set right over the nest box, being large enough to allow the hen room for feeding. This confines her so that she will go back on the nest of her own accord as rule without coaxing. This wire frame can be used outside for confining the chicks and hen when they are taken off.

Another pretty good method is to make these small runs about two by four or five feet and eighteen inches high, covered and set up to a barrel which has been turned down on its side for the nest. A good tight barrel makes a good nest and shelter can be used outside. A number of these can be made at the start and kept year after year if stored away after the season is over so they will not rot down. It is a good plan to have these all in a yard so they will not be molested by dogs, etc.

When you find a hen does not hatch well upon the same kind of eggs that other hens do well with, do not use that hen for setting again. Give a lot of the chickens to her. The truth of the matter is she has probably not been enough in her body to bring the chicks along as fast as nature requires. In other words, she must have special feverish temperature.

A supply of good insect powder should be on hand to use on the set- ters at least once a week and until about three or four days before the time for them to hatch. The hatching time should be marked on the nest box. In some localities the rats are very destructive on eggs and the young chicks. When such is the case nesting coops and brood coops should be made to close up rat proof. A little trouble and expense for protection are well expended. After about a week of incubation the tester should be used and all the infertile eggs removed and boiled to feed to young chicks. All rotten eggs should be removed or they are likely to burst as the time goes on and make a great mess of the whole nest. Such eggs are those which have started to develop a chick, but lacking the vitality to go on to maturity. Of course after the growth has stopped decomposition sets in and there is the mischief to pay. A tester may be purchased from any poultry supply house selling incubators; or one can be made out of a potatoboard roll about 18 inches long, something like a cylinder is rolled in. Put the small end of the egg up to one end, looking through the other at a good

strong lamp or electric light. When it looks clear after being incubated for a week or more it is not fertile and if it has a chick started it will show it started to form.

Of course, the room must be dark to do any good at all. When the chicks begin to hatch it is a good plan to keep an eye upon matters to see that a lot of empty shells do not get cupped over the ends of the eggs not yet hatched and prevent them from hatching.

The chicks should be left in the nest until all are hatched that are going to, then removed to good, dry, roomy, brood coops, putting enough chicks with one hen to make up a good brood for her, say twenty, which any good hen can care for just as good as she can half that number, unless the weather is very severe. Feed the old hen some whole corn but let the chicks go over until they are forty-eight hours old before giving them their feed. This should consist of rolled oats, cracked crumbs and some hard boiled eggs if such are to be had, although the latter are not really essential to health. Keep fresh water in a vessel of some sort where they cannot get wet trying to drink.

In a few days a little finely cracked corn and wheat, with a little small millet seed, makes a good alternative for them. Or if you are where you can get the prepared chick feed which many grocers sell for the purpose, it is fine and about as cheap unless you have grain you have raised on your place. Good, clean, sharp sand is really essential and the scratch food should be thrown upon it so they are sure to get some of it right from the start. It is essential that the chicks be kept exercising in order to insure health as well as growth. To do this, feed the fine grain in a litter of some kind, compelling them to work for what they get.

Sour milk is one of the best and healthiest foods in addition to the scratch food that they can have after they are about ten days old. It not only tends to make them grow, but is a great appetizer and health promoter. It may be had alone as a drink or mixed in a mash and fed that way. If you have your own grain cracked it should be run over a sieve to take out the meal that would otherwise be lost in feeding it as a scratch food. This can then be used with the dry mash. A good dry mash should be kept in a hopper where they can run to it at all times. They will not eat too much; in fact, it is the most economical way to feed where the rapid growth is desired.—Southern Ruralist.

TUBERCULAR PATIENTS HAPPY

Here is a part of a letter from a tubercular patient at the State Sanatorium to his friend, which the friend referred to us. It is one of those human interest letters which should make every tax payer in North Carolina feel glad that he has a part in making health possible for our tubercular sick.

"I feel like saying, 'Thank God for the North Carolina Sanatorium and for the noble hearts and public spirited men of the State who have made this institution possible.'

"Here we have beautiful views in all directions, and the scenery is almost equal to that of the mountains in the Western part of the State. The delightful breezes are a real tonic to every one. One patient said to me to-day: 'I was in an awful fix before I came here. I could not talk nor laugh, and I felt miserable; was sick all the time.' That patient now is like a ray of sunshine among us; she laughs, talks and even sings as she goes through the ward doing little services for the weaker ones."

DIVORCED WIFE OF BRODIE L. DUKE WILL WED AGAIN

Pasadena, California, May 4.—Mrs. Minnie Woodward Duke, divorced wife of Brodie L. Duke, of the Duke tobacco interests, at noon on Thursday is to be married to Frank May, former city councilman and at present a member of the local board of education.

The ceremony, which will be before only members of the immediate families of the principals, is to be held in the Duke residence, 348 Congress place. Immediately following the ceremony the Mays will leave for an automobile tour of Southern California.

The couple will make their home in this city permanently. Mrs. Duke has a son residing in Los Angeles, Woodward Duke, who passes much of his time at his mother's home here. His parents were separated in 1904, two years after they came to this city to live. Mrs. Duke is said to have received \$100,000 from her husband at the time of separation.

NEARLY TEN TONS OF MILK FROM ONE COW IN 1 YEAR.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 3.—Nearly ten tons of milk, the equivalent of more than 1,200 pounds of butter in a year, is the world's record of production of the Guernsey cow "May Bama" owned by E. B. Cassatt, at Berwyn, near here. For the 365 days ended yesterday the cow's record was 19,873 pounds of milk or 1,073.41 pounds of butter fat. The gross earnings for the animal for the year were nearly \$1,200.

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DON'T FORGET TO JOIN THE Christmas Savings Club at The First National Bank. Deposit 25c 50c or \$1.00 each week and at the expiration of 40 weeks or on Dec. 14th we will mail you our check for a nice little sum together with interest thereon a 4 per cent. per annum for your Christmas shopping.

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HAVE YOU SEEN THE LINE OF press Silks at Goldstein's?

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Man who would be Must rule the empire of himself. —Shelley.

Conversation calls out into the light what has been lodged in the recesses and secret chambers of the soul. A man with vast resting without conversation, is like a miser, who lives only to himself.—Isaac Watts.

It is worth a thousand pounds a year to have the habit of looking on the bright side of things.—Anonymous.

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WHITE OXFORDS FOR EVERY member of the family at Goldstein's, Dunn, N. C.

(Continued From First Page) President at Washington, Secretary Daniels will speak for him.

There have been some amusing features to lighten the serious aspects of the mediators' proceedings. The mediators have been receiving a great many letters approving their course, and offering advice. One letter urged that Theodore Roosevelt was the man to set up a provisional government in Mexico, backed by North, South and Central America, and that the Spanish Republic should induce him to undertake the provisional direction of affairs at Mexico.

TWO STILL TAKEN BY REVE- NUE OFFICERS

Two big illicit stills were captured in Johnston county last Saturday near the town of Benson. The raid was made by Deputy Collectors J. P. Stall and J. R. Kennedy, and Deputy Marshal George Moore, and was one of the biggest hauls that the officers had made in that county for some time.

Besides the two big stills captured sixteen hundreds gallons of beer, 20 gallons of whiskey and five sacks of meal were seized, besides 24 fermenters.

The still was owned by Nathan and Knot Beasley and both of these men were captured by the officers and will be held for trial at the next term of court. The stills were near the home of Knot Beasley and the officers had very lively chase before they made good their efforts to entrap the blockaders.—Tuesday's News and Observer.

OUR NEW SPRING DISPLAY!

Just as winter is turning into spring
WE ANNOUNCE A COMPLETE SHOWING of New Summer Dry Goods, Notions, Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings, Shoes, Hats, Etc., or anything that you want to wear.

SUMMER IS COMING

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