

Home Course In Poultry Keeping

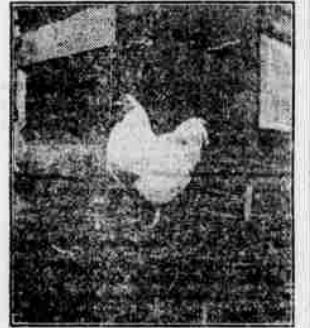
IX.—Seasonal Review of the Work.

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In this last lesson I shall apply the suggestion given in the previous eight lessons by naming briefly the things that will require attention month by month.

January.
All stock saved for sale as breeders should have been got rid of around the holiday season or shortly thereafter, and the poultryman begins the year with a well culled flock of layers. In January the laying hens will require more attention than at any other season of the year. The weather is severe, and as egg prices are high every egg added to the basket represents a good profit. See that the house is tight, except openings in the front left for ventilation. See that these windows are so protected that snow does not blow in. Whether you will keep the hens shut in or allow them to run out will depend upon your general plan of operation. If feeding in litter is used, it will be best to keep the hens indoors as much as possible, and careful watch will be necessary to see that the birds are kept busy and always too hungry to mope around, yet the January hen must never go to bed with an empty crop. When the temperature of the house is below freezing the hens should be given water with the chill taken off twice or, better still, three times a day. Sometimes eggs will have to be gath-



WHITE WYANDOTTE COCKEREL.

ered more than once a day so that they will not freeze in the nest. Do not neglect to provide green food. If your supply of fall cabbages and other vegetables run out, it will be necessary to use either steamed clover or alfalfa or to sprout oats.

February.
The February work of the poultry yard is very like that of the January. The main idea at this season of the year is to keep the hens laying. When the warm days come, the droppings that have accumulated in the poultry house will become damp and malodorous and should be removed. If there is a heavy fall of snow shovel a little strip in front of the house, and if hens range around stables or in feed lots it will pay to shovel a path for them. During very sloppy days it may be desirable to shut the hens in, as it is of little benefit for them to trawl around in the slush, and it will result in the soiling of the eggs.

March.
With a well kept flock of poultry the March egg yield is the heaviest of the year. Eggs are declining in price rapidly at this season and should be marketed frequently. By this month any supply of vegetables kept from the previous fall will have been exhausted, and with the feeling of spring in the air the poultryman must not forget that warm days will not bring the hens spring foods. Dry clover and alfalfa are fair, but sprouted oats are better, and it will be worth the trouble necessary to prepare them. As soon as the ground may be worked all yards or, if on a farm, a patch of ground near the poultry house should be sown in oats. The chickens may pull one-half the crop up by the roots as it comes through the ground, but it is the chickens we are interested in and not the oat crop.

If the incubator is to be used for hatching it should be started about the 1st of March, while the hens may now be set as rapidly as they become broody. With the heavy breeds every effort should be made to have the bulk of the chickens hatch during the month of April. During the last two weeks in March incubators are to be set for Leghorns.

April.
With green food sown the previous month the egg production problem in April will simplify itself considerably. The hens can now range abundantly, and the care necessary in the winter time to keep them busy and happy is no longer required. April is the poultryman's busy month. His labors with the layers consist chiefly in gathering the eggs, but the work is most arduous with sitting hens and incubators, which are now running full blast, and even more of it's time must go to

the care of wee chicks. Of all the work of the poultry farm that of caring for the newly hatched chicks is the most difficult to systematize or to intrust to the hands of hired labor.

The coops or outdoor brooders should be well scattered about, as it is not good for large flocks of young chicks to run together. Moreover, young chicks must be protected in their feeding quarters from the presence of old fowls, which in their greed to get at the food meant for the little fellows will run over and trample them. On the farm this is most easily arranged by having the food for chicks in a slat coop, which keeps out the grown fowls.

May.
May, like April, is a month in which the hens take care of themselves. The hatching of the larger breeds should be finished the early part of this month. Hens of all breeds will insist upon watching to brood, but can be broken up by penning them in an outdoor coop for a few days. Little chicks will require a great deal of care, and when thundershowers come up some one must hasten out, frequently in the rain, and see that the foolish hens and frightened brooder chicks get under shelter and do not crouch up in some fence corner. If perchance some have been forgotten one should make a thorough search as the shower is over and bring all soaked chicks into the house to dry. Those found down flat on their backs and apparently dead, if rescued soon enough and wrapped in woolen rags and placed around the stove, will revive in a most astonishing fashion.

June.
The hatching of Leghorns should be brought to a close during the early part of this month and all male birds taken from the yards. The growing chicks will now be old enough to need less care, and the chief source of the poultryman's loss will be due to his carelessness in leaving coops unprotected from "varmints." Lice and mites will now begin to invade the poultryman's camp more abundantly, and with the approach of the warm weather more cleanliness in feeding vessels and about the house will be necessary.

During June crops should be sown to supply green food in the midsummer, when the grass and spring sown crops dry up.

July.
The poultryman's work is considerably relieved during July. Indeed, this is the best season of the year for him to leave the chicken farm to the hired man and visit his kinfolk. Cleanliness to keep down disease and lice and care in gathering the eggs frequently and marketing them promptly are the chief points worthy of mention.

Early broilers will be ready for market during this month.

August.
In August we have the same problems as the previous month. Be sure the hens have abundant water and green food. The egg yield should show a considerable increase over July. The male birds of the heavier breeds should now be got into shape for market. The poultry breeder should take careful observation of his growing stock and make selection of the most vigorous youngsters to be reserved, from which to pick the breeding stock. More green crops should now be sown for the fall pasturage. All two-year-old hens and, if you have abundant pullets, a portion of the yearling hens may now be sent to market.

September.
Eggs are now advancing in price, but it is neither right nor, in the long run, profitable to hold them. Sell all eggs promptly and try to get recognition for your honesty and quality of your product. Young male birds, especially Leghorns, should be separated from the pullets. The coops or colony houses in which the young pullets have grown should be gradually moved toward the house which is to be the winter quarters and the pullets got into the habit of roosting in the laying house. Nice secluded nests should be arranged, as a few precocious pullets will begin laying in this month. Sow wheat and rye for winter green foods.

October.
Pullets will now begin laying in considerable numbers. If you have fancy trade keep their eggs, which are small, separated from the larger stock. Any remaining old hens that are not to be kept through the winter should be disposed of. Runty pullets and all young male birds not needed for breeding stock should also be sent to market.

November.
This month should find the laying flock nicely installed in their winter quarters. November eggs are high in price and scarcer than at any other time during the year. The poultry fancier will now select his birds and get them ready for the shows. As the nights grow colder use judgment in closing up the poultry house. If it is closed tightly the hens which have been roosting in the open air will catch cold, and roup will be the result. Keep a careful lookout for this dread disease and take immediate steps to correct things if the symptoms of roup appear.

December.
December is the height of the poultry show season. The fancier will be a very busy man. His birds must be cooped, trained and prepared for the shows. The poultryman himself may be away at shows, and some one else will have to look after the flock at home. By all means layers must not be neglected. Not only are December eggs highly profitable, but layers that do not start in this month will be very liable to keep in the background until the warm spells of March.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XII.—Second Quarter,
For June 19, 1910.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Matt. xiii, 1-9, 13-23—Memory Verse, 23—Golden Text, Jas. i, 21—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

We step back quite a bit in the order of events to take up this and the next two lessons on the "Mysteries of the Kingdom," but perhaps it does not matter much how we step if only we step into the light and keep step with our blessed Lord in His thoughts and purposes. Although verses 10 to 17 are not included in our lesson we must look at them, as there we find the reason why He taught in parables. The rulers having determined to kill Him (xii, 10) our lesson chapter opens with the statement that the same day He went out of the house and sat by the seaside. A simple statement of a fact, but very suggestive of another fact—that He was about to go out from the house of Israel and begin to gather from the sea of nations another people during this age who will reign with Him in the next or Kingdom age (Matt. xiii, 37-43; Acts xv, 14-18).

When the disciples asked Him why He taught in parables, His reply was, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." And then he quoted from Isa. vi the prophecy concerning this blindness. The kingdom of God, or of heaven, was no mystery, for it was plainly revealed in all the Old Testament. The sufferings and glory of the Messiah were all fully revealed, but that there should be a long period between the sufferings and the glory, that the kingdom would be at hand and then postponed for a whole age, this was not revealed until by the Lord in these parables, and later to and by Paul. A concordance will enable any one to see that the word "mystery" is used of God in Christ, Christ in His people, the blindness of Israel, the resurrection of the just, the development of iniquity, the end of this age. This whole age between the rejection of Christ and His coming again in glory is the time of the mysteries of the kingdom which our Lord sets forth in these seven parables of this chapter. Mark and Luke each give the first one—the parable of the sower—the understanding of which seems all important, for our Lord said when asked for its significance, "Know ye not this parable? And how, then, will ye know all parables?" (Mark iv.)

From our next lesson we learn that the field is the world (verse 38), and we must bear in mind that it is a world lying in the wicked one and that he is the god of it. It is an evil age and ever growing worse as far as the fear of God is concerned (1 John v, 19; II Cor. iv, 4; Gal. i, 4; Rom. xii, 1, 2; II Tim. iii, 1-5). Alongside of unparalleled progress on many lines there is unparalleled iniquity, unbelief, rejection of the Bible as the word of God and of the deity of Christ and of His atonement for sin. We are nowhere taught to expect any improvement in these matters during this age, but we are faithfully to sow the seed of the word of God everywhere and expect just what we are taught in this parable. Some set their hearts on certain results and say we must have this or that, we must have fifty or a hundred conversions, we must have a revival, the town must be taken for God, etc. Happier are those who are in harmony with the Lord and who rest on His assurance that His word will accomplish that which He pleases (Isa. lv, 11). It is incorruptible seed, the word of life, and He has promised to watch over it (I Pet. i, 23; Acts v, 20; Jer. i, 12; R. V.). The hearts of men are the soil, and some are beaten so hard by the going to and fro of the things of this life that the seed can scarce find entrance, and the devil is always watching to catch it away lest they should believe and be saved. Other hearts are hard within, rocky hearts, but with enough soft soil to receive the seed. Such appear to enjoy the word; they say it does them good; they receive it gladly, but they are easily offended, cannot stand any persecution.

In others the soil is good enough to grow thorns and the seed does find a lodging, and it grows, but the thorns grow so fast that there is no fruit. The cares and pleasures of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things, choke the word, and no fruit is brought to perfection. In the first two kinds of soil there is no indication of salvation. I am inclined to believe that this third kind of soil indicates a possibility of salvation, but saved as by fire (I Cor. iii, 14, 15). The fourth kind of soil is good by the grace of God. There is an honest reception of the truth. They hear it and understand it and keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience, even to thirty, sixty or a hundred fold. All through this age this is what we are to expect and only this. It is ours to sow the seed, the pure seed of the word of God, everywhere and at all times, with confidence, in Him that He will accomplish His pleasure by it always. Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. Who can estimate the honor of being a laborer with God? Who would not say, "Here am I, send me!" But we must be sure that we preach only the preaching which He bids us, that we carry only His message.

GREAT LACK IN BEDS.

Will Take 45 Years at Present Rate To Care For All Consumptives.

At the present rate of increase, nearly forty-five years must elapse before sufficient hospital accommodations to provide for all the indigent consumptives in the United States will be provided, declares the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in a bulletin issued today.

Although over 7,000 beds in hospitals, sanatoria, camps, and wards for tuberculous patients, were established last year, there are fully 300,000 indigent consumptives who ought to be placed in such institutions and a total of only 22,720 beds in the entire country. On May 1st, 1909, there were 15,244 beds for consumptives and 294 institutions. The annual report of the National Association shows an increase of 99 institutions and 7,500 beds.

In seven states, Alabama, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Wyoming, and Utah, with a combined population of over 5,000,000, not one bed for consumptives has been provided. In nine states and territories, Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia, the number of beds for consumptives in each case is less than 50, while the combined population of these states is over 7,000,000. On the basis of 400 deaths to a million of population, which is approximately the present rate in the United States, there would be nearly 5,000 deaths annually from tuberculosis in these fourteen states with at least 20,000 cases of this disease all the time, and less than 500 beds to care for them.

New York state leads in the number of beds for consumptives provided up to May 1st with 5,476 beds; Massachusetts is second with 2,403 beds; Pennsylvania, third with 2,347 beds; Colorado, fourth with 1,489 beds; and New Mexico fifth with 1,104 beds. As yet, not one state in the country has made adequate provision for its consumptives. New York has set itself the task of having "No uncare-for Tuberculosis in 1915," and several cities in other parts of the country have adopted similar programs. The National Association says that tuberculosis will not be stamped out until all cases of this disease are cared for either in their homes or in institutions. With this end in view, efforts will be made to increase the number of hospital beds in this country to at least 35,000 by May 1st, 1911.

Wants to Help Some One.

For thirty years J. F. Bayer, of Ferlie, Mo., needed help, and could find it. That's why he wants to help some one now. Suffering so long himself he feels for all distress from Backache, Nervousness, Loss of Appetite, Lassitude and Kidney disorders. He shows that Electric Bitters works wonders for such troubles. "Five bottles," he writes, "wholly cured me and now I am well and hearty." It's also positively guaranteed for Liver Trouble, Dyspepsia, Blood Disorders, Female Complaints and Malaria. Try them. 50c at J. T. Underwood, next to Bank of Randolph.

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One can but admire a good fighter, and with all his faults Joseph Cannon is no quitter. Col. Henry Waterson, life-long political foe of the speaker, commends his recent fight in the following inimitable style: "Stand up, you magnificent old robarate, whilst we salute you and amid the cowardly clamor and the ribald jeers, we render you the homage of a life-long foe. You fought a good fight. You held out long and well. Except that you are an old man they would not have dared—but, even at that you made them play ball. Now they want to unload on you the same of the republican party. Ah, Joseph, Joseph—dear old Uncle Joe—it is true enough that parties like republics, are ungrateful."

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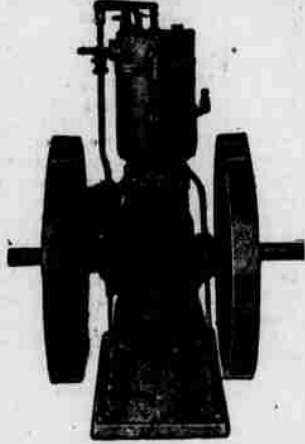
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