Printed Every Saturday. Guaranteed Circulation 8,500 In The Most Progressive Agricultural Section Of The South. 49c Per Inch. The Observer Co., Charlotte, N. C.

# The Hobby Of Pigeon Raising

of making and having homes, losing its hold upon us as a nation? Are we becoming a nation of flat-dwellers? Just so sure as we lose the liking and ings. comes from the occupation of all idle and by the Germans the Feldtaube.

a large and unexpected good.

Of course he who has the country are just being found out.

place with its garden and yard, small This then is the science

whereas to preserve the integrity of the pigeon fancy has done much.

There is no doubt, for it has been for instance, the vast number among state of perfection. the laboring classes in England and Pigeon racing—wh Germany, and in France, where until of late years only the nobles have been keep a small but select stud, breeding with close study to produce something always better. Then take the thousands of others that keep pigeons simply as pets because they love to work around and care for them, thus bringing out

sing toward his goal, the loft.

rieties, the oriental frills with their wonderful heads and perfection of mark-

cares and responsibilities, our garden, type as well as pigeons de couleur, as our pets, our hobby, or that which the French have it, or Farbentauben, as tends to improve our mind and keep our the Germans say, are all the descendants idle moments occupied, we as a nation will lose that sterling worth of character, independence and thrift that rock dove and by the French the bizet that we can have the biggest show

Therefore any hobby that attracts the color breeding. The fanciers have been interest of man, woman or child to the able to produce birds with white heads, home is of great advantage to all. For white tails and wings upon colored this reason, if for no other, the hobby bodies, and then again they have reof pigeon raising has always appealed versed the process and produced specito me. From the keeping of a few mens with black heads, black talls and pigeons there has come in many cases wings upon white bodies. Truly the mysteries and wonders of color breeding

This then is the science of our hobby, though it may be, has the advantage. the ability to produce, by careful the flat-dweller who becomes interested thought and study in our matings, in pigeons must start at once a search birds of some particular ideal type and for a little home with its patch of —an art indeed—so to mix our colors ground so as to give him the necessary that the young may come of the require. shade.

In the great rush of modern times and the establishment of great business the fancy such as he who keeps the enterprises the tendency is always to pigeon voyageur or the homing pigeon. draw people away from their homes, wrongly confounded with the carrier. The homer was long used in the East nation, it should be the aim of all to by established pigeon post, then in create interest in the family circle and Babylon, and Persia, and from thence cultivate love for the home. In this it was introduced into Egypt and into direction throughout the world the France and Germany, and later into the low countries, Belgium and Holland, and thence to England and America. often proved, that the pigeon hobby is There is no doubt that the Belgians one of the greatest of all hobbies. Take, brought this species to its present high

Pigeon racing-what sport, what fun, what a pleasure to own the bird that won the 300, the 500, the 1,000-mile race, allowed by law to keep pigeons, who or that has a record of over a mile a minute!

Then the sport of pigeon flying, of keeping the pigeons-volant-the cumulets with their light, easy action, flying for hours up in the blue; the tippler with its butterfly action, flying against time, all the latent love of man for dumb around the clock; then the acrobats of the air-the common house tumbler The incentive to breed the best, to flying from house to barn and tumbling; lead, to win the blue or red ribbon, in- the roller flying in the clouds, rolling ing interested in chickens. spires the first, while just the love for down, from fifty and sixty feet like a his pets, inherent in all mankind in- ball of feathers; or just the little inside spires the latter. But both, the one tumbler rolling from end to end of the to you by casting them some corn oc-

other just loving his pets, his home, Truly the pigeon fancy is greater than



Blue Must Tumbiers, line bred and the winners of many premiums,

Notice, for example, the young man, watching his setting birds or his youngsters grow. How interested he behead this or that fiedgling will have, or how eagerly he waits for the first feathers to replace the down that he the blood lines can be easily traced. may see what color this particular bird will be whether the color will be clear not decry for one moment the hobby or broken and, if broken, whether the of the favorite horse or dog, still the his work.

The whistle blows at noon. Home goes in to dinner, then after dinner watches and enjoys the birds in their citizen of his country. For is not the varied performances especially in their home life composed of that of the invaried performances, especially is they dividuals, and is not the life of the are tumblers. Something new he finds country determined by its homes? every day.

To him who has no hobby, every noon is the same, only a time to eat and to loaf.

When it is night home again hastens the fancier, and what a pleasure it is for him to sit in the loft and watch his favorites! Every one means something to him,

Idleness is the mother of many an He who keeps pigeons has no time to idle or spend where he ought not to be, for his mind is occupied and healthy. He has his hobby a hobby that develops all the good in mm, the love for the dumb animal, and even is an education of itself as all fanciers will tell you, for to get the ideal or near the ideal it takes, thought and

constant study. But the true pigeon fancier has his friends. What pleasure he gets in his visits to other lofts; the comparing of results, the discussion with his brother fancier of the whys and wherefores, the types and the colors! What pleasure and excitement come from the club meets, the yearly shows! Then, if he is beaten, what an incentive for re-

has succeeded and beaten them all! Yes, pigeon keeping and breeding has been for ages a great study. Witness what conclusions Darwin, a true pigeon fancier, drew from his flock of pigeons, and the theory of Mendel, drawn in part from his pigeons. The real fancier breeds for two distinctive ends—to excel in type and color, for in these two divisions the whole genus Columba must be divided.

Stock-Keeper.

but ririn.

bring out those qualities which make the the majority of the public ever dream. good citizen. True, pigeon keeping is But he who keeps his pigeons must get not the beginning and end of home life, the "know how" which comes through but it turns one's thoughts in the right hard and patient study. He must know how to care for his birds in health and sickness. He must know how to mate a pigeon fancier; up with his birds in them to get the desired, longed-for rethe morning, in his loft, feeding and sults, be he type or color breeder. He must know how to feed or train them down some of the feed will drop out perchance it be the breeding season, if he keeps them for sport, either flying of its mouth. But should this fail, watching his setting birds, o his or racing. Added to all this he must you can help it by pouring a little cultivate an inexhaustible fund of comes, how he wonders what kind of patience from which to draw, for the perfect specimen is rarely the product

bird will be marked according to his pigeon fancy is and will always be the ideal! Whistling and happy he goes to poor, the working-man's hobby, and he On the other hand, he who lives in a heart and soul into his hobby cannot into the digestive canal. This is more flat, because he has to eat and sleep help being benefited physically while difficult to remove, but the hot water that he may live to work, sleeps late outdoors with his pigeons; and meninto the morning if he can, rises, eats tally, for the study of the problems and and goes to work with slow, listless, their solution broadens and strengthens, tread. For him, life is the same old his mind, preparing it for still harder story, day in and day out, nothing but problems of daily life. Then, becoming attached to his home, his family circle, and cultivating these qualities, it surely comes the fancier, lets out his pigeons, follows that he will become a better

creasing in size, and natuarally re-

quiring more room, great care is nec-

essary to see that they are amply pro-

vided for and everything is done to

bring them on. One of the most important things is proper ventila-

tion, a point frequently overlooked by

poultry raisers, and one that will certainly, if neglected, cause nothing

When the chickens begin to perch

sufficient number of adult birds, for

When a fowl is crop bound and THE YOUNG CHICK Now that the youngsters are in-

to its natural condition. When a hen seems to have an ennest, but fails to lay, it is a sign that the ovaries are not passing into the oviduct. Such a hen might as well be killed and used for food as

## she will not lay any more eggs.

they are frequently put into a roosting house where there are already a There is nobility in the labor of alsing fowls, just the same as there is in any other labor. If there are a week, perhaps, this does not tell any true noblemen and noblewomen much against them, but as they are on earth, they surely are the patient daily increasing in size the supply of toilers, the honest, respectable class who are the cogs in the great wheel becomes less in proportion to the

From this class comes our great rested, take cold, noses and eyes be- artisans and inventors. The ranks of gin to run, and often before the own-er knows it that demon roup is in the midst of his birds, and many a fine and promising bird will succumb to the disease.

artisans and inventors. The ranks of labor have produced most of the il-lustrious names which gild the pages of American history—names which will live as long as time lasts.

It used to be common for people

fancier, drew from his flock of pigeons, and the theory of Mendel, drawn in part from his pigeons. The real fancier breeds for two distinctive ends—to excel in type and color, for in these two divisions the whole genus Columba must be divided.

We have the carrier with its uprisht carriage and great nasal and eye wattles; the little short-faced tumbler, rishity called "the prince of pigeondom" with its short beak and sprightly body carried upon tip-toe; the jacobin with its immense feather on a small bird, its hood, its mane and its chain. How often has the fancier of this variety lain awake nights, thinking how he can get "top feather?"

Then the dragon and the ex-flying homer with their straight setting!

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Then the dragon and the ex-flying homer with their straight setting!

Then the dragon and wonderful the little short bodies, box beaks with their straight setting!

The king of Doos," the Scotch pouter with its lordly stride and wonderful the following and wonderful the little and wonderful the following and wonderful the little and wonderful the following and the ex-flying home a

### SIDE SPRIGS

Rev. C. W. Erwin, pastor of Mulberry Presbyterian church, five miles By E. R. B. CHAPMAN.

In writing upon this subject I wish to emphasize what appeals to me as a great danger. Is the idea of home life, of making and having homes, losing of making and having homes, losing closed shoulders; also the Eastern value. the fall fairs.

Has the hot weather melted the enlove for the home, with its domestic Hard it is to realize that pigeons of thusiasm of the members of the cares and responsibilities, our garden, type as well as pigeons de couleur, as Southeastern Poultry Association? Better get busy, boys. Time is pass-ing and it won't be long before the ever.

> The first poultry show ever held in America was at Boston, Mass., in

> By all means every poultry fancier should exhibit at the State fair.

Don't let up on fighting lice and mites.

birds should be sorted deformities and undesirables disposed of; sitting hens not worth carrying over-and none are for the simple sake of their sitting another season, with the few eggs they may lay between—should be fattened and eaten.

Fowls, old and young, need now especially good care. The old, to remands of the approaching moult. The young have each a full grown bird to manufacture; bones, skin, muscles feathers, etc., to make, and the only materials the food you give and what they can pick up. It stands to reason, the more appropriate the material given and the more certain the supply; the better the results will

If you have some good cockerels that are well bred and vigorous you should advertise them in these columns. Write us for rates.

Encourge the young folks to tend the fowls—more than one farmer boy has been kept on the farm by becom-

Coax the young stock to come near casionally.

A contented fowl grows the fast-

Some duck raisers put lanterns in their duck runs at night to prevent the ducks from getting frightened.

If you have any fowls confined in runs, see that they get all the refuse vegetables and garden green stuff.

Don't spoil your reputation at the grocery by marketing spoiled eggsgather the eggs regularly and be sure they are fresh when sold.

Save all of the pullets as eggs are bound to sell at high prices this win-

### FEEDING OF YOUNG FOWL REGULARLY

When young fowls are not fed regularly they are apt to gorge themselves when they get a chance and this bring on what is known as "crop bound." The best remedy for this brings on what is known as overfeed; but should they get crop bound from such cause you can usually relieve them by squeezing the crop with the hand, and by holding the fowl by the feet with its head warm water down its throat and then when fowls which have been kept

of luck but of many matings of which on a small run and which they have the blood lines can be easily traced. picked clean of grass, get out onto a Therefore I say that while I would range, they are apt to be very greedy for the grass and grab it in such mouthfuls that they swallow long pieces. This may also produce "crop bound" by the long pieces of grass treatment will relieve most cases if taken in time. In such cases, after some of the food is worked out of the crop through the mouth, the fowl should be put into a pen and given only some grit, which will work its way through the crop and help shed the grass.

you have falled to notice it for a day or two it is difficult to relieve it because the food in the crop has become sour and the best way is an op-eration; but we would not advise this unless the fowl is a very valuable one as it takes several days to get over the operation and the fowl will require a lot of nursing to restore it

larged abdomen and goes onto the

## NOBILITY OF LABOR

surface of the lungs requiring a sup-lply, the result being that the house are necessarily for the perpetuation becomes stuffy and foul, and the of good government. youngsters, coming out into the



Second cockerel, Virginia State Show, 1908, bred by A. M. Black, Tazewell, Va.

#### SHOW DATES GIVEN FOR THE SOUTH

The following is a list of poultry shows to be held in North and South Carolina, and Virginia during the season of 1912-13. Other dates will be plenish the vitality lost during the announced later:
breeding season and to supply the deTazewell, Va., Sept. 17-19—R. L.

Simmons, judge.
Roanoke, Va., September 24-27—
Louis Scholz, secretary,
Winston-Salem, N. C., October 1-4 -G. E. Webb, manager; R. L. Sim-

mons, judge.
Lynchburg, Va., October 1-4-F. W. Lovelock, secretary; R. L. Sim-Greensboro, N. C., October 8-11-G. Daniel, secretary.
Asheville, N. C., October 8-11—Guy

Weaver, secretary. Richmond, Va., October 7-12— Mark R. Lloyd, secretary. Raleigh, N. C., October 15-18— State Fair—Joseph E. Pogue, secre-

Petersburg, Va., October 15-18-James McI. Ruffin, manager; R. L. Barrow, secretary; R. L. Simmons,

Charlotte, N. C., October 22-25-Edgar B. Moore, secretary. Emporia, Va., October 22-25-E. E. Goodwyn, seiretary. Farmville, Va., October 22-25-J.

L. Hart, secretary.
Charlottesville, Va., November 6-8

N. T. Wingfield, secretary.
Spartanburg, S. C., October 29-November 1. Columbia, S. C., October 28-November 2.

Augusta, Ga., November 4-9. Camden, S. C., November 7-9-H. G. Carrison, secretary; R. L. Simmons, judge. Atlanta, Ga., October 27-Novem-

ber 2—C. O. Harwell, secretary.

"Morganton, ". C., November 26-29

—C. D. Forney, secretary; Percy
Cook and R. L. Simmons, judges.

Lincolnton, N. C., December 3-6— R. L. Simmons, judge. Falls Church, Va., December 3-5—

E. Hutton, secretary, Charles T. Cornman, judge.
Bennettsville, S. C., December 9-14 -C. E. Crombe, secretary. Chattanooga, Tenn., December 16-21-W. F. Maury, secretary.
Shelby, N. C., December 19-21H. W. Braswell, secretary, R. L. Sim-

mons, judge. Atlanta, Ga., December 16-21— Thomas M. Poole, secretary. Charlotte, N. C., January 3-7—The Southeastern Poultry Association-S. H. Hackney, secretary; Percy Cook, J. W. Dennis, H. P. Schwab and L.

Brown, Judges. Norfolk, Va., January 7-10— A. E. D. Holden, secretary; Fred Huyler and Charles Nixon, judges. Roanoke, Va., January 7-11-Allen Jenkins, secretary; R. L. Simmons

and L. Brown, judges.
Charleston, W. Va., January 7-11-R. L. Simmons, judge. Statesville, N. C., January 14-17-B. L. Sronce, secretary; L. Brown and R. L. Simmons, judges. Columbia, S. C., January 28-31-

T. L. Little, secretary. In addition to the above, Laurin-Asheville, Hendersonville, Thomasville , Marion, Henrietta, Le-noir, N. C., and Chesterfield, S. C., will hold shows, dates to be announced later.

### APPEARANCE OF EGGS ON CANDLING

Fresh-Air space small, not to exceed size of 10-cent piece; white firm, yolk sluggish, dimly visible. Stale-Air space large; white thin; yolk plainly visible, showing distinct reddish glow.

Bloody-Same as heated, except blood spots or veins visible. Mold Spots-Small black spot or spots stuck to inside of shell. Black Rot-Contents of egg black and muddy and mixed.

Mixed Rot—White and yolk mix-

ed, yellowish color. A. Held or Stale Eggs-Due to holding for higher prices, keeping in warm places, preserving, stolen nests, eggs candled out of an incubator. Spots-Due to dead germs caused by incubation, stolen nests, intense heat or from molds developed in dark

Cracks-Due to improper packing by the producer and careless handling by the shipper. Rots-Due to careless handling, in not gathering often enough.

Dirties Due to dirty nests, dirty yards, not cleaning nests or gathering eggs often enough.

Market your eggs while fresh.



A Typical Homing Pigeon,

#### SEPTEMBER IN THE POULTRY YARD

Begin to plan for winter so that you will allow enough room for your flock. If your houses are small, allow five square feet of floor space for ev-

Darkened nests will do much toward preventing the egg-eating habit, Use plenty of china nest eggs, and let a few lie on the floor.

Dampness, fifth and roup' occupy the same quarters and are fast friends, Sunlight, fresh air and pure feeds are their enemies.

It does not pay to breed runts.

Let flocks have space on the ground covered with litter, and keep them in a state of activity by throwing Scratch Feed on the litter three times a day.

Tell your dealer to order a large supply of Chicken Chowder for the next few months. Your profits depend on winter eggs.

scratches among the forest leaves. Save the leaves to scatter on the floor of the poultry house this winter. A damp piece of cheese cloth with warm water is good for cleaning

Notice with what pleasure a hen

stained eggs. Some of the early hatched cockerels are getting bothersome and restless. It is a good plan to yard them by themselves. If an old cock is placed with them perfect order will prevail.

A most excellent remedy for many sick fowls is composed of a sharp hatchet and a good spade.

Leg bands and trap nests insure accurate knowledge concerning the egg production of d'fferent hens. You should be certain that every hen more than earns her keep. Get rid of your unproductive stock.

Keep a close lookout for eggs laid in out-of-the-way places. Pullets should be laying and they may choose out of the way places.

No poultry raised can afford to be without Chicken Chowder at this season of the year. It hastens the moult and produces late fall and early win-Danville, Va., October 15-18-P. T. ter eggs which mean large profits. . .

> every breeder who can plan to make a good exhibit at their local fairs as it does much to advertise the variety and by being there with them there is a possible chance of disposing of some of the surplus stock.

The moulting birds will require special feed and attention during this period and should have an abundance of greed feed.

A large exhibit of birds helps the

Now is the time to commence pre-paring the birds for the show room. In building a new poultry house, plan it to save labor in caring for the fowls.

A little tincture of fron in the drinking water is a good tonic and helps

Wonder if it would be proper to call present day politics mongrels? they are so badly mixed.

## CAPONIZE TO GET HIGHER PRICES

Berkshire World. We heard the other day of a city lady who was inquiring where she could buy a pen of capons as she had heard that they were fine table fowls and would like to rai . some this season. She also wanted to know if they laid light or dark shelled eggs. Hence, we will begin this article by answering the question: What is a capon? One writer has answered this question by saying "A capon is neither a rooster nor a hen; it is a capon." In short, a capon is an altered cock-erel or pullet. But in this country no one has made a practice of altering pullets and only a few have fol-lowed the practice of caponizing their

Now, why has this not been more generally done? Simply because we have had so many other sources of income and profit has been obtained in so many other ways that we have not had to seek out how to push our fowls to the highest market value. There are many advantages to be obtained by capenizing the surplus cockerels. They grow much more mildly; they can be allowed to run with the other flock; they are not so quarrelsome and they do not require so much food to bring them to maturity. These are all factors in reducing the cost of production. And, on the other hand there is the one great advantage, you get a much higher price for them when offered for sale at the market. Hence, capon-

surplus cockerels.

izing is a very profitabl operation.

Caponizing is not a difficult aperation when once you have learned how. We are told that in France children perform it successfully. If any of our readers wish to learn the process we will be pleased to ex-

plain it fully.

The flesh of the capon is decidedly sweeter and of finer flavor than any other kind of fowl, especially much more so than adult cocks. Capons also grow much larger in size than non-caponized males and weigh heavfer by from two to four pounds, with-out eating any more food.

Any of the so-called utility breeds will make good capens, but in the Eastern States the Brahmas are most

generally use. The operation is usually performed when the cockerel usually performed when the cockerel is from two to four months old. In performing the operation the birds do not seem to feel or suffer pain. In fact the fowl does not have such a high sense of feeling as the human being. When the operation is being performed they usually lie motionless after the first incision is made, and their struggle at that time is most likely the natural habit of fowls—they strive to get away when they are touched by anything. After the optouched by anything. After the op-eration they seem as lively as ever and might be allowed to run with the rest of the flock at once, only the other birds would pick the body where the incison had been made and cause trouble.

Luberger Poultry Form, near Concord, has a large flora of promising young White and Buif Leghorns, and Buff Orpingtons. The poultry editor had the pleasure of spending the day with Mr. Umberger, the owner, recently, and enjoyed looking over his large stock farm. It is one of the best poultry plants in the South best poultry plants in the South.

## Children Cry for Fletcher's

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy.

Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children-Experience against Experiment.

## What is CASTORIA

Casteria is a harmless substitute for Caster Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhœa and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

## GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

## The Kind You Have Always Bought

In Use For Over 30 Years THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

# Great-Reduction Sale

Fine Breeding and Exhibition Stock

Barred Plymouth Rocks, Black and White Orpingtons and Black Minorcas.

We are overstocked and must unload and give prices that will interest you.

Write or call today; they must go.

# Belmont Poultry

408 W. Fifth Street, Charlotte, N. C.

FASSIFERN

DINCOLNTON, N. C. A Home School for a limited number of girls. Prepare for Brya Mawr and Colleges of equal rank. Certificate admits to Normal and other State Colleges; to Converse, S. C.; to Randolph-

Requirements for certificate in music as high as those of any State College or school. Members of the faculty have degrees and diplomas from Royal University of Ireland, Columbia University, New York, and Cambridge University, England.

Principal, MISS KATE C. SHIPP.

CHRONICLE WANT ADS PAY BEST DIVIDENDS

## Two Men and One Auto

By W. O. Kenaga,

OTHER "doesn't bother about ads."

Just a little story from real life.

Two men, living on the same street, have equal incomes, a salary of \$50 a week. Both love the good things of life and both live

ONE has an auto-the OTHER has none, and for the life of him can't see how ONE got it.

ONE and his wife read newspaper advertisements—they profit by it—they don't buy because things are cheap, but they do buy when they can save money on needed articles.

ONE bought a second handauto last year, for \$850.0 with money saved by reading advertisements. The auto was a bargain offered in the want ads. This spring ONE sold it for \$5251. And with this, and the money laid aside and saved through a second year of advertisement reading, bought a classy runabout.

That's why ONE and his WIFE ride and OTHER and his WIFE