# WOMEN'S INTERESTS

## The Poison Ivy of Life

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox
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Have you ever seen the poison ivy? It is a beautiful vine and the leaves are artistic and glossy.

Yet if you pluck one of them you suffer misery and discomfort for weeks, and sometimes lasting effects remain.

Temptation is a poison plant on which grows flowers of flaunting beauty, but if we gather one its virus may scar our lives for years to come.

Thousands of young men and women who read these words may be gazing fascinated on some flower of temptation. Before you touch it, stop and consider just what it means. Perhaps it is a poison.

But once this temptation is yielded to the flower will begin to burn your fingers and poison your blood.

Years and years and years you may toil in honesty and patience and prayer yet the scar will make itself visible when you least think it and shame and torture you anew.

Perhaps it is the temptation of unbridled pleasures. You think you may just as well enjoy life while you are young, since youth is brief; but once you attempt to find happiness by culling the flower of license, and wearing it into halls of dissipation, you are inviting sorrow, despair, and premature old age to dwell with you.

One night a few years ago with a party of friends I sat for an hour in one of the "gayest" and most brilliant rendezvous of the New York Tenderloin district. All its habitues were men and women who had broken free from social laws and moral obligations in search of a "good time."

There was not one happy face, not one joyous eye, not one merry voice. Thinking over my whole life, it was the most depressing and joyless evening I ever passed.

All those men and women had picked the flower of temptation, and its poison was in the blood.

I talked with one handsome girl, who seemed the gayest of all. "How came you here?" I asked. "What led you to choose this life?" "I was so tired of work—weary, dirty, hard work and no pleasures, and no pretty clothes," she said. "So I came here. No, I am not sorry. I am always gay, as you see."

"And what do you look forward to as years go by?" I asked.

"Oh, well. Every morning you open your paper and read of a girl suicide," she answered, still smiling. "Some morning it will be me. I often think of it as I read my paper."

We cannot reconstruct the laws of the universe or change the motion of the solar system. And we can never alter the law which makes honesty, morality, self-control and decency the source of lasting satisfaction, and their opposites the source of misery.


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# BREAKING UP BROODY HENS TO PROLONG EGG PRODUCTION

### Should Be a Part of the Daily Routine at This Season of the Year

### Starving and Keeping the Hens From Water Are Wrong and Defeat Their Object

By Robert Armstrong
Experienced Poultryman

(Copyright 1916)

**When a hen completes the laying of a clutch of eggs at this season of the year, even among the so-called non-sitting varieties, she is imbued with further maternal instincts, and is therefore prone to attempt to hatch them. This tendency must be discouraged and promptly broken up, or it will cause a serious falling off in the egg yield. Its importance cannot be overestimated, especially on commercial egg farms, where the hen is not held responsible for next season's pullets, rather where the incubating and brooding are done artificially.**

CONTRARY to the opinion of many poultrykeepers, egg production is not a sequence of so much nourishment taken into the body daily, digested, assimilated, and then converted into the materials for making eggs. In other words, a continuous operation, unbroken, as it were, providing the care and feeding of the hen are as they should be. The egg cells, technically known as the "ova," of which there are many hundreds in the well-bred, vigorous fowl, are formed, or rather developed in series or clusters, sometimes called "litters" or "clutches," each cluster being developed or retarded in accordance with the hen's physical condition, and her ability to consume sufficient quantities of the proper nutrients. Between these clusters there is an interval of nonproduction, a sort of rest period, which varies quite considerably with different breeds and with specimens, and which may be a week or a month; and not infrequently it is three months, as in the case of impoverished fowls, or where they have not been bred along biological lines for heavy egg production.

Furthermore, the number of eggs in each cluster varies with each breed and specimen as much as the variation in the duration of the rest periods. There may be but a dozen eggs to a litter, or fifty, and in rare cases a hen will continue to lay almost without cessation, and continue to do so for a couple of years. Usually, hens that lay short litters take but a few days to the intervals between them, whereas the hen that lays a series of forty to sixty eggs, in almost daily succession, will require a rest period of a couple of weeks. With specimens of like breeding and vigor there is usually an average struck.

**Disposition to Become Broody**

Between the laying of each litter, especially at certain seasons of the year and notably the Spring months, there is a tendency for the hen to indulge in her maternal instincts, in the shape of a desire to sit and hatch a brood of chicks. She has completed the first step in the operation—the laying of the eggs, and quite naturally feels that she cannot acquit herself of the responsibility until she has transformed them into a flock of chicks. Hens of the heavier varieties, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons and Brahmas are especially prone to this form of domesticity; yet the desire is also found among the lighter breeds, even to the so-called nonsitting breeds, the Leghorns, Campines and Hamburgs. In the latter, however, the tendency is not so habitual, nor so likely to be difficult to break up.

It is not definitely known whether a hen can control the development of an egg once the yolk is well formed and has left the ovisac, but it is quite certain that she can influence or check the development of the yolks at the beginning of the process, and she also has the power to hold the finished egg for a considerable time. When a hen becomes broody and shows a determination to sit on the nest day after day, for in many cases the desire is but a passing fancy, the succeeding cluster of egg cells is held in a dormant state for two or three months, or until she has hatched, reared and weaned her brood of chicks, and subsequently reinvigorated herself for further productiveness.

On farms devoted to egg production, where the incubation and brooding is done artificially, the hen is not held responsible for the production of next season's pullets. It is the hen's exclusive business to produce eggs, consequently she must be encouraged in that specialty as much as possible. As soon as she shows signs of shirking her task, she must be held to a "strict accountability"; her broodiness must be discouraged—harmlessly, not brutally—and her "internal workings" stimulated and spurred on to further achievements.

Even on the general farm, where chicks are reared naturally, there are times when more hens become broody than are ever needed to hatch the young flock, and because they are allowed to sit as long as they choose, without interference from the farmer, although he may not give them eggs to sit upon, the habit soon becomes confirmed and there is a very noticeable decrease in egg production. Failure to discourage broodiness is probably the most potent cause for the low egg production in farm flocks, and for which the farmer has nothing to blame but his own indifference or ignorance.

**Egg Production Is Secondary**

We have all noticed the poor, thin and emaciated condition of the hen that has been sitting on a nest for a couple of weeks, and perhaps marveled at her ability to sustain life at all, when we consider that she eats and drinks very little, and takes practically no exercise. If it were not for her internal storehouse, on which she draws heavily for sustenance, she would not survive. Before she started to sit, she carefully stored up a supply of fatty tissue that was intended to help nourish her during the period of her inactivity, and the depreciation of this supply is what causes her to become so thin.

Egg production is in reality the result of over-stimulation, or what is sometimes termed a secondary circulation. Fowls eat to repair and restore the daily wear and tear on the body tissues, and if this nourishment is merely equal to this task alone, there is no surplus left to go to the production of eggs. It is the excess of nourishment, that which is assimilated over and above the daily demands of the body, that goes into the stimulation and active development of the egg organs, and they progress no faster than this nourishment is provided.

Obviously, the broody hen eats so little, that her egg organs soon become contracted, and revert to the dormant state found in the immature pullet. Another good example of this dried-up condition may be found in the fowl half way through the molt, in which the abdominal section that was formerly relaxed and distended, is drawn well up into the body; the pelvic bones that were once pliable and spread apart, are rigid and close together; and the comb and wattles that were pendulous and brightly colored, are now pale ad shrivelled to a third of their former size. Her entire attitude is sluggish and indifferent.

Still another point that should receive proper consideration: When a hen is permitted to get in a poor condition, either by raising a brood of chicks, or by prolonged idleness on the nest, her plumage, like her body, becomes dried up, and at certain seasons of the year this will throw her into an early molt. To prolong the life of the feather the hen must be kept in the pink of condition; her appetite must be stimulated so that she will eat large quantities of food, and thus keep her body well nourished, and her plumage sleek and virile, in which case she will continue laying throughout the summer, and the molt will be deferred until Autumn. This means greatly increased profits, for it should be remembered that the eggs produced in August bring about the same prices as the January eggs.

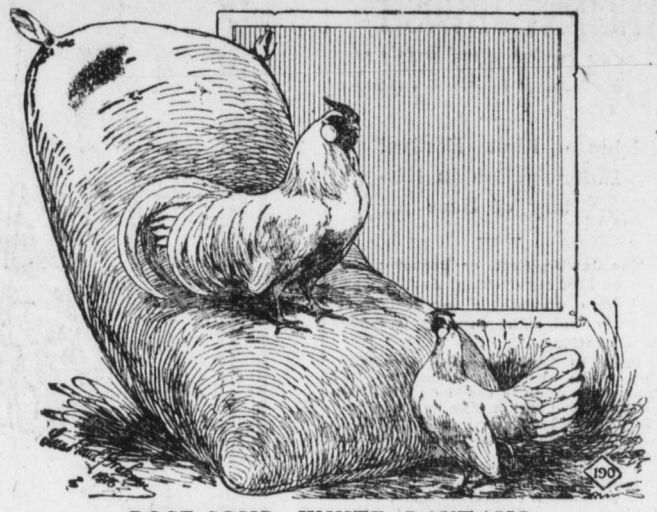
**Breaking the Broody Hen**

We have shown that for economical reasons alone it is imperative that broodiness should be broken up, and the sooner this condition is discovered and coped with, the easier it is accomplished. A hen removed from the nest on the first or second day of her broody inclination is very much easier to discourage than the hen that has been allowed to have her own way in the matter for a week or more. The wise poultryman will therefore make it his business to go over all the nests at the close of each day, and remove therefrom any fowls that show "telltale" signs, such as clucking or ruffling of the feathers. Hens have no business on the nests at night under any circumstances. As the "clucks" are removed they should be taken to a special coop, built for the purpose of breaking them from their cherished hopes.

There are many ways of discouraging broodiness, but, as common sense dictates, the methods employed should not subject the hens to cruelty or privation. Aside from humane reasons, to half starve or ill treat the fowls, or to keep them from water, defeats the very object of breaking up the broodiness, since privation or cruelty tend to check egg production rather than to stimulate it. The old-fashioned ideas of inflicting some form of punishment upon the unoffending biddy, simply because she responded to a natural impulse, really invited further loss in eggs; hence they cannot be too strongly condemned.

One of the simplest ways to discourage broodiness is to place the hens in a coop having a slatted bottom that is raised somewhat off the floor or ground. The hens are unable to squat in a comfortable position, and the sensation of currents of air under them instead of eggs is very disconcerting. Two or three days of this harmless pillory usually disgusts them with the idea of wanting to hatch a brood of chicks, and when released they are only too anxious to rejoin their comrades in the layinghouse. They should be induced to eat and drink freely while in this confinement, and if possible to exercise.

Where fowls are kept in large numbers, another good plan is to place the "clucks" in a yard containing a few lively cockerels, where there is nothing for the hens to take refuge in for a nest. If the weather is mild and the yard is sheltered on one side, no harm will result if they are left out at night as well.



ROSE-COMB WHITE BANTAMS

(Copyright 1916)

This is one of the smallest of the Bantam family, standard weights calling for 20 to 22 ounces for females, and 22 to 36 ounces for males, although most of the best specimens exhibited are well under these weights.

Rose-Comb Bantams, both Black and White, are bred in large numbers in England, Canada and the United States, although the best specimens appear to be produced in the former country, whence many are imported each year. Rose-Comb White Bantams were originated in England, and they have reached their best perfection during the last twenty-five years. This variety is a diminutive Hamburg in general shape, with rose comb, white earlobe, and a big well-spread tail carried low. Like all Bantams, it is a good layer.

But like all other Bantams, the Rose-Comb White is strictly an ornamental fowl. It cannot be reckoned with as a utility proposition, for its eggs are small and unsalable, although very useful for the home table. The young fowls themselves are good to eat, being so small that they could pass for quail. They may be kept in a very small house, and eat so little feed that the amount consumed is hardly noticeable.

**Eggs are now so plentiful and cheap, we are apt to forget the high prices paid for them last Fall and winter. But they will be just as high next Autumn, maybe higher, consequently it behooves the wise housewife to lay in a supply now, and preserve them for future use. The idea is entirely practicable, and it has been done very successfully for a number of years. The subject has come up before many of the Women's Clubs for discussion. In next week's article Prof. Harry R. Lewis tells how to preserve eggs by the water glass treatment.**

# PNEUMONIA WAS VERY PREVALENT

### More Deaths in January Than Have Been Known For a Long Time in State

More deaths occurred during the month of January than in any month in several years, according to the figures of the State Department of Health. There were 13,510 deaths and 18,114 births, the births being lower than for months.

The death list shows a big jump in pneumonia as a cause of death and a still more remarkable one is the deaths due to influenza and Bright's disease. The figures for the month, which was marked by severe weather show:

Typhoid fever, 75; scarlet fever, 33; diphtheria, 188; measles, 132; whooping cough, 109; influenza, 1,241; malaria, 1; tuberculosis of lungs, 907; tuberculosis of other organs, 147; cancer, 544; diabetes, 97; meningitis, 51; acute anterior poliomyelitis, 2; pneumonia, 2,586; diarrhoea and enteritis, under two years, 246; diarrhoea and enteritis, over two years, 69; Bright's disease and nephritis, 1,004; early infancy, 651; suicide, 76; accidents in mines, 98; railway injuries, 111; other forms of violence, 555; all other diseases, 4,587.

The total number of births recorded in Pennsylvania during the month of January, exclusive of stillbirths was 18,114. The total number of stillbirths was 847.

**SEEK MRS. SARAH A. POHL**

Dr. A. W. Hurd, superintendent of the Buffalo State Hospital, Buffalo, N. Y., is attempting to locate Mrs. Sarah A. Pohl, of Wellsville, N. Y., who escaped from the institution January 27, 1916. Mrs. Pohl is the wife of Henry F. Pohl, who has joined in the search.

The woman is 26 years old; weighs about 100 pounds and is 5 feet 6 inches tall. She talks slowly and has been an inmate of the institution from October, 1915, until she escaped. Before her marriage Mrs. Pohl was Miss Sadie C. Cuff, of Colesville, Md., later of Washington, D. C.

**COLLEGE NEWS STAFF NAMED**

Annville, Pa., April 15.—Members of Lebanon Valley College have been appointed by the faculty of the institution to take charge of the College News, the weekly school publication: Editor-in-chief, Abram Long; associate editors, Miss Nettie Showers, Paul Wagner, and H. Snoke; social editor, Miss Katherine Dash, of Harrisburg; athletic editor, Harold S. White; music editor, Miss Miriam Oyer.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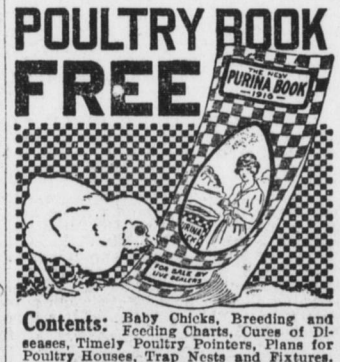


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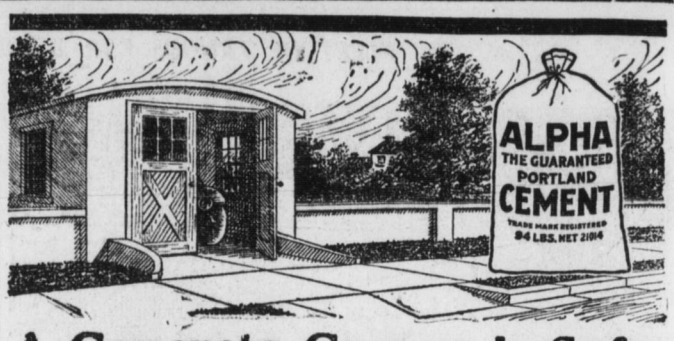


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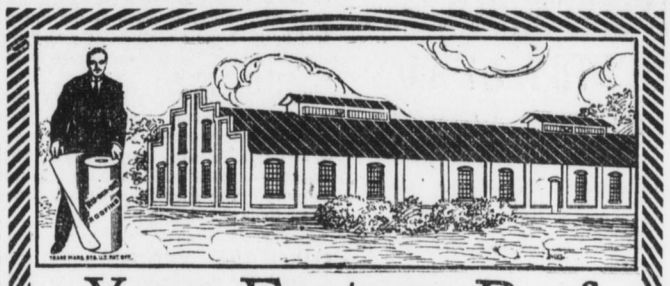

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