SOUTHERN FARM AND HOME.

Duration of the Male's Influence.

Mr. Lewis Wright has the following essay on this subject in the Fancier's Journal:

It seems at least in the highest degree probable that the influence of a given male lasts longer if no successor be introduced, or that, in fact, it may either remain for a certain time, if undisturbed, or if disturbed, be in a less time (but how much less is hardly certain) neutralized or rather overpowered by the second. It seems nearly certain that whatever the precise time be, the influence of a given male in ordinary cases last for a considerable less time than has been generally supposed.

It seems established that there is such a thing as an extraordinary influence. That the first union often has a lasting effect is well known. Hens first crossed with a Polish cock have been known to show a tendency to breed crested chicks all their lives; and cases in my own knowledge have led me to think it extremely probable that, say a Brahma hen first crossed by a Dorking, might throw occasionally five-toed chicks afterwards. For in all these cases it is to be observed that the plumage is generally unaffected, and that the old taint is far more likely to show in some peculiar point, such as a top-knot, a pea-comb, or a fifth toe, which has become as it were a very component part of the breed.

But it also seems at least possible that an occasional or single mesalliance with such a strongly-marked variety as, say a Brahma, a Poland or a Dorking, may not be sufficient to disturb the actual parentage or the general plumage, and yet enough influence may be given to impress on a portion of the chicks the one peculiar point. Several cases of this nature have come within my notice, and they may serve to account for many occurrences which have been attributed to impurity of blood in the actual parent. It appears, in short, as if in a certain sense as if a chick may "have two fathers." Further light on this interesting part of the subject is much to be desired.

I am at all events inclined to the opinion that in ordinary cases, when a male bird is changed for another of the same breed, about a week may be relied upon to determine the paternity. In case of an alien or markedly inferior bird, I should, however, certainly allow longer; and I am also inclined to think that if there have been very few hens the influence might probably last longer than if they were numerous.

Fall Plowing.

We make the following extract from the New England Farmer on the subject of fall plowing: "Whether to plow in fall or spring is a question that has been discussed for many years, and will continue to be discussed for a great many years yet to come. It is one of those questions that is continually presenting itself, and must be answered in each case according to the peculiar circumstances attending it. As a general rule it may, perhaps, be safe to say plow light sandy land late in the spring, and heavy clay in the fall. Heavy clay land seems to require the alternate freezing and thawing of winter to pulverize and fit it for the next year's crop, while light lands need no pulverization. Sandy land will often lose much by blowing away when not covered by growing crops. Yet there are exceptions to this as to all general rules. For a corn crop it is thought, by many, that spring plowing is decidedly best on any land, provided the plowing is done late, just before planting, and the plow not allowed to run more than three or four inches deep. It is certainly a great mistake to plow heavy land in the spring, whether old ground or sod, before it is dry enough to crumble and pulverize. If plowed while too wet it is rendered lumpy, and the lumps, will not pulverize all summer. Wet land plowed in the fall will have the advantage of the winter freezing to pulverize the hard lumps, and this may be, and probably is one reason why many farmers have supposed that fall plowing is always preferable.

Soil for Sugar Beets.

The beet requires a deep, permeable soil, for its roots penetrate deeply into the ground and are abundantly supplied with fine fibres through which it receives its nourishment. If the soil does not permit the root to grow down deeply the top will be forced to grow above the ground, and the crown which grows out of ground in nearly worthless for sugar purposes. A deep, sandy loam is the best soil to produce beets rich in sugar. They will, however, grow on a variety of soils, and any soil which will plow and subsoil to the depth of twelve or fifteen inches is a good best soil. Avoid all wet lands and muck bottoms as unsuitable. Beets will not flourish on wet lands, and what grow are not sweet. Muck bottoms produce large tops but small roots with little sugar in them.

Chicken-Raising in the Past.

During the New York state fair evening meetings were held to persons interested in different branches of husbandry. At one of the meetings Mr. A. M. Halsted read a paper on poultry-raising as practiced in former times, of which the following is an extract: "Fowls were regarded as a species of freebooters, and just barely tolerated. They roamed when and where they pleased. If perchance they were too free in the garden, the house-dog was set upon them to drive them out, or they were pelted with stones, sticks or whatever was most handy. They roosted in summer in the trees around the door yard; in winter, under the hovels and sheds, on the carts, wagons, ladders, or wherever they could find a place. For nests, they had nearly all creation—the manger in the stable, the hay-mow in the barn, the old sleigh under the cart-shed, the blackberry patch in the corner of the hog-yard, the brush-heap in the wood-yard, or the high grass or weeds in the neighboring meadow. Semi-periodical egg hunts were made, and the eggs obtained were sent to the country store and traded off for needles, thread, or other etceterns—many of these eggs proving to the final possesser too old for omelettes and too young for broilers.

With the young chickens, the chances were the same. If a hen succeeded in hiding her nest, so neither human nor animal foe discovered it, she usually brought out a brood of chicks nearly as wild as young partridges. Later in the season, as eggs became more plenty at the stores, some hens were set, and, as the chicks got old enough, they were killed and sold as broilers—those which were too wild to catch, and too late hatched to bring good prices, being left for stock for the next season. This was the only 'survival of the fittest' known to the poultry-keepers of those days. As to feed, the wood-pile, barn-yard, hog-pen, and kitchen door-steps were the restaurants of the summer, and in the winter, a few handfuls of corn in the morning was thought to be all that was necessary.

Storing Crops.

It is often the case that farmers lose the rewards of their labor through carelessness in storing their crops. Corn is packed in large bulks when it is sure to heat and be damaged. Potatoes, which should be fully dry, are packed away wet and sodby in damp cellars. Pumpkins, which should be thickly covered with straw, are left uncovered to be frozen. Thoughtfulness and care are as necessary in storing crops as in making them.

Bone Dust for Top Dressing.

E. R. T., Saxonville, R. I., asks if bone dust would not make a good dressing for grass land to be applied this fall. Well, as for that matter, we think it would be better to compost the bone dust with yard manure and then apply the compost. If six or eight cords of this fine compost were applied to the acre it would not only furnish a good dressing of itself, which the land would be the better for, would act as a sort of mulch or protection for the grass roots, and if the soil was at all inclined to "heave," it would be a positive benefit. But our correspondent must remember that the disadvantage of using bone dust or ground bone, alone, as a fertilizer, is the fact of its slow action. The nitrogen and phosphoric acid which the bones contain is very slowly rendered available for plants, on account of their insoluble nature; but where the bone dust is added to yard or barn manure as a compost, the bones cause the mass to ferment somewhat, and the heat engendered liberates the phosphoric acid and nitrogen, which is absorbed by the manure and given out more quickly to plants when brought into contact with them. Good practice and the last scientific authorities have united in recommending this as the best treatment for ground bone and the best manner of its application to plants. Fifty pounds of ground bone to a cord of manure would be sufficient.—[American Agriculturalist.

Cotton Seed Meal as a Fertilizer.

The question of the use of cotton seed meal as fertilizer is an important one to the planting interests of the South, and opinions differ as to its value as a special fertilizer, and why? Because we do not know "what are the mutual chemical and physical reactions of the various kinds of soil on the different fertilizing materials in general use." Where soils are rich in available mineral plant food and poor in nitrogen, then the use of cotton seed meal will prove of marked benefit.

Where the soils are deficient in phosphates and potash, then if persisted in, the application of cotton seed alone will prove injurious. The reason is obvious, as the meal contains about eight per cent. nitrogen, and only three and three-quarters per cent. phosphate acid, and two per cent. potash. From the above it will be seen that cotton seed meal acts as a stimulant and frequently produces large canes poor in sugar. At other times it yields very remunerative crops.

The advice of a celebrated chemist is, compost cotton seed meal with finely ground bones, potash and dry mould. Allow it to remain for about two months and then apply to the soil, thereby adding the most important elements of food in the most available form.

Advantages of Liberal Feeding.

The National Live Stock Journal says: "If the sheep breeder's faith in the efficacy of liberality in the matter of feeding begins to falter, walk through the pens of a first-class fair, and conversation with a few of the more successful breeders, will serve to dispel such doubts as sure as the morning sun scatters the mists from the mountain side. Size, symmetry, vigor, precocity and prolificacy depend for their perfect development upon the well-filled granary and richly-clothed pasture of the husbandman as surely as these and other attributes of perfection are influenced by the breeder's art. Not alone in the sheep department is this apparent. It finds emphasis in every ring, from that of the draft horse to the pigeon coop. It is demanded not only by the novice, who sees nothing beyond the graceful lines of contour, but by the expert, as well, who recognizes it as necessary to insure transmission of those virtues he seeks to reproduce and intensify in the offspring. The experienced and successful breeder recognizes no better reason for witholding food from animals under his care than he finds for restricting the members of his household in the same direction. Given the proper kind and variety of food, the quantity can safely be left to the instincts of the animal. If regularly supplied, no more will be taken than can properly be assimilated, while wit a less quantity some detriment must ensue. 'Blood will tell;' but its story will never be complete unless the scenes of its triumphs be laid in proximity to productive pastures and well-filled troughs."

While generous feeding is thus placed among the essentials to the highest success, the same attention to detail—variety, quantity, quality, and the influence of these upon fleece and flesh—will be required that is bestowed upon what are commonly considered the higher arts of breeding. Pampering with incongruous food, restriction to limited quarters, the erection and encouragement of a vitiated appetite, the administering of suitable food at improper hours, or improper food at any time—in short all errors of management—are as cautiously avoided by the successful breeder as would be the use of a ram possessing some objectionable peculiarity of form or fleece, even though the result of mistakes in the one should not prove so permanently disastrous as those in the other direction.

An Englishman named Patton has written a book on music. It will be "Patton Airs," probably.

A Cat Story.

[Portland (Me.) Transcript.]

A first-rate cat story has come to our notice from an entirely authentic source. The scene is laid in the village of Yarmouth. An aged gentleman and his housekeeper constitute the family, and the good old cat finds the lines are fallen to her in pleasant places. Family prayers are the rule each evening in this household, and the cat fell into the habit of regular and punctual attendance. No other of the cares that proverbially crowd a cat's life was ever allowed to interfere with this religious duty. At the signal for prayers, she would even leave a mouse half caught, or give a doomed bird a longer lease of existence, and decorously compose herself in the lap of the housekeeper with an air of attention to service that was highly edifying. At the final "amen," she went friskily about her business. But in an evil day there came a kitten that was deemed superfluous, and sentence of death was passed upon it. The head of the family undertook the execution of the sentence, and, unknown to him, the cat was a witness to the scene. From that day the cat refused to attend service, and can not now be induced to listen to the prayers of one who had so shocked her sensibilities! She faithfully performs all other duties as before, and socially purrs for the family on all secular occasions, but seems to say "let my religious hours alone."

Clawed by a Centipede.

[Eureka (Col.) Leader.]

Several Mexicans were in camp at the mouth of Memphis Creek, U. T., and were lying about the fire when one of them, Telestro Cruca, saw a large centipede, fully nine inches long, traveling slowly over his leg. Knowing that the least motion would make it sink its claws into his skin, without moving his leg he got out his revolver and waited until the insect had almost reached his knee, when, slowly putting the mouth of the pistol to its head, he pulled the trigger and the centipede was gone. But a centipede's claws are quicker than gunpowder and Cruca began to cramp in a few minutes, the track of the insect along his leg turned a brownish yellow and the place where it was killed swelled up frightfully. Cruca rapidly grew worse and in a little over four hours afterward he died in great agony. But the most singular part of the story is that the bullet from Cruca's revolver cut a small nick in the fore leg of a mule that was tethered near by and at daylight the next morning the mule was also dead, with the leg so swollen that the skin had burst in several places.

Garibaldi's Domestic Troubles.

The old man, says a correspondent of the Philadelphia *Bulletin*, feels his *quasi* banishment deeply, and he feels equally the injustice shown him on the subject of his unfortunate marriage, which he is seeking to have annulled, and which would be annulled were he any other man than Garibaldi. You know the story. He marries a young girl whom he thinks pure. She has loved and loves another; but she marries Garibaldi, who was then a star, a hero. Nor is this all she is a mother, and even after her marriage, continues her love for the father of her child. She dishonors Garibaldi's name in every way, and Garibaldi can not obtain an annulment of this marriage, whereas any other man in Italy would have obtained it long ago. The old General, consequently, is not in a very pleasant mood just now. Victor Hugo, it seems, knows this, for he has invited him to renounce his nationality and turn French, since Nice, his native town, is French. By this means he would be free from his wife, who detests even his name, and his present position would be legitimized and his children also. But it is not likely that he will accept this means of freeing himself, however dear this freedom may be to him. We are, however, watching the result of Victor Hugo's proposition with some interest.

Teaching Canaries.

An Australian newspaper, says the *Figaro*, relates how the education of canary birds has been brought to a high degree of perfection. The birds are placed in a house where they can hear no other sounds than their own voices and the notes of an organ placed behind a looking-glass in which they see each other. In a short time they learn the time, after which they are separately taught different parts in concerted pieces. The results obtained already are marvellous, and the dilettaute is so enchanted with his success that he hopes eventually to execute one of Wagner's operas with a troupe of two hundred feathered vocalists.

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