

HEN 617 WORLD CHAMPION

Her Record 257 Eggs in One Year, Stands Unbroken.

STIMULATE EGG INDUSTRY

Maine Man Teaching Hens to Lay Faster and Better—Biddies Are Too Lazy, Says Professor George M. Gowell, Poultry Specialist—A Hen to Be Proud of.

Bangor, Me.—Champion of the world is the proud title successfully held against all comers for three years by Hen No. 617 of Plymouth Rock, of the henry of Prof. George M. Gowell, poultry specialist at the experiment station of the University of Maine, at Orono. Hen No. 617 promises to retain her title for as many years more, for no other biddy has laid as many eggs as she in a given space of time. Two hundred and fifty-one laid in one year is her record. A paltry 240 is the nearest approach made to it. All ordinary, everyday hens are happy if they lay as many as 150 in a twelve-month.

The champion hen of the world, like most other champions, bears her honors modestly. Far from being a large, proud bird, this record breaker is under-sized and narrow of body. Her neck is too long, judged by all standards of the barnyard, but she is healthy and vigorous, and when it comes to laying eggs she can't be touched.

Prof. Gowell believes that he can produce a breed of hens that will lay more eggs than the ordinary hen, whose laziness is responsible for the high prices of eggs in American markets today. Thus far he has developed more than forty hens which have, in a year, laid more than 200 eggs apiece, while a great many have exceeded 160 eggs in a year.

Persons who understand omelets better than they do hen history, and who have a better appetite for eggs than they have for statistics, do not realize the importance of this effort for poultry improvement, but some idea of the benefits to flow from even partial success in Prof. Gowell's work may be gained from a few figures.

Prof. Gowell denies with indignation reports that he has devised a plan of coaxing hens to lay with inventions designed to deceive the biddies, machines that make the egg disappear as soon as laid, and intended thus to spur the hen into renewed effort. Good faith with his hen friends, Prof. Gowell affirms, is the only good policy if one wants to attain results.

As a means of securing the needed information, fifty-two trap nests of Prof. Gowell's own devising and construction were placed in the thirteen pens of the breeding house. Each hen in the experimental class carries upon either leg a broad metallic band bearing her number. When the hen is released from the trap the attendant takes her number, and then, upon a board fastened on the wall over her nest, whereon the records are systematically kept, she is credited with the egg laid.

At the end of the year the results are figured up, and the good performers are known by their records and separated from the rest. All that have laid less than 160 eggs in the year are disposed of, the others are congregated in different pens, according to their productive capacity, and the experiments continued, both as to the laying capacity of the selected performers and as to the productiveness of their eggs, all duly labeled with the number of the hen laying them, in the incubation of chickens.

The experiments began in November 1898, with about 1,000 hens. Banded Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. During the first four years in which Prof. Gowell selected breeding stock by use of the trap nests he found 35 hens that yielded only 36 to 60 eggs, and three laid no eggs at all. The Plymouth Rocks have far outstripped the Wyandottes in laying all through the six years of the experiments, and today the champion hens, all Plymouth Rocks, are:

No. 617, hatched in May, began laying in November, first full year, 251 eggs; first year, Nov. 1 to Nov. 1, 234 eggs; second year, Nov. 1 to Nov. 1, 150 eggs.

No. 1,003, hatched in April, 1901, laid in 1902, 240 eggs.

No. 1,001, hatched in April, 1901, laid in 1902, 213 eggs.

No. 303, hatched in May, began laying in November, laid in first full year 208 eggs; same number in first year, Nov. 1 to Nov. 1. Eleven other Plymouth Rocks exceeded 200 eggs in the first year of the experiments, while only three of the Wyandottes reached 200. Since then the Wyandottes have cut no figure in the experiments. In all, thirty-seven Plymouth Rocks and three Wyandottes have equalled or exceeded 200 eggs in a year.

From the mating of cockerels and hens hatched from the eggs of his remarkable egg-layers, Prof. Gowell expects to produce still more wonderful hens. But, as said, he is not aiming at the phenomenal—only to bring forth a breed of hens that will lay more eggs than the hens of this day and generation are doing—and that he will accomplish this there seems to be no doubt. The day of the two-minute trotter is likely also to bless the world with the 200-egg hen.—New York Times.

Just about the time a man thinks he has acquired wisdom something happens that renders another thing necessary.

Bread, meat, vegetables and fruit cost more in England than in the United States.

USES OF THE SOAP TREE.

Consul Thinks It Might Be Profitably Cultivated in America.

The soap tree of Algeria is described in a report by Consul Kidder at Algiers. He says:

"The Sapindus utilis is not, as is generally supposed, indigenous in Algeria. It was introduced into the colony in 1845 under the name of Sapindus indicus, and in 1859 a number of young plants grown in Algeria were already offered for sale. In 1869 the catalogue of the Jardin d'Essai of Algiers gives the name of another species as Sapindus emarginatus, believed to be a native of Central America. Both these names were erroneous.

"The soap tree in Algeria differs widely from both of these species. It appears to be a hybrid, and has characteristics quite different from those of any of the known varieties coming from India, Japan, China, and Central America, and it is superior to all in general usefulness. For this reason Dr. Trabut, director of the botanical services of the general Government of Algeria, suggested the name of Sapindus utilis, which has been generally adopted.

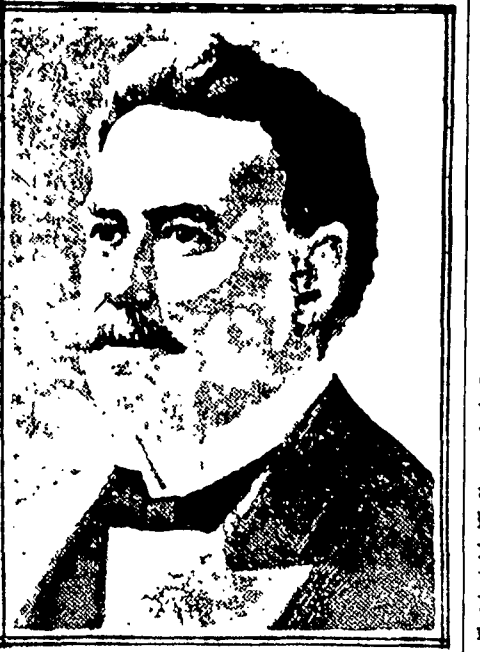
"The Sapindus utilis is a large tree with a smooth, straight trunk. The plants reach to about 10 feet in height in the first two years and begin to bear in six years, but the fruit production increases largely as the tree becomes older. The berry is round in appearance, but with a distinct keel like that of a walnut including it. It is, when fresh, smooth, shiny, and translucent, the color varies from yellowish green to brown in size it varies from half an inch to an inch in diameter. Dried, it weighs from one-eighth to one-quarter of an ounce. The seeds form about a third of the total weight. The tree when fully grown is from 40 to 50 feet tall, and produces 200 pounds of fruit annually.

"Several varieties produced from seed have given poor results. The only practical method of reproduction is from cuttings. These cuttings should be planted in February in Algeria and countries with similar climate. They must be copiously watered during the summer.

"So far the cultivation of this tree in Algeria has been confined to the low-lying lands near the coast, (the orange belt), but it is believed that it would endure a more severe climate. The only large plantation of these trees is that of M. Bertrand at his property of Boukandoura, about eighteen miles from Algiers, covering some 150 acres, but there are many small plantations and recently the cultivation of the tree is being largely undertaken.

There are no important manufactures of soap-tree products in Algeria. The entire product of the plantation referred to above went last year to Germany. A good deal of the fruit is employed in its natural state, and many chemists produce specialties from it, such as soapine, an excellent washing powder, soapine, a reputed hair wash, and many other articles for toilet purposes. Panama wood, which is extensively used in Europe for washing, contains on an average about 8 per cent of soapine, while the dried fruit of the soap tree contains fully 28 per cent. When freight is taken into consideration the difference can be easily estimated.

"The wood of the soap tree is also valuable. It is fine grained, takes a good polish, and is very suitable for furniture. The seed contains a considerable quantity of fine oil. It seems that the cultivation of this tree might be remunerative in California and in our Southern States."—The New York Times.



Mark Ruchet, The new president of the Swiss Republic.

Engines of War Rejected.

Hand grenades and bombs were used with terrific effect at the capture of 203-Meter hill, Port Arthur. Their use was contrary to the spirit of the international rule which forbids the cruelty of dum-dum bullets. Certain other engines of war have been rejected by civilized nations, however, in times gone by because they were too destructive and too horrible. England has still in keeping a secret war plan of the tenth earl of Dundonald which the authorities rejected because, while it was infallible, it was too inhuman to use by man against man. Even Louis XV, of France had backbone enough to refuse Dupre's terrible invention. If the story of this discovery be true, the plan was to create by a secret process a conflagration whose intensity was increased by water. It would burn town or fleet. Louis refused to have the secret published and it went down to the grave with Dupre.

Where temperance reigns, crime wanes.

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THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THE STAGE DOOR GUARDIAN.

Invariably He is Conscientious and Rigid in His Guardianship.

Writing of "the man who guards the Stage Door" in the Theatre Magazine, Wells Hawks, says:

"It has come to be the custom that the stage doorkeeper is an old man. He is generally an old man with a history. He is either despondent over some melancholy fact that if the life had turned another way he might have been a successful manager, or he is full of reminiscences of the old day of which he loves to talk. Day and night throughout the season he guards his post, knowing and admitting through his door only the members of the company and those other persons he is absolutely sure have a right to enter there. He is generally silent and has no argument. If you are not entitled to admission there are no words—he simply shuts the door in one's face. Stage doorkeepers are quick to learn the faces of the members of a company playing at the theatres where they guard the entrance to the stage. The star is treated with greatest courtesy—door held open and frequently held in hand. It is a traditional perquisite for the stage doorkeeper to receive a generous gift from the exalted personage on the last night of the engagement, and there is no stage doorkeeper who does not begin to pave the way for it from the time of the first arrival of the star to the last night of the week, or the run, as the case may be.

"Few players ever omit this gift to the man who guards the door. It is he who keeps back that onslaught of youthful admirers who linger about the stage door for she who seems so beautiful in the limelight of glare so radiant 'neath the touch of rouge and penciled cosmetic.

She Wouldn't Split a Pair.

Because she had not time to return for a glove she had dropped, and knowing it would be as useless to the person at whose feet it had fallen as its mate would be to her, a woman tossed the glove she held in her hand after the one that was lost. The incident happened on the stairway to an elevated station.

The woman, richly dressed, was hurrying up the stairs, as if late in keeping an engagement, and was putting on a new pair of gloves that were in keeping with the rest of her attire. One was partly on her hand when the other slipped from her grasp, struck the rail and dropped to the street. As it fell it hit the arm of a plainly dressed girl standing below. The woman paused for the part of a moment, looked after the falling glove and met the glance of the startled girl. Then, without stopping in her ascent, she stripped from her hand the glove which she had been putting on and tossed it after its fellow.

Smiling at the girl, she anticipated the thanks she knew would be coming to her, and called out pleasantly:

"You are welcome"

Before the girl had recovered from her surprise the woman was out of sight, but the new pair of gloves remained.

Superstitions of Noted Women.

Some people say that all women are superstitious. It would be difficult to prove it, but it is certainly true that many distinguished women are superstitious. George Eliot, deep thinker though she was, was made unhappy by the sight of a hunchback or club-footed man and did no literary work on the day she encountered one. Rosa Bonheur, the great animal painter, believed that the possession of a little leaden image of St. Anthony of Padua brought her luck. For the same reason Sarah Bernhardt wears a large uncut emerald, while Eleanor Duse pins her faith to the wearing of a little copper box crucifix, made in a Siberian prison. Miss Kussner, the miniature painter, has a tallman in the form of a bracelet woven of silvery-white horsehair from the mane of a sheik's favorite Arab. A superstition with which many wives have sympathy was that of Queen Victoria, who believed that misfortune would follow if ever she took off her wedding ring.

Where the Chinese Are.

According to Export, a German geographical paper, there are 7,642,650 Chinese living out of China—as many as the total population of Sweden and Norway.

America has comparatively few of them—only 272,829, a few less than the little British island of Hongkong alone boasts. Formosa has 2,600,000, but that used to be Chinese, and they simply haven't moved. Siam is the greatest goal of actual emigration, having 2,500,000 Chinese, who have absorbed pretty much all the active trade of the country.

In the Malay Peninsula, also, 985,000 Chinese have nearly monopolized trade under British rule. The Sunda Isles have 600,000. The Philippines, where the Chinese are already a problem, have only 80,000 of them.

Children's Rights.

Children, says a writer in "Harper's Bazar," have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

First—The right to live their own lives, not ours.

Second—The right to be bad if lacking in the will to be good, and to learn, in consequence, hard lessons of the expediency of righteousness.

Third—The right to pursue happiness, not to have it thrust upon them. This realization is apt to be a check upon theories; but it does not produce dwarf trees in the domestic garden.

The Gorgeous Diamond Rattler.

A gorgeous creature is the diamond rattlesnake, the king of his race. When touched his ten rattles sing a merry tune as he forms himself into a letter S and gets ready to strike. Snakes do not jump at people; they merely straighten out the curves of the S. A big one can reach three feet with his fangs, which resemble cats' claws.

BOATS BUILT BY SAVAGES.

South Sea Islanders Experts in Constructing Vessels.

In the Marshall group of islands in the south seas is a little tall of coral known as Likiep atoll.

About 40 years ago a Portuguese sailor was landed there from a whaling ship.

Soon he married the daughter of a chief and became a trader. After many years an American captain visited the islands during a trading voyage in the south seas, and when his vessel shortly afterward became unworthy he set to work on the beach to build a new one.

The Portuguese whaler's two sons helped him and learned a great deal about the operation. The island had fine hard wood on it, just the kind of timber that shipbuilders value, because it will not rot or waterlog readily. The captain at last succeeded in finishing a good 40-ton schooner and sailed away in her.

Before long the two boys had begun to teach the natives something of what they had picked up, and soon, instead of the primitive canoes and dugouts that the Marshall Islanders had been using for centuries, the folk of the Likiep atoll began to build canoes made of carefully fashioned timber and planed together with rivets.

Now there is a real shipyard on this little speck lost in the wide Pacific. A high roof under the palms on the beach greets the mariner, and when he lands he sees vessels on stocks, modern tools lying around and everything looking just as it does in a shipyard anywhere on the American coast, only instead of workmen in overalls he sees dark natives with hardly any clothing.

If a chief wants a schooner of 12 tons, built for him, they charge him \$1,000 for it, but if a poorer person wants the same kind of a vessel they will charge many hundred dollars less. They do this quite openly, and explain it by saying that the chief, being rich, can afford to pay more than a poor person can for the same thing.—Washington Post.

Fashion Cure for Embonpoint.

If you know a lady, or, for that matter, a gentleman, whose composure and pleasure in life has been seriously disturbed by what is sometimes euphemistically termed "a tendency to embonpoint," advise her, if she has not already discovered it for herself, that the fashionable cure of this season consists in using the breath-winding skipping rope. Of course, most adipose people, like the rest of us, have already had a certain amount of practice in literary skipping; it was for this that popular novels and "human interest" editorials were invented. But the exercise thus obtained is, as a rule, somewhat less violent, somewhat more sedentary than that afforded by a rope and a shady spot in the back yard. Perhaps this skipping mania is only a

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passing fad, for, truthfully, it is a less exciting sport than golf or canoeing; yet while it lasts it is an excellent thing for people who insist on good form to try on.—Boston Transcript.

Black Skin and Sun Protection.

On the bare arm paint a broad line in Indian ink and expose the arm to the strong sunshine. A slight inflammation sets in on the unprotected skin, but not under the black paint, which excludes the high rays (that of course, not the heat rays).

Some days after the skin is darker (sunburned) except where the Indian ink was painted, where is a white line in the skin. Exposing the arm again the inflammation sets in only in the white line.

The brown pigment caused by the sun (sunburned) at the first exposure protects the skin against the chemical rays. Therefore are negroes black, and travelers of white skin may protect themselves in the tropics from the sun by black or red paint.—London News.

Jewels in the Sultan's Treasury.

A correspondent writing from Constantinople to a Paris journal claims, as the result of personal inspection, to give details of the collection of jewels in the sultan's treasury. The turbans of all the sultans since Mahomet II. are there, all glittering with large gems of the purest water. There are also the royal throne of Persia, carried off by the Turks in 1514, and covered with more than 20,000 rubies, emeralds and fine pearls, and also the throne of Suleiman I. from the dome of which there hangs over the head of the caliph an emerald six inches long and four inches deep. These two thrones are the chief objects of the collection.

Deepest Part of the Ocean.

The deepest sounding ever made by any vessel was by the U. S. Ship Nero, while on the Honolulu-Manila cable survey, with apparatus borrowed from the Alabastross. When near Guam the Nero got 5269 fathoms, or 31,614 feet, only 66 feet less than six miles. If Mount Everest, the highest mountain on earth were set down in this hole, it would have above its summit a depth of 2612 feet, or nearly half a mile of water.

The Last of An Island.

The Island of Norstrand, the only portion of once fertile North Frisland which is as yet unreclaimed, is now to be saved from the sea by the construction of a large dyke. The island was first separated from the mainland by a terrific storm in 1634, during which over 6,000 persons were drowned.

All Fatigue is Alike.

A scientist says it is not true that intellectual work is a relief from physical work, or vice versa. "Fatigue, of whatever nature it is, accumulates during any kind of labor, and disappears only on complete repose.