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HAMILTON, ONT. WINNIPEG, MAN.

TO THE POULTRYMAN:

A Weekly Letter Containing Practical Pointers in the Management and Care of Standard Bred Poultry, Taken From the Daily Log Book of Sunny Crest Poultry Farm, Bear River, P. E. I. by the Manager.

In last week's article dealing on "Factors relative to fertility" we took up a number of the most important points and the week I would like to try and complete this by touching on the remainder of the points which will be found to have a direct bearing on results.

Stange as it will no doubt sound to many, very great preponderance of strength and vigor in either the male or the female parent usually impairs fertility, and this plant we have had several instances of this especially in the mating of a cocker to hens in their second year as breeders, the cocker seems to have such an abundance of life vigor that he imparts to the young some annoyance to the females with the result that there is more or less avoidance, however compensation will, to a certain extent, as found in the fact that every fertile egg will almost always hatch and the chicks show remarkable strength and vitality.

A question very often asked and one which there appears to be a great diversity of opinion in, just how many females should be paired with one male or the best results and I have no doubt that if that question were asked of a dozen experienced breeders no two of them would agree.

I am strongly of the opinion and I might add that my opinion is based on the results of actual experiments along these lines, that there may be one male to one female, two many females to one male of great vigor, we have mated one leghorn cocker to thirty yearling hens in March while the flock were still confined every day and had ninety percent fertility, while a special mating of eight choice yearling hens and a second yearling breeding male, under the exact same conditions showed a barely fifty percent of fertile eggs on the first test.

For the ordinary male we like to make our pen twelve birds in all for large flocks, but there is no doubt that this number can be greatly increased with good results, with the small matings there is a danger of the male having certain favorites, but on this plant where every female is valued according to number, size, shape, and fertility of eggs which is only possible in trap pens, and pedigree breeding, we are not scared of favoritism as the despised ones in the pen are promptly replaced with others who will produce the goods.

With the large flock matings there will be less favoritism, but more successful avoidance, so it appears to be a case of choosing the lesser of the two evils, twenty females of the light breeds and twelve of the heavier ones will

usually give good average fertility. A very important point and one that is apparently no basis of fact is that for high fertility in spring the winter egg production must be small. A hen who is naturally a heavy layer will lay herself weak and poor if improperly fed, and for this reason it is without doubt extremely better that hen is properly fed with the right foods that contain the proper proportion of nutrients for the upkeep of her body and for one egg a day, I can not see why that hen should not lay for six months without exhaustion of any kind, and while she is in good health there is no reason why her eggs should not run highly fertile.

Experiments have shown that laying is a natural function that every hen can complete once in a while, and if she is provided with a surrounding conditions are favorable it is up to you to study bird's wants and as far as possible supply them.

A point which in order of importance should claim your first attention is that of house room, see that your breeders have ten square feet of floor space each and not less than fifty feet (cubic) air space, and the space under the roosts where droppings have been allowed to accumulate should not be considered in the allotment, have the windows wide open to admit fresh air and sunlight during the warm time of the day and see that they are closed enough at night to protect the birds on the roost from any chill east winds which so often prevail during the spring.

Plenty of space in which the fowls can roam, exercise and forage is very desirable and far superior to any condition possible under confinement, but where the breeders can be allowed a limited amount of outdoor exercise with a change of scene, a certain amount of their ration, and where attention is given to supplementing it with what they are unable to get, we do not see that any great loss of fertility need be expected.

L. E. H.--I am afraid I cannot assist you in the matter of determining the age of that rooster, if he is such a wonder mate him with six good wives and wait for "the proof of the pudding", what a pity he has no teeth.

A Padre In The Great War
(Continued From Page 1)

some shrapnel in that valley in front of our lines. Just the faint flicker of a star passed over his countenance and he replied, "We are shelling the valley." "No," I said, "our shells are going over the valley into the villages beyond, and the Germans are getting ready for a counter attack in the plain." I could not restrain myself with my notes. "Well," he replied, "I will go and see."

SAVED BY A SIGNALLER
Later on when I was down in a German dugout which had been turned into the headquarters of our advanced artillery brigade, and was eating the "half tin" of cold baked beans which my friend the O. C. had failed to consume, I had the satisfaction of hearing the message come through on the wires that our artillery had to concentrate its fire on the valley as the Germans were preparing for a counter attack. When I left the nice comfortable dugout, I found that it was quite dark and still snowing. My flashlight was of little use for it only lit up the snow flakes immediately in front of me. I was terribly tired, for I had had a long walk and the excitement of the day and talking to such numbers of men had been very fatiguing. To add to my difficulties, our batteries lay between me and the road and were now in full retreat. My old dread of being killed by our own guns seemed to be justified on the present occasion. Gun flashes came every few seconds with a blinding effect, and I thought I would never get behind those confounded batteries. I had several umbrellas in the snowcovers, but there was nothing to be done except to struggle on an trust to good luck to get through. When at last I reached the road, I was devoutly thankful to be there and made my way to the dugout of the signallers, where I was most kindly received and hospitably entertained, in spite of the fact that I kept dropping asleep in the midst of the conversation.

DEEDS OF COOL DARING
One of our signal officers, in the

morning, had gone over with some men in the first wave of the attack. He made directly for the German signallers' dugout and went down with his followers and finding about forty men there told them they were his prisoners. They were astonished at his appearance, but he took possession of the switch board and told them the Canadians had captured the ridge. One of the Germans was sent up to find out and returned with the report that the Canadians held the ground. Our men at once took possession of all the telegraph instruments and prevented information being sent back to the Germans in the rear lines. Having done this, our gallant Canadians ordered the prisoners out of the dugout, and then sat down and ate the breakfast which they had just prepared. This was only one of the many deeds of daring done that day. On one occasion the Germans, coming in the early morning, in front of our battalions that our men could not resist following them and were actually rushing into the zone of our own fire in order to get at them. A young lieutenant who afterwards won the V. C. for his gallant conduct, stepped ran in front of the men and halted them with the words, "Step boys, give the barrage a chance!"

In spite of the numbers of wounded and dying men which I had seen, the victory was such a complete and splendid one that my heart was full of thankfulness to Almighty God for His blessing on our arms. I arrived in my room at the Chateau at about half past two a. m., very tired and very happy. I laid myself in a large cup of strong coffee, or my primus stove, ate a whole tin of cold baked beans and turned in to a sound slumber, filled with dreams of victory and glory, and woke well and fit in the morning, more than ever proud of the grand old First Division when, as General Horne told us later, had made a new record in British war annals by taking every objective on the scheduled dot of the clock.

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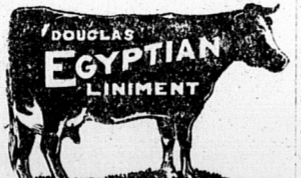
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