

SPORTS OF THE FARM

White Plymouth Rock Chicken Is One of Most Familiar.

Another Interesting and Valuable Development Is Development of Polled Durham Breed of Cattle—The Dwarf Tomato Is Another.

(By PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE.)
The term "sport" means many things to many people. We each think in our own language and see the same object in different colors from various sides. Sport from the standpoint of the man interested in heredity is an unprecedented and unaccountable change of character in the offspring of perfectly normal parents. This change may be slight, or it may be absolutely revolutionary, but if it be a true sport it has never occurred before in the ancestry of this particular individual.

The new character may effect one organ or the whole structure of the individual. There is no way of tracing the causes of the change and no certainty that it will be transmitted to the descendants of the sport.

It is from these abrupt spontaneous appearances of strange characters that some of our most valuable varieties of plants and animals have come. Perhaps one of the most familiar sports in animal world is the White Plymouth Rock chicken. This variety is a pure sport derived from the Barred variety and the pure white chicks occurred in two or three places in this country at about the same time. Fortunately they transmitted their white color to their offspring and thus was created a new breed, pure white in color, and true Plymouth Rocks in every other characteristic.

Another interesting and valuable sport is the Polled Durham breed of cattle, a hornless breed descended from the true sports of the Shorthorns. The first true polled Shorthorns were born of horned parents, but their offspring were usually hornless.

In the vegetable kingdom, one of the latest sports is the Dwarf Tomato which we told you about in a recent article. It came spontaneously from tall stock, had full sized fruit in smaller numbers, and the stalk was stiff enough to support the fruit. It immediately became popular and bids fair to supplant its parent variety for field use, because it produces more and better fruit to the acre.

Sports without number have occurred among the flowers and most of us are familiar with numerous cases of unexpected new shapes and colorings.

Many of the fine varieties of apples and other tree fruits are of spontaneous origin, and we credit a number of valuable grains and field crops to the same mysterious forces which we know not.

While giving sports due credit, we must acknowledge that cross breeding and careful selection are fully as important, if not more so, and they are much more available to mankind. A great many mutations of character which are called sports are really changes due to crossing one character with another.

INCREASE IN FARM PROFITS

Farmers Make Serious Mistake of Spreading Energies Over Too Large Area, Says Worst.

(By J. H. WORST, Dean of North Dakota Agricultural College.)

It requires approximately seven dollars per acre to grow a crop. This includes interest on the investment, cost of seed, wear and tear on farm machinery, labor, etc. By adding one dollar's worth of labor to each acre, there is little question but that the average profits would be doubled. In other words, as much profit should be realized from the one additional dollar's worth of labor as is now realized from the seven dollars' worth of unavoidable labor and investment. Consequently if farmers would devote one-third of their land to growing corn and alfalfa, neither of which interferes with the time and labor employed in farming wheat, and put one-third more labor, thus make available on only two-thirds as many acres of wheat, they would grow more wheat than where they spread their energies over one-third larger acreage. The corn and alfalfa fed to live stock would insure them a large additional income, and one that is not often adversely influenced by climatic conditions, while the fertility deposited upon the farm resulting from feeding the corn and alfalfa to live stock would vastly improve the productive-ness of the soil.

Handling Manure Once Only.

It should be the rule never to handle manure more than once. When removed from the barn or feeding shed it should be loaded at once into the spreader and hauled to the field. If the farm is small and the amount produced is only at the rate of one or two loads a week, the convenience and improvement of taking it directly from the stable and spreading it at once on the field will certainly justify driving the manure spreader slowly.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Manure and Moisture.

Manure from the barn lot adds humus to the soil, and humus acts like a sponge, retaining the moisture and making more rainfall or holding it longer. Moral: Save and carefully spread all barnyard manure over the fields. Manure, properly utilized, puts dollars in the farmers' pockets.

PRAISE FOR SOCIAL WORKER

Covite Trader Willing to Admit Young Woman Who Had Helped Him "Ain't Doin' No Harm."

The mountaineers of Virginia and Tennessee are notoriously chary of praise. Miss Babbitt, the social worker who came down from the north, established a mission among the "covites," and labored with them, found the people hard to get along with and said so. But there was another side to it. A covite trader came into the little college town near by one day and was questioned by one of the professors.

"John," asked the professor, "how long has Miss Babbitt been out in Lost Cove?"

"Nigh onto four years," answered John.

"The people like her, don't they?"

"Some."

"But she's a mighty good woman, John," urged the professor. "She's out there working to help you and your children. I've heard a lot about the good she's done."

"Wa-all," said John reluctantly, "I will say she ain't doin' no harm."

New York Saturday Evening Post.

BOTH BUSY.



Hickson—My wife is trying to get into society.

Dickson—What are you doing?

Hickson—Trying to keep out of debt.

Her Dear Friends.

"I think Archie Allscadds has made up his mind to marry," said the vivacious blonde.

"To marry Virgie Skeemer?" queried the sparkling brunette.

"Uh-huh."

"What symptoms do you notice?"

"Well, he wears a sort of resigned, what's-the-use expression on his face, and doesn't run when he sees her coming now."

Capricious.

"Sometimes I think I never shall be able to understand these political terms," sighed Mrs. Jenner Lee O'Leary.

"For instance, since my husband lost that collectorship he says he'll have to 'draw in his horns' on household expenses; and yet the first thing he said when he received his notice of dismissal was, 'Well, they've got my goat at last!'"

Just So.

"Anybody can get to Easy street. You go up Perseverance avenue and turn into Hard Work lane."

"Yes?"

"The trouble is that when they see that last name on the corner lamp post, most of them turn back."

Bad Situation.

"I don't know how we'll face our neighbors when they return."

"What has happened?"

"We were taking care of their cat and their parrot. Yesterday the cat ate the parrot and then died of indigestion."

He Still Hoped.

Mrs. Matchem—Forty years old, Mr. Singleton, and never been married? Dear me! But surely you have not given up all hope?

Singleton—No, indeed! I hope I am safe for another forty years, anyway.

The Thing to Do.

"What shall I say if Mr. Binkton asks me to marry him?" asked the young woman.

"Don't bother about studying what you will say," replied Miss Cayenne. "Rehearse an effort to look surprised."

Wiser, Too.

"How can you have changed so, Henry? Before we were married you said you were fairly intoxicated with love for me."

"Well, Mrs. Peck, it usually takes drastic methods to sober a man up—and I'm sober now!"

Embarrassment of Riches.

"Where can you put my ad. in the paper?"

"You can take your choice, sir. We can put it either next the latest developments in the Thaw case or the murder mystery that defies solution."

Investment.

"Have you put by some money for a rainy day?"

"Oh, yes, dear aunt."

"What did you put it in?"

"A gold-handled, twenty-five-dollar silk umbrella."

His Occupation.

"I know a man who can supply affinities at short notice."

"Who is he?"

"My shoemaker. He makes a business of giving sole mates."

Vladivostok Bay Town

V LADIVOSTOK is Europe in the far east. It is no longer synonymous with land's end. What with street cars, brick pavements, mammoth department stores, Paris fashions, "movies" and a cafe chantant, one finds the quivering note of the eastern temple bell smothered by the clang of gongs and raucous European motor horns. After five years in quiet, easy going Japan one looks with the eyes of a Rip Van Winkle on this scene of bustle and color, writes C. A. Hibbard in the Chicago Daily News.

It is the color which makes Vladivostok impressive. The greens and blues of hills and skies are, perhaps, no richer than in many an eastern city, but in the shopping center of Russia in Asia the stores are resplendent with silks and fancy dress goods. The very buildings in red, white or cream colored stone take on a peculiar glory in the clear, dry climate.

Color in Streets.

In the streets color is rampant. Cavalry officers in greens and yellows, with sabers clanking on the pavements; infantrymen in reds, naval officers in spotless white, rich in gold braid and with dangling short swords, give a gayety and jauntiness to the city that an American does not know. Arm in arm with the soldiery goes the fair sex in gorgeous Paris finery, daring directoire and astounding hats. The women are all young; or, what is much the same thing in Vladivostok, appear so. In the roadway shouting droski drivers in red and green velvets—sollid but still vivid—force their carriages through the traffic at a reckless rate.

Mingled with the European is a heterogeneous Asiatic population. Chinese in their long, blue "house boy" robes; Hindus in bright cloths and gay headresses; the Korean porter with his funny baggage rack strapped to his back and clad in anything but spotless white, while his sister porter

skyscraper will be appropriately sent up into the air for you.

It is Awfully Formal.

Everywhere there is evidence of plenty of happiness and good cheer. But when the occasion for the holiday is in mind there seems to be present a feeling of awful formality. "Oh, yes! It is the czarowitz's birthday; let's give a cheer," appears to be the way the celebration is carried out. Of spontaneous enthusiasm there is none. To the American used to the exuberance of a national holiday in his own country this seems a penny-in-the-slot patriotism; you pay the money and the machine hurrahs for you.

The one permanent feature of Vladivostok is its changeability. As a terminus of a great railway, as a gateway to Europe, and as a military station of the first importance, its population is at best a transient one. Its virtues and vices are those of a caravaner city. Money is quickly spent. Generosity reaches out a helping hand on the one side while greed lies in wait for you on the other. With an Asiatic population to do the scullery work, society, free and at leisure, sits on the cafe veranda idly devising new ways to put in the time.

MUST HAVE MANY VIRTUES

Ideal Man, in the Eyes of Japanese Women, Something of a Paragon.

In Japan love, we have been told, as a prelude to matrimony, is so far the exception, and marriages are so generally a matter of parental arrangement that it comes as a surprise to find a Japanese magazine (the Shukujō Gwa-ho) discussing the question of the ideal man from the Japanese lady's point of view. The ideal seems to reach a height lofty enough to satisfy the most exigent feminist in the west. Seven characteristics are put forward as essential to the man who



ONE VIEW OF VLADIVOSTOK

changes her load to her head and adopts gaudy yellows and pinks; Japanese in native kimono, sometimes gay, sometimes somber—they all belong to the color of the city. Vladivostok is no melting pot. Here every one retains his nationality and his dress.

At 4 p. m. Vladivostok goes on parade. The pavements and sidewalks of the one long street are crowded with gayety seekers. The cafe fronts burst into activity, while bustling Chinese "boys" carry strangely colored drinks to the chatting customers. Everyone's interest is centered in the passing show. From the interior of dreamy waltzes come the strains of dreamy waltzes and haunting Russian melodies played by a naval band. If for several years you have heard little but the awful strident notes of the Japanese "samisen" and the beating of tomtoms, you are bewitched and you, too, will decide to slip hot tea from a tumbler. Before long the restaurants have claimed the multitude and left the streets all but deserted.

If you happen to arrive on the czarowitz's birthday—as did I—you will find Vladivostok a veritable Coney Island. The large public garden is full of merry-making peasants in embroidered shirts, broad belts and high boots. The "movies" are crowded with a constantly changing throng, while a cheap theater is giving suggestive comedy to a cheap audience. Flags are out all over the city, and while they flutter jauntily enough in the breeze they appear so regularly as to give the impression of being displayed by order.

Here and there tawdry lithographs of the royal family are exposed in the corner of some shop window. The ships in the harbor are formally dressed and the squadron does due honor to the occasion by the proper number of guns. In the evening if you wish to show your enthusiasm you may pay the correct amount and a

would win a woman's affections. In the first place, he must not be mean with his money. His second virtue is absence of personal vanity. Other requirements follow thus: He must look virile, he must not be a "lady's man" or show himself familiar with ladies; he must be careful in speech, taking care to explain everything to which he alludes; he must be quick in decision and be able to extricate himself from the most difficult situations, and he should have an ideal.

So much for the first seven ordinances. A strictly domestic and practical element here makes its appearance. The ideal man must leave to woman the management of all family expenditure, and he must never (perhaps as a natural corollary) enter the kitchen. Then the requirements reach a higher ethical plane, and certainly become more difficult of performance. He must never criticize a woman's coiffure or dress; he must not spend time telling women his own personal tastes; he must not concern himself at all with feminine questions. Even worse remains behind. By some mysterious power he must not, after several years' intimate acquaintance, "become an object of disgust." From this demand there is a descent to the comparatively commonplace. He must practice the virtue of compassion; he must not indulge in frequent and long potations of sake; he must not be infatuated with his own person, and finally he must not be too jealous.

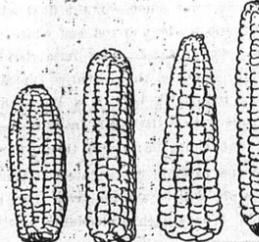
Like a Woman. They were having an argument. "No, you can't kiss me," she said for the fourth time. "Oh, just once," said he. "And if I let you kiss me once are you sure you won't want to kiss me again?" she asked. "Quite sure," he responded. "Then you can't kiss me."

HOW TO SELECT CORN EARS

Difficult to Distinguish Between Breeds of Same Color—Each Variety Has Characteristic Shape.

The first point in judging a sample of corn is to determine its trueness to the type or breed characteristics. There are breeds of corn, like breeds of cattle which have peculiar colors or forms which distinguish them. It is difficult to distinguish between breeds of corn of the same color, but this may be learned by experience in handling corn of various breeds. In pure corn of any breed there are certain marks which may be easily recognized.

Take the shape of the ear, for example. The ideal ear is cylindrical, not too crooked or too tapering. It is as difficult to find an ear of corn perfect in shape as it is to find cows, horses and sheep with perfect forms. The shape of ears of the different varieties of corn differ as widely as the shape and form of the different pure breeds of cattle. Each class and variety has a characteristic shape peculiar to itself. The most desirably shaped ear is cylindrical from butt to tip. Where ears are inclined to taper, it will be noticed that two or four rows, as a rule, are dropped near the middle of the ear. In judging the corn ear, take into consideration the soil and climatic conditions in which



The ear at the left is too short and thick, although good in other respects, the second is a desirable ear, the third has an enlarged butt and irregular rows, while the fourth, at the right, is too slender.

the corn is grown. The shape of a desirable ear for southern or central Illinois would differ in many respects from the most desirable ears for northern Wisconsin. The shorter growing season in the north demands a shallower kernel and a smaller ear to enable the corn to mature.

DISEASE MAY BE PREVENTED

Fatal Malady of Canker Sore Mouth Causes Extensive Loss of Little Pigs Every Year.

The loss of little pigs from this disease annually is extensive, but largely might be prevented by proper care. The cause of the disease is infection of slight scratches of the nose, mouth and gums by what is called bacillus necrophorus. This germ is present normally in the intestines of hogs and may be found wherever voidings have been dropped. The disease, therefore, is most likely to attack pigs kept in insanitary yards and buildings, and the contagion lurks there from year to year.

To prevent the disease, sows and pigs should be provided with clean buildings and yards. Be sure to have



After one year all boars should have their tusks removed at least twice a year. Use strong nippers or sharp blacksmith's pinchers.

the bedding fresh and dry. Pens should be cleaned out often and kept free from filth. Disinfectants and land plaster should be used in the pens daily. At birth the sharp teeth of each pig should be carefully nipped off with sharp pinchers, but more harm than good may follow if the gums are cut or bruised during the operation. Treat the cankers by scraping each ulcer thoroughly and rubbing it lightly with a lunar caustic pencil. Afterward swab the affected parts twice daily with a five per cent. solution of permanganate of potash.

"Breaking" by Kindness.

A long time before the colt gets through sucking it should be petted and handled so it won't be a stranger to its master later, when the time comes to break it to driving. The value of many a promising horse is reduced materially because this job of handling is put off until the colt gets set in its ways, and not only becomes set, but has the strength to have its own way sometimes.

Should Try a Separator.

It will not cost you a cent to try a cream separator for two weeks or even longer. Any dealer will be glad to let you have one on trial, for once used they will sell themselves.

BATTLE

Lesson That All Must Learn in Their Journey Through Life.

Wearily the Woman's eyes closed and she dreamed of the battle waging within.

"Ah," cried the Heart, "what you ask is impossible—it would mean starvation—I should die!"

"Are you, then, so afraid of death?" questioned the Soul, half pityingly, half contemptuously. "It is I who must triumph, I and the intellect, to give-lasting happiness."

For a space the quivering Heart was silent. The Soul was convincing against its will. But it would mean so much, this stifling of its longing—the endurance of pain and agony which only a little human heart could know and a great soul could not comprehend. The Heart, too, could give the Woman happiness—the Soul could not deny that, for the Heart had made the Woman happy before, deliriously happy. "And," thought the Heart, "it was the Soul with its chiding and the intellect with its cold reasoning who had caused the after hours of remorse, indecision and regret."

Fired by the injustice, the Heart spoke of these things, but the Soul answered sadly, "Can you not see that the happiness you would give the Woman is to be measured by Time? I would lead her to the white peaks of the Spirit—so that she might have happiness Eternal. That which you offer her is not Love," the Soul went on patiently; "it is that base thing, Passion, which errs one who have ever confused with the Divine Gift."

"It is physical beauty alone which fascinates and attracts this Woman to the Man—this Man to the Woman; and if you gain your desire, if you give her to the Man, in the degradation of her so-called 'happiness,' with my teachings forgotten, all her victories, her sacrifices, her toils upward will have been in vain. Oh, little Heart, there are many existences through which the Man's soul must pass, many sons of time through which it will have to live before it can attain the heights upon which I am empowered to place the Woman—even as I must pass through countless existences before I may unite with the Perfect Source from which I sprang. The Man's soul is but just awakening."

"Think you then, poor Heart, that for long the Woman would rest content with that blindly groping Soul? Passion, which you in your blindness call Love, would then fall to compensate, for Passion is but mortal and of the body, while Love is divine and of Eternity."

The Woman awoke, pale and trembling, for she had shared in the Heart's agony as well as in the exaltation of the Soul.

A fortnight passed, and again the Woman dreamed.

And now the voice of the little Heart was filled as with an untold weariness. "No more, O Soul," it said, "shall I oppose your will. The battle is yours. But in losing I am also victor, for I have conquered Desire," and the voice sighed waveringly off into silence.

"Listen," breathed the Soul softly, and, as though from afar, came, in tones of infinite sweetness: "Thou shalt die, O Heart, but by thy sacrifice thou hast gained Eternal Life. In thy next existence thou shalt be a divine soul."

And, when the Woman woke, there was in her eyes the peace of renunciation.—Janet Reese, in New York Press.

Straw Stacks a Nuisance.

Kansas is said to lose between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bushels of wheat each year because of the straw stacks. The straw is of comparatively little feed value. Some farmers have a hundred more times straw than all their stock could eat. The straw is of no use as a fertilizer until well rotted, and it takes four to six years to rot. Not less than 100,000 acres of land, it is estimated, are covered with straw stacks and made useless for farm purposes every year. Burning these straw stacks does great damage to the ground on which it stands, as the terrific heat, takes all the life out of the ground for a hundred feet or more around the stack.

Russia and United States.

Territorially, Russia is by far the largest single country on earth, embracing more than 8,500,000 square miles (almost three times the area of the United States proper). The population of Russia is 164,000,000, and her natural resources are great, almost inexhaustible. The United States has an area of something over 3,000,000 square miles, a population of 100,000,000 and a vast amount of, as yet, undeveloped wealth. The greatness of the United States overtowers that of Russia today, but when the great empire of the north becomes republican in spirit and institutions, as some time it will, it will be a mighty power indeed.

Colossus of Rhodes.

The accounts which we have received of the Colossus of Rhodes are very various—the extreme statements are 90 feet and 157 feet. If we accept the larger of these measurements, the Colossus, standing at the pier's edge without any pedestal, would have overtopped the Bartholdi. "State of Liberty" by a little more than six feet. Bartholdi himself says of the ancient "wonder": "We may wonder it as having been a very remarkable piece of work, independent of the legend of the ships passing between its outspread legs."