

CAPONS.

Comparative Size of Capon and Cocked of the Same Age.

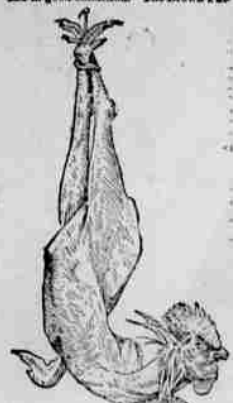
A practical poultryman sent to the editor of The Rural New Yorker a capon with a request to examine him. An extract from the letter accompanying the gift read as follows:



PLYMOUTH ROCK CAPON. The one I send was not hatched until June 8, and was caponed about the middle of August, since which time he has had the same treatment, care and food as my other cockerels. He has cost me, including labor, eighty-five cents. I sold his companions last week for twenty cents a pound alive. They brought \$1.00 each, leaving me a profit of seventy-five cents apiece. My capon last winter I sold in Providence for twenty-eight cents a pound dressed, and they paid me a profit of nearly \$1.00 each, being early and well matured birds.

The editor of The Rural New Yorker says: "We have had a careful picture of this capon, made it is shown in the illustration. It is the first time we have ever seen a picture of a capon. The capon is not developed, as in the case of a cockerel—they are only stiles. The comb and wattles are also undeveloped, while the plumage is very brilliant and profuse. Perhaps the most characteristic thing about a capon is its head. It does not look like the head of a hen or of a rooster, but like that of a capon and nothing else. There is nothing fierce or energetic about it, but rather a smiling, lifeless expression. The comb and wattles are undeveloped, and the head has nothing but fat, fleshy feathers growing on it.

To bring out the characteristic features of this capon more strikingly we also show the drawing of a cocked of about the same age which we found in the Washington market in New York. This bird is also a Plymouth Rock. It is smaller, poorer and inferior in every way to the capon. The capon was round and stout. We compared it with a Brown Patagonian rooster which we had in good condition. The Brown Patagonian was much more strikingly developed than the capon.

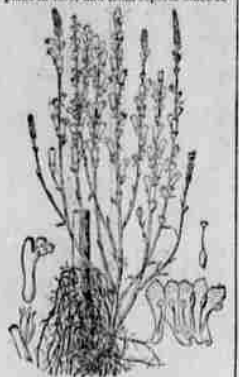


PLYMOUTH ROCK COCKED. Cocking is noted for its large proportion of breast meat, yet the capon exceeded it in this respect by at least 15 per cent. The amount of fat on the capon was not so large. We all remarked the difference in the two gray dishes. The flesh was of excellent flavor, all pronounced it the best chicken meat they had ever tasted.

The poultryman says of the caponing process: "The apparatus is very simple and a ten-year-old boy can do the work. If proper boots are used there need be no fear. The birds recover quickly and are for handling and can be readily cared for afterward. Caponing increases the growth of all levels of flesh in proportion to their natural size about 60 per cent. It is now to add many dollars to the business of the poultry raiser, and so far as I know or can learn there is not one single practical reason why all should not get down the work and produce more big capons for market."

A WEED NEW TO THIS COUNTRY. A rapidly spreading plant which is indigenous to Brazil. A plant of recent introduction into this country, which promises to be a common pest, is shown as the preceding bromeliad. While it seems to have come to stay, it may be sometimes the case with newly introduced weeds as rapidly disappear. The following description by J. N. Rose, assistant botanist of the department of agriculture, will assist in identifying the bromeliad fern (Oreococcus carolinensis): "An annual plant, 6 to 15 inches high, with many slender branches of leafy, or straw color, more or less hairy, parallel upon the roots or other plants. Small, colorless bracts instead of leaves. Flowers scattered in loose, slender branched flower stalks very short bracts large, one larger at the base of the flower stalk, two smaller at the base of the flower. Calyx four-toothed, split on the back. Corolla light blue, two-lipped, lower lip three lobes upper lip notched. Stamens four. Style long, with a long red lobed stigma. Ovary one celled. Seeds minute very numerous. This plant is a native of Europe and has been known in the United States only about five years. The attention of the department was first called to this plant in 1899, and from reports since received it is rapidly spreading. It was first seen in Kentucky, where it proved very destructive to hemp and tobacco. About three years ago it was introduced into Louisiana, and has since increased rapidly. It is very destructive, particularly to hemp and tobacco, as it causes them to rot. The roots of these plants and the ground from which they grow, are covered with a thick mat of its roots. Its growth in this country is more rapid than in Europe. When it once gets into a field it is very hard to eradicate, owing to the great multitude of seeds which it produces. The only remedy is to plow under the crop for a few years, and by all means to be careful to obtain pure seeds from uninfested regions.

There is a demand for growing ferns for the table. Many persons who have been always looking for a new dining table and who prefer foliage to cut flowers, become more and more interested with ferns, have a permanent fern looks attractive. The following ferns may be put on in the following manner: There must be two tubs, the smaller, with a hole in the top for the fern to grow in, and the larger, with a hole in the bottom, for the water to run into. The ferns are put in the smaller tub, and the water is put in the larger tub. The ferns are watered in the smaller tub, and the water is changed in the larger tub. This is very easy to accomplish, and looks nice.—Jesse Miller Monthly.



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