

FLOWERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

In the dull days of winter it is interesting to make plans for the garden for next year, so that as soon as spring comes the work can be started without delay.

If the shrubby border has become overcrowded, spring is a good time to transplant some of the bushes so as to leave plenty of room for the others to grow to their full beauty. When moving a shrub or any other plant it is important that the roots should be damaged as little as possible and that the hole in the new location should be as deep as the hole in the old location. The soil at the bottom of the hole should be dug out for at least a foot and some very old manure or good garden soil well mixed with the old soil, or, if the old soil is very poor, all new soil should be used.

Some shrubs are propagated by division and spring is a good time to do this. Spirea van Houttei is one that can be divided easily.

The perennial border will need some attention at this time. First, all dead stems and leaves should be removed and delphiniums, perennials, asters and phlox and other late blooming plants should be lifted and divided if necessary. Asters and phlox are both more satisfactory if lifted and divided every two or three years. If they are to go back in the same position, fresh soil should be put in or some well rotted manure or sheep manure mixed in the soil in the bottom of the hole. If there are no bulbs in the ground the surface of the bed between the plants can be slightly dug or raked after removing all weeds. If there are bulbs and the places where they are planted are not carefully marked one is very liable to cut off the tips of the leaves which may be just below the surface of the ground. Seedlings that have been wintered over in cold frames can be planted out in their permanent positions as soon as the frost is out of the ground. At the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, pansies and Canterbury bells are kept in cold frames all winter and transplanted early in spring and if the perennials have not grown large enough to transplant in the fall they are also wintered in frames.

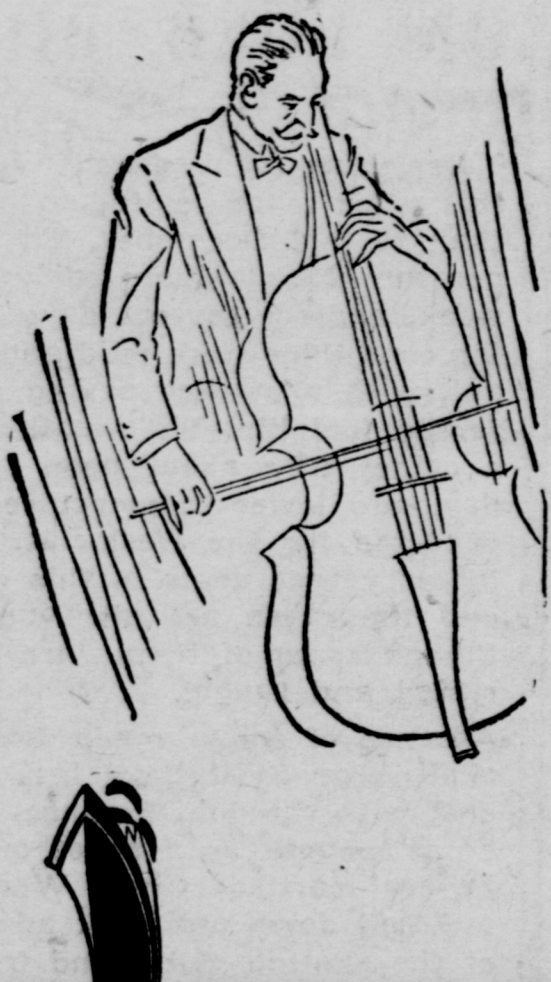
NOT WANTED

A doctor suggests that, of the many people who disappear every year, some are actuated by the belief that they are not wanted. And others, no doubt, by the knowledge that they are.

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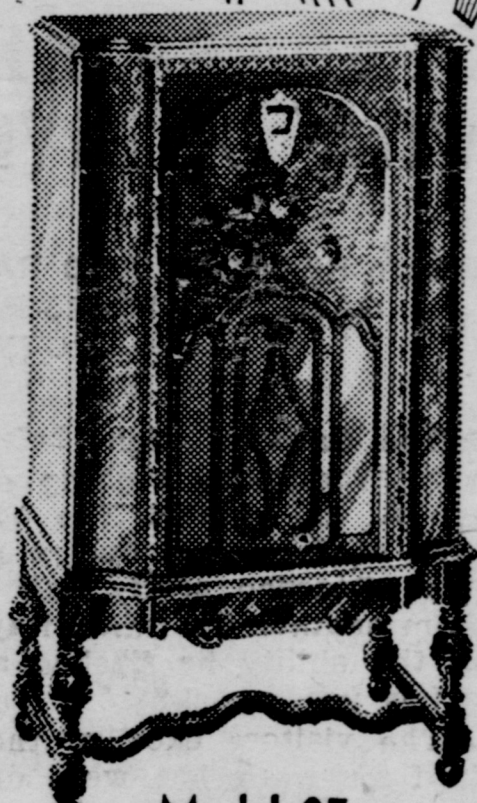
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IS INBREEDING HARMFUL?

Inbreeding is a general term meaning the continued mating of animals that are related to each other. If the animals are closely related, the term close breeding is used. Mating those more distantly related, such as first or second cousins, or uncle and niece, is called linebreeding. This form of inbreeding is the one most generally used by breeders.

What is the object of linebreeding? By this system of breeding the breeder attempts to fix the characteristics

of good production or type, or both, retaining the proportion of off-type or a good idea of the results to be expected from linebreeding the animal. From a thorough study of the breed histories, the poor-producing individuals, the males in question can be obtained.

However, linebreeding fixes the poor characters as well as the good ones.

Hence animals which are to be linebred should have sound constitutions, good type and be good producers.

In the case of dairy breeds, linebreeding from such animals be chosen?

Appearance or production of an animal is by no means a sure guide as to its breeding worth. Hence the breeding histories of the near ancestors of the animals in question should be looked into with the view of ob-

No animals are absolutely free from defects. By linebreeding, the hidden defects which animals may have will show themselves in their offspring.

There must therefore be a rigorous selection of the breeding stock to prevent the fixing of the defects. Sometimes the defects become so pronounced, such as droopy rumps, cut-up udders, or low fat yields, that outcrossing, or the introduction of new blood, is necessary to correct them.

PURITY FLOUR
STILL THE BEST FOR BREAD

Sires that are descended from several generations of careful linebreeding are very valuable since they tend to be prepotent, that is, they stamp their offspring with their own characteristics. However, animals linebred for several generations, even when careful selection is practised, frequently become too refined—lacking in constitution and vigor. When this occurs, an unrelated or distantly related sire should be brought into the herd. One such cross usually restores the vigor and constitution and linebreeding can then be continued. It is the delicate correcting of defects through linebreeding and outcrossing that constitutes the breeders' art. Hence the question of whether linebreeding or closebreeding is harmful is seen to depend upon the animals used, which in turn upon the judgment of the breeder.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD BREEDING MALE

A good breeding male is one that will pass on to his offspring the characteristics desired by the breeder, whether it be for high egg production, economical meat production, or any other desired character.

Unfortunately, the only reliable method of determining whether a male carries these qualities is by progeny testing which takes so much time that in many cases the male has either passed on, or at any rate the best part of his breeding life has been passed before his real breeding value has been determined. It is, therefore, necessary for most breeders to depend on pedigree and general appearances to select their breeding males.

The plan followed in selecting breeding males for the production of high egg-laying lines on the Experimental Farm is as follows:

Only strong vigorous cockerels that are typical of their breed and that have been bred from high producing large egg dams are retained, from which to select the breeders.

Pedigrees and records are studied, the cockerels divided into family groups and selection made from those groups where high production among sisters and immediate ancestors has been, most consistent.

The males are selected with the following qualifications kept prominently in mind.

Vigor—as expressed by an alert active disposition with a bright prominent eye.

Size—well up to the standard weight.

Type—head fairly broad, flat on

top, eyes prominent; back broad at the shoulders with the breadth carried through to the tail; thighs well set in, body deep and capacious; legs straight and strong, bone of shanks flat rather than round.

Males selected on external appearances as before described are a big advance on indiscriminate selection. Selection on external appearances plus pedigree and production records of their sisters and immediate ancestors is the best method for the rank and file to follow.

However, the careful breeder will follow this up with the progeny test, keeping careful records of the offspring so that the true breeding value of the male may be determined, and when a male shows a high degree of prepotency for the qualities desired he is retained for future use and those that do not measure up are discarded to make way for new cockerels to be tested the following year.

WISE WILLIE

Father (Sternly)—You know why I'm going to whip you?

Willie—I could make a guess, but I'm not going to—cause it might be something you don't know about, an' I'm not taking any foolish risks like that.—Boston Transcript.

All the world may love a lover, but when the lovelorn's done in public it makes me sick—Senator Sandpit. Echoed by thousands, but has any philosopher ever explained why? We note on psychological analyses.

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