

THE FIRST AID KIT IN A JAR

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J6-1R



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SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR

Chickens Out of Season

HAVE been struggling for 50 years with Emerson's advice to trust my emotions. Sometimes I do trust them, and sometimes I don't, but the effect on my conduct is neither here nor there. I do what I want to do when the impulse is strong enough, and stays with me long enough; then I juggle with my conscience and sooner or later think of a justification. Animals

JULY 15 have no conscience, and we call their emotions instincts. But what makes a hen trust its instinct to go broody on the shortest day of the year? We have ten halfbred pullets, all now about eight months old. Six weeks ago they had all started to lay, and one of them, after three weeks of laying, insisted in sitting. If we took her off the nest she screamed and pecked and beat at us with her wings, then rushed back again as soon as we liberated her. It was such a violent attack of broodiness in a hen of her

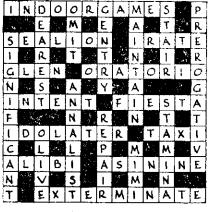
"SUNDOWNER

age that we decided to give her something to fuss over, and after a week of her tantrums we bought some incubator chickens. Now she is calm and happy and so gentle that she neither treads on the chickens in the confined coop nor loses her head when we lift up a chicken to examine it.

I suppose her physiology has played her this trick because we have played her a worse trick by feeding and coddling her instead of compelling her to work for a living. Left to herself from the day her mother dismissed her she would no doubt have survived, but she would often have gone to sleep hungry, would probably not have laid one egg before spring, and, if she did later brood, her chickens would not have fun the risk of frost, hail, and snow. But I suspect that instincts in animals are seldom as regular and never so trustworthy as they are generally supposed (continued on next page)

LISTENER" CROSSWORD THE

(Solution to No. 810)



Clues Across

- 1. FLAH (8).
- 7. Give the little devil a drink and run him through (6).
- 8. This vessel flies while its stern floats (8).
- 10. To reform could be a miracle (7).
- 11. Is it meat? Well, it 1 has the appearance of it, anyway (8).
- 13. Stuff! I'm off to the study (3).
- 15. "As as a painted ship" (Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner")
- 16. Fairy in peril (4).
- 17. When? Now! (3).
- 21. In this dance the musicians follow the girl (8).
- 22. Tear around in 17 across. That cheer you up! (7).
- 23. A garden and a gallery, altogether toothless (8).
- 24. But I do this in 14. order to obtain what I want at the auction (6).

25. They use a mixture of raddle amidships, but their livelihood depends on horses (8).

Clues Down

- 1. Any hitch for this flower? (8).
- 2. Rowdy (8).
- 3. Bill the Sailer, who clings to his ship? (8).
- 4. These could make you skite, especially if they fly high (5).
- Fascination for awhile (5).
- 6. Half this fish is just frozen water (6).9. And 19 down. The sort of drawing one does without helps or hindrances? (4, 4).
- 12. Nita is upset indeed at being kept behind (8).
- Wander with 504 over a gate (8).
- 14. Unnecessary, but mostly pointed (8).
- 18. Region in city where business is brisk (6).
- 19. See 9 down.
- 20. These creatures just can't go straight (5).
- 21. A river flows backwards between sibilants to reach a vegetable origin

No. 811 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

