

POULTRY ON FARMS.

to Make a Reliable Source of Income on Farms.

All our occupations we have some definite purpose in view. We must so direct our efforts as to get as much as possible from our poultry as possible. We read reports of what others have done, and we think what others have done, others can do, and we are about it, too. First and foremost, a hen-house is essential, for it is essential to attempt to keep poultry in such quarters as are provided in which they can be comfortable. The hen-house I know is built into the south side of a hill, is open to the south with a number of windows to let in the sun, and shutters on the outside of the windows to be closed at night when the mercury goes down below zero. There is also a shed adjoining the hen-house where they can have amusement and exercise in scratching in the dirt and leaves, also a large yard where we can keep them from roaming over the place when we wish. Their quarters should be kept clean. Use plenty of water and whitewash their roosts every two or three weeks. Sprinkle sulphur on the bottoms of their nests. Clean the dishes every day, and twice a day if needed. Keep the feed boxes clean. They can not be too neat with them. Because the fowls are not particular about their quarters. We can not afford to have them dirty. "One ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." Be vigilant and never tiring strive to keep the fowls in the best preventives of disease and lice.

Among the best breeds are the Plymouth Rocks, which are the farmer's friend for both eggs and table, but if eggs alone are the main profit the Leghorns and Spanish families are grand layers and non-sitters; as are also the Game and Hamburgs. A cross of these non-sitters on a Plymouth Rock hen gives a fine bird with extra laying qualities. As every fowl must be kept in the pot sooner or later, I prefer the Plymouth Rocks and Light Brauns. I know the Brauns are persistent layers, but if we watch the first signs of brooding and break them up then and there, by shutting them in prison for three days with good food and water, they will return to business all right. Plymouth Rocks are not so persistent sitters with me, but when we want to market them they pull down the scales and fill up a platter nicely. The true secret of breeds for profit is the food and care given them. I feed them as follows: In the winter I call them down from their roosts every morning as soon as they can see to eat warm breakfast of turnips, beets, carrots or potatoes, boiled and mashed up with wheat bran, or oat meal scalded with skimmed milk, or refuse from the kitchen boiled up and the soup thickened with bran; or sweet apples boiled with corn meal; sometimes one thing, sometimes another, always seasoning with a little salt and occasional pepper or ginger. I give them lunch, at noon, of oats or buckwheat. In a while sunflower seeds are scattered around among the litter in the shed, to make them scratch, and to give them exercise and keep them out of mischief. At night I feed corn and wheat. For green food I hang up cabbage where they can help themselves, and once in a while I chop raw turnip or sweet apple fine. When they are meat within reach all the time there is not the slightest danger of their eating too much. When we have changed the home supply from butchery, I buy cheap meat from the butcher, and I am sure it pays twice over for the outlay.

I keep gravel, charcoal and crushed oyster shells and raw bones crushed, in their house all the time. Raw bone is excellent for fowls and should be the thing dropped from their bill of fare. With this food given regularly, with plenty of fresh water or milk by them all the time, we have singing hens and gather eggs every day. In summer I omit the warm breakfast, and feed grain. I give all the forage possible and fresh water three times every day. It pays to look after the little things for here lies one of the greatest secrets of successful poultry raising. Neglect of this and that little thing will soon place the balance on the wrong side of the account.

In marketing poultry "the early bird catches the worm." The early chickens are those that pay. Experiments show that the maximum cost of a pound of chicken from the shell to maturity is 10 cents. After a fowl reaches the limit of its weight it will consume any amount of food and not gain an ounce. A fowl can be fattened in ten to fourteen days, and feeding longer is a loss. The weight of a Light Brahma rooster two months old is 2 pounds 3 ounces; a pullet 1 pound 15 ounces. This shows what good care and food from the shell will do. I have found that March and April bring the highest prices for poultry. Chickens with white or yellow skins are in the greatest demand. Aim to have the best of eggs and you will never go begging for customers.—Alice N. Kellogg, in Ohio Farmer.

—Good flour, lively yeast and skill are all required to make good bread. It might take two quarts of warm water and one teaspoonful of yeast, stir in flour until it makes a stiff batter. Cover and let it remain over-night; in the morning mix with more flour, but not too hard. Knead the dough well and let it rise on a board and let it rise again until it is quite light; then make loaves and let rise a half hour in the pans and bake. Before mixing in the yeast, it is an addition to rub a teaspoonful of fresh lard into the flour. Careful baking is an important part of the progress.—Rural New Yorker.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—Or stamping by electricity is considered the only sufficient economical system to permit of low-class ores being treated at a profit.

—In Greece, an industrial school for girls has been opened at Athens. Four hundred girls are employed there, with the happiest results.

—Since the telephone was established in Switzerland, in 1880, sixty-one towns have been provided with it, and there are now 6,944 telephone stations, 1,500 of which are in Geneva.

—In the new process of metal-plating the inventor does away with batteries and dynamo and depends upon a double electrical composition. In copper-plating cast-iron an alkaline bath is used in place of an acidulated one.

—Experiments in raising frogs artificially for market have not proved successful. There is considerable demand for frogs' legs in our large markets, which is supplied from thinly settled districts; they have become scarce in regions near our markets.

—The uses of the cotton plant are developing rapidly. Formerly the fiber of the blossom was only partly utilized. Then the seed began to supply a large proportion of the "olive oil" and "lard" in the country, and now the hulls are found to be cheaper and better than the wood for paper pulp.

—Sunflower seed is coming to the front as an article of commercial value. As an admixture to chicken food its merits are indisputable. Veterinarians use it in a medicinal way in the treatment of horses. Its growth is considered of use in the prevention of malaria, and the extraction of a valuable oil from it is a looked-for result.

—Many entomologists are of the opinion that the antennae of insects are organs of hearing, though it is probable that the auditory apparatus in many insects is not confined to the antennae. Thus grasshoppers and crickets appear to have ears in their legs, and the crustacean genus Mysia is provided with auditory organs in its tail. Equally curious arrangements have been observed in other insects.

—If anything is needed to convince men that gas is the fuel of the future it is found in the recent scientific experiments which show that by the very best method known of burning coal not more than 8 to 10 per cent. of the heat is used, the remainder being wasted by imperfect combustion, or carried off through the chimney. When the coal is turned into gas and the gas burned, nearly 80 per cent. of the heat can be utilized.

—The late Mrs. Jay Gould was a very gentle woman, whose chief liking was for children and flowers. In late years she spent much time in her conservatories. Mr. Gould built them for her at a cost of half a million dollars. The Gould tomb is on the highest mound in Woodlawn, and as seen from afar brings to mind the Parthenon at Athens, though, as a matter of fact, it is architecturally unlike what a copy of that temple would be. Mrs. Gould selected the site, and her husband paid \$50,000 for the ground.

—By spraying the region of the external ear with ether, Drs. Henocque and Fridel, of Paris, render the dental nerves insensible, and extract teeth without pain or general anaesthesia.

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