

Poultry.

GEO. D. GOODHUE, EDITOR.

If you have no taste for fowls otherwise than what is cooked and put in your mouth, you had better never try to keep chickens. You are sure to fail.

Pigeons lay two eggs. Instances have been known where three were supposed to have been laid. The eggs hatch in eighteen days after the last egg is laid.

The best food we have found for young chicks is coarse graham flour, mixed together with soda, sour milk, a little salt with some meat fryings added, stir into a stiff mess and bake in an oven. When chicks are three weeks old plenty of wheat and a little sour milk, is all they need if they have free range.

The owner of the Wyandotte cockerel which won the first premium at the Indiana State Fair, and the St. Louis Fair, refused one hundred dollars for him. To the poultry fraternity in the northwest this seems like a fabulous price, but to Eastern fanciers it is not a large offer, we have known high scoring birds to sell as high as one hundred and fifty dollars each.

Nearly all breeders of Wyandottes are now breeding them darker than standard requirements. This we think is right for it is our impression that the collar of Wyandottes will be judged very severely. Just as it is now, with the Plymouth Rocks. Wyandottes were all bred rather light, but since they have been admitted to the standard. All breeders have turned their attention to breeding darker plumage.

The Pekin, or Cochon-Bantam is a bantam that is something more than an ornamental pet. They are useful for incubating purposes, in fact the finest setters and mothers we ever had any experience with, and we have tried many varieties. They will cover ten good sized eggs, and will set anywhere with content. They are very small yet they look large for a bantam from the fact of their great abundance of feathers. We think one of these odd little fowls has more feathers than any other good sized Plymouth Rock. So deceiving are they in sized that anyone who is not acquainted with the breed would guess at their weight double what it is. They are feathered to the end of the toes, and no amount of cold, rain or snow, seems to affect them. They are the hardiest fowl we have ever bred. We have seen them walk around on top of the snow and appear to enjoy it, when our other fowls could not be induced to leave the warm hen house, and they are equally as industrious when it is raining. When they have a young brood of chicks, they have a great inclination to wander and rustle for the little ones.

A FEW HINTS ABOUT HATCHING CHICKENS.

As chicken season is close at hand it may be well to give personal experience for the benefit of others. To be successful in raising chickens the stock bird must be two or three years old, for although young fowls are more prolific in eggs, still the eggs from older birds are stronger and will hatch more vigorous chicks. A cockerel a year old may be used, one of good health and good stock. The common sized hen will cover eggs better and will not be so likely to step on eggs or kill the little chicks as one with big heavy body and feet. Eleven eggs are enough for early hatching as there is a better chance of getting them to hatch in wet chilly weather. Later in the season put in the usual 13, "for there is luck in odd numbers you know." A box filled partly with dry sand is the best sort of a nest. Lice do not thrive in sand. Have a comfortable coop ready for them when the chicks come, for one day in the wet will do great harm to the chicks. Feed the hen well with coarse food for 24 hours after leaving the shell. Boil two or three eggs hard, mix with dry bread crumbs; feeding this to them three times a day. This should continue a couple of days, then chop up a little green stuff with the food, adding a little onion. Then keep plenty of wheat for them—screenings from the mill. Corn or cornmeal is not good for chicks in this country. We always fed fowls with it in the East, but they do not thrive on corn here. Keep them warm and dry, that is necessary.

H. T. C.

A Few Good Breeds.

So many are expressing views as to the best breeds of chickens. It seemed good to me also having some experience to write a few words on this subject. It is strange that one having the Brown Leghorn, Houdan, or Plymouth Rock

should complain of scarcity of eggs. These breeds have laid every day this winter in my yards.

I think a breed that would stand the test of the severe cold of this winter and not flinch could be depended on as good layers for any winter. It is true the Brown Leghorns are tender on account of their large combs, but the freezing of the combs of the hens can be easily prevented if kept housed. However the males combs and gills freeze almost invariably. This injures their beauty but in no wise affects the quality of the birds. For a southern climate it seems to me the Brown Leghorn cannot be excelled; but to those who desire good layers of the non-setting breeds, the Houdan present a favorable claim. It is hardly large enough for a table fowl, and a very fine layer. Not having had the Langshans long enough to give them a fair test as to laying qualities, I will only say that they are the easiest chickens to rear I have ever handled. They stand heat, cold, wet and dry weather better than any fowls I have known. They provide their own living from the time they are deserted by their mother until the earth is mantled in a garment of white. The Partridge Cochon will lay during the winter if properly cared for. But if I could tied safely at all times over the first two months of the Bronze turkey's life, I believe I should select that department of the poultry yard as a business. I do not think, as many do, there is a fortune for all in the poultry business. But as one department of the farm, I think it can be made to yield good returns for capital invested. But work must be the watchword of whoever undertakes the business.—Journal of Agriculture.

The Winter Care of Poultry.

There is a good deal said and written about the care of poultry and its being good work for women and children. But when we have a week of such weather as we have had recently, I think it means business, cleaning out the rooms, at least three times a week, and providing something dry for bedding. Anyone who did not lay in a good supply of dry earth will find a very good substitute in sawdust, for they must be kept clean and dry, or there will be nothing to down in the credit column. And next comes the feed, for no amount of feed will produce eggs in wet, dirty rooms. I feed a hot mash in the morning, composed of turnips, beets and potatoes, boiled, and wheat middlings mashed in while hot, and for their supper, some kind of dry grain, composed of equal parts of oats, barley and wheat, which makes a very good feed. I am not in favor of feeding much corn to laying hens. And next comes the shell timber in the form of ground bone, oyster shells, lime, etc., and look out for lice; provide a good dust bath for each room, and keep the roosts clean. I use movable roosts made like a carpenter's horse, about ten feet long, and three feet high, so I can easily move them to clean them and clean out under them, and supply them with plenty of clean water to drink. I warm their water cold days; I am keeping about two hundred this winter, mostly Plymouth Rocks. I have one room of rose comb White Leghorns, consisting of twelve pullets and a rooster, which I prize highly; they are laying finely.—Ex.

Poultry on the Farm.

Farming is made up of many home industries, and to neglect poultry as one of the sources of income is poor economy. At certain seasons, when most of the other products are disposed of, eggs and early broilers in the spring and summer, and roasters in the fall, are in the aggregate quite an item, and many furnish all the store supplies needed. We have always maintained that the farming class have facilities and advantages over the ordinary village poulterer in the way of range and keeping them cheaply at all seasons of the year. It costs very little to keep a flock of fowls on the farm. They usually provide the greater share of their own living from the stable, the orchard, the stubble field and the straw stack. The grain and the seed which they pick up, if left untouched, would be of no earthly use to the farmer, and the worms, grubs and insects they destroy would injure his growing crops, vines, fruit trees, etc.

A Good Feed for Poultry.

Take a piece of liver, rough beef, or even blood, about a pound, and boil it to pieces in half a gallon of water, adding more when too much has evaporated. While boiling, add half a pint of soaked beans, the same of rice and the same of linseed meal. When the whole is cooked, add salt to taste, and thicken with two parts ground oats, one part bran, one part middlings and one of corn meal. Add the mixed ground grain until the mess has thickened to a stiff dough. If it burns, a little or no harm will be done. Then stir in half a pint of ground bone. If milk is convenient, it may also be added, either as curds, buttermilk or in any other shape. When boiling, add a tablespoonful of bread soda to the water. This food may be cooked in the shape of cakes and crumbled for the fowls or fed in the soft state. A tablespoonful of this is sufficient for each hen.

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WIT AND HUMOR.

A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING. Ned goes to the circus with Grandpa, And sits on a nice cushioned seat, Where he beams upon the performers With a smile, condescending and sweet.

But after a while he grows restless, And then he softly observes: "If those are preserve seats, Grandpa, Why don't they pass the preserves?" —Bessie Chandler, in St. Nicholas for Feb.

VALENTINES.

The Sun and the Moon are miles apart,— Millions and millions, too; But if those old lovelies had half a heart, They never could stand it so far apart.— I know I could!—Gladys.

But I have just heard and I think she's right! What the dear old Earth opposes That the Sun shines down on some stars each night, And shows them off, when they're polished bright.

To the Moon for valentines! —W. W. E., in St. Nicholas for February.

"How to be Happy Though Married," is the title of a new English book. If the work is not a fraud a few million copies can be sold on this side.

Earl Carnarvon says he was struck with the vast resources of the west of Ireland. Previous viceroys have usually been struck with bricks.—Lowell Citizen.

Gentleman—"If the world owes every man a living, as you say, why don't you collect yours?" Tramp—"I can't do it. The world has too many preferred creditors."—N. Y. Sun.

A street-car brings the haughtiest man down to a common level. Particularly if it starts suddenly before the haughty one has had time to pick out his seat.—Fall River Herald.

A professional reader who appeared before a "literary class" of young ladies in New York was asked if they were appreciative. "Why," he said, "not one of them paid the least attention until I ceased."

Clerk (who has been vainly trying to employ his time) to employer—"Shall I answer this letter now, sir?" Employer—"Certainly not; if you do they will think we are doing no business. Wait four weeks."—Rambler.

The President's sister has put her fair veto on smoking in the White House, and Grover has now to tip the wink to Dan Manning when he wants him to come out and have a pipe in the woodshed.—Fall River Herald.

A student of the dime novel—"Come now, Bertie, kiss your little sister and make up with her," said mamma to her 10-year old boy. "What! the Pawnee Chief bow low to pale-face Cry-Baby! Mother, you ask too much."—Titbits.

A medical authority says: "Persons have been bitten by mad-dogs and have not gone mad." And then, again, some persons get mad by being bitten by a dog that is not mad. They get mad enough to kick the animal in two.—Norristown Herald.

"Just borrowed \$900 on my note," said young Hardup, "and I feel like a great man's monument." "How's that?" said his friend; "cause somebody else has to pay for it!" "O, no; not exactly that; but I've got such a good start on paper."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Emeralda Longeoffin—I believe, Mr. McGinnis, that you think I am a stupid creature. Hostetter McGinnis—O, no, nothing of the kind. No one can be called stupid who can so accurately divine the thoughts of another as you have done mine.—Texas Siftings.

The Chinaman is not incapable of humor. Gin Fun, a Sacramento laundryman, has joined the Anti-Coolie League, and posts over the door of his washee house the sign: "The Chinese must go. None but Melican man employed here."—San Francisco Alta.

A lawyer in an eastern state, whose reputation in the community was not very high, met an old gentleman and said to him: "Do you know, Mr. H., that I am a direct descendant of Miles Standish?" "Is it possible?" was the reply. "What a descent!"—Argosy.

Teacher to boy whose father keeps a corner grocery—"Johnny, if your father has a hundred eggs and twenty of them are bad how many does he lose?" Johnny—"He don't lose any of them. He sells the bad ones to the restaurant-keeper to make omelets of."—Texas Siftings.

It was a little girl at Malden, who, having been naughty, and having received a punishment from her mother, said this prayer fervently when she went to bed that night: "O, God, please make me good; not real good, but just good enough so I won't have to be whipped."—Boston Record.

"Robbie," said his father, "you've sat there looking out of the window and haven't moved a muscle for thirty-five minutes. Now, why couldn't you sit still that way this morning?" "Sit still this morning?" echoed Robbie in amazement. "How could I sit still this morning? I was in church!"—Burdette.

At a banquet given to the visiting general by the officers of a small town, Knoedelmeier acts as waiter. He passes the dumplings to the general, who takes two. Still the waiter holds out the plate, and when the general looks surprised the waiter whispers: "There are three apiece, Excellency."—German Paper.

The Rev. B. R. Haweis says that "A poem becomes a hymn as it becomes a lifer." "According to this notion," says a certain young man, "my girl's father is not a poem. Anyway, he doesn't become a hymn when he becomes a lifer." This may be because he is opposed to the most-har.—Norristown Herald.

A hint to theatrical managers: Miss Clara—"Are you familiar with Dante's 'Divine Comedy,' Mr. Featherly?" Mr. Featherly—"No; I've never seen it. The fact is, Miss Clara, I think this comedy business is being overdone. The sooner the stage returns to the legitimate drama the better it will be for the profession."—Harper's Bazaar.

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