

Fattening Chickens for the Table.

The three prime rules to be observed are, sound and various food, warmth, and cleanliness. There is nothing that a fattening fowl grows so fastidious about as his water. If water any way foul be offered him, he will not drink it, but sulk with his food, and pine, and you all the while wondering the reason why. Keep them separate, allowing to each bird as much space as you can spare, spread the ground with sharp, sandy gravel; and take care that they are not disturbed. In addition to their regular diet of good corn, make them a cake of ground oats or beans, brown sugar, milk, and mutton suet. Let the cake lie till it is stale, then crumble it, and give each bird a gill-measureful morning and evening. No entire grain should be given to fowls during the time they are fattening; indeed, the secret of success lies in supplying them with the nutritious food without stint, and in such a form that their digestive mills shall find no difficulty in grinding it.

Fowl Fattening.

The greatest curiosity in the Jardin d'Acclimation is the singular fowl fattening machine which has been in operation for a short time, but which is a great success (remarks a lady, writing from Paris). Imagine the top of a round tea-table divided off into sections, with a partition between each section and a board in front with a half-moon-shaped aperture in it. In each of these sections an unhappy duck or chicken is confined by a chain to each leg, and under each is fitted a tray, which receives the dirt and is emptied daily. Through the centre of this structure goes a round post, and there is a series of such tea-table tops to the roof of the building, each with its divisions and its imprisoned fowls. At stated intervals a man comes round with a somewhat complicated machine, filled with a kind of thin gruel, and fitted with a pipe at the end of a long india-rubber tube. He introduces this pipe down the throat of a duck, presses down a pedal with his foot, and a certain quantity of food is forced through the tube into the creature's craw, a disc above showing exactly what amount of force he is to use and how much food passes. This process is gone through with each fowl till all are fed, and it is repeated four times a-day for ducks and three for chickens. Two weeks suffice to fatten a duck, but three are necessary for a chicken. Apart from the necessary confinement of the birds, the process does not seem to be at all a cruel one, as the amount of food forced down their throats is not excessive. The ducks which I saw fed did not seem to suffer in the least; and, in fact, when they saw the man approach most of them became clamorous for immediate attention, and plucked at his clothes, as he passed, with eager beaks.

Buckwheat.

Buckwheat is one of the most staple articles of poultry food. It is very fattening, an excellent egg producer, and very much relished by poultry. It is not perhaps used so extensively here as in Europe. In England, France, and especially in Germany, it forms not only an important part of poultry food, but is much used for culinary purposes. The great advantage it has over other cereals is that it thrives luxuriantly even on the poorest land. Those who have not tested its value as a poultry food, we advise to give it a trial. *Poultry Herald.*

Cure of Birds Egg-Bound.

Most of us poultry fanciers, and indeed all of us who pet feathers in any way, whether of small or large kinds, look anxiously to the production of eggs. Those of us who enter the poultry speculation with a special eye to making them remunerative as egg-producers are of course more anxious than others, and care not how speedily the process of return is commenced. Yet, I am not so certain but that this precocity is an evil. Our young stock now are forced on to obtain size for early shows. In the case of the larger breeds, where size is a matter of importance, we are rather anxious to delay the

laying process, and the suggestion, I think, originally thrown out and acted on by our Editor, of removing the pullets from run to run, so as to given them fresh ideas, is very valuable. We all know how a hen in full laying is often checked for days by a fresh place of abode. I imagine this acts still more powerfully with pullets approaching womanhood. It is not all fanciers who possess "runs," at least the word is often applied to places where there is no chance of getting up a run even for life, many even of our exhibition birds being kept in very confined quarters. Of course this is in a degree an artificial life, and as a natural result disease ensues. Where poultry have their full liberty, and, therefore, are more in their natural state, I apprehend such troubles as "egg-bound" are but little known, and are very probably speedily set right; but in our close quarters, and with high-bred stock, the matter is often one of anxiety, which may result in the loss of valuable specimens. The very large double-yelked eggs, sometimes weighing four ounces, of which most of us have seen specimens, are often laid by hens in health, apparently with little more difficulty than those of ordinary size, whilst in many cases of "egg-bound" which I have watched, the eggs have been small, proving that the difficulty lay not so much in the size of the egg as in some deficiency or disorder of the powers that expel it. Not unfrequently it would appear as if the egg were hurried on its course, and the envelope is unfinished; and the egg, sometimes passed with great difficulty, is nevertheless soft and wanting in the hard calcareous shell. If this occur but once at night, and the egg be fully and evenly shaped, only deficient in shell, it may be that fright during the day may be the cause; but if the egg has the smaller end drawn out more or less into a tube, and if this happens frequently, I think the condition is far more serious. If the hen is a valuable bird for exhibition purposes, separate her, feed her on lettuce greens if possible, and soft unstimulating food, with potatoes; at the same time give a dose of castor oil, and follow this up by three or four doses of tartar emetic and calomel—say a pill as follows, made up with bread crumb, tartar emetic, one-sixth of a grain; calomel, one grain. If one of these be given every four hours for three doses, and then twice or three times a day, the process of egg production will probably be arrested, and this is the best thing that can happen to the hen for a week or two; then, when she begins *de novo*, matters may go on more regularly. Breeding stock, especially if in close quarters, are better of the two rather *under* than *overfed*, and many of the difficulties of egg production depend upon this latter condition, especially if the food be too stimulating. A friend of mine for whom I last year bought some Light Brahma pullets, astonished me in February by saying that he had not yet had any eggs. On enquiry I found they were very fat, that they never went off for a forage on their own account in a large field to which they had access, but that, on the contrary, they were always hanging about near the feeding place, and being pets, I have no doubt the tit-bits were many. My reply was, "Aldermanic diet! Give them only two feeds a day, one of soft food, the other hard, and spread it well amongst the grass, and make them look about for it. God intended every living thing, as I believe, to work for its living, if health is to be attained." I have not since heard any complaints. In the earliest days of Brahma I had a hen, by no means of large frame apparently, yet that turned the scale beyond ten pounds, being very nearly half a pound more; but from this hen I only obtained an egg every third day, and then only by shutting her out during part of the feeding time. Whenever a hen, apparently in laying order, appears with the wings more or less drooping, and with a very slow and measured movement, it is wiser to separate her at once from the others. If on examination the vent is somewhat open, and the bird seems to have occasional