

POULTRY.

Poultry, from the French *poulet*. The term includes all domesticated birds raised for the table; fowls, turkeys, geese, ducks, and guinea fowls. All these fowls may be made very profitable to farmers by proper care and feeding but not otherwise. In Canada, fowl-yards cannot be made use of in winter, but they are necessary for the fowls during the spring, summer and fall, and should be attached to every fowl-house. There are certain seasons that it is very desirable the farmer should be able to confine fowls, and this can only be done where there are suitable houses and yards. Fowls of every description, are much more profitable when provided with a fowl-house and yard, than when suffered to go at large. We submit the following selection made from the article "Poultry," in the Penny Cyclopædia:—

"Those who intend to rear fowls or any kind of poultry should have a distinct yard, perfectly sheltered and with a warm aspect, well fenced, and secure from thieves and vermin, and sufficiently inclined to be always dry, and supplied with sand or ashes for the cocks and hens to roll in, an operation necessary to disengage their feathers from vermin—running water should be especially provided: for the want of water, of which all poultry are fond, produces constipation of the bowels and inflammatory diseases; and for geese and ducks bathing is an indispensable luxury. A contiguous field is also necessary for free exercise, as well as for the supply of grubs and grass to the geese.

The fowl-house should be dry, well roofed, and fronting the South, and, if practicable at the back of a stove or stables; warmth being conducive to health and laying, though extreme heat has the contrary effect. It should be furnished with two small lattice windows, that can be opened and shut at pleasure, at opposite ends, for ventilation, which is frequently necessary; and the perches should be so arranged, that one row of roosting fowls should not be directly above another.

A house twenty feet long and twelve feet wide, may be made to accommodate 150 hens at roost. The plan is simply this:—The first roosting perch (rounded a little at the upper angles only, for gallinaceous fowls cannot keep a firm hold on perfectly cylindrical supporters) should be placed lengthways and rest on tressels in each end wall, six feet from the front wall, and at a convenient height, which must depend upon the elevation of the floor, which may be formed of plank, that can be easily swept. Another perch should be fixed ladderways above this, but ten inches nearer to the back wall, and so on until there are four of these perches like the steps of a ladder when properly inclined, but with a sufficient distance between the wall and the upper one, to allow the poultrymaid to stand conveniently upon when she has occasion to examine the nests, which is her duty to do every day at least once, and in the forenoon. The highest of those she can reach by standing on a stool, or step-ladder. By this contrivance the hens, when desirous of reaching the nests, have no occasion to fly but merely to pass from one stick or perch to another. If the size and form of the house permit, a similar construction may be made on the opposite side, care being taken to have an open space in the middle of the room, and a sufficiently wide passage for the attendant to pass along the walls. It is not at all required to have as many nests as hens, because they have not all occasion to occupy them at the same time; and besides, they are so far from having a repugnance to lay in a common receptacle, that the sight of an egg stimulates them to lay.

It is, however, true that the most secluded and darkest nests, are those which the hens prefer.

The nests if built in the wall, are in tiers, from the bottom to the top, the lowest being about three feet from the ground, and a foot square. If the laying-chambers consists of wooden boxes, they are usually furnished with a ledge which is very convenient for the hens when rising. But the best receptacles for the eggs are those of basket-work as they are cool in summer, and can easily be washed—they ought to be fastened not directly to the wall, as is generally the case, but to boards fixed in by hooks, well clenched, and with a little roof to cover the rows of baskets. They will thus be isolated, to the great satisfaction of the hen, which delights in the absence of all disturbing influences when laying. All the ranges of nests should be placed chequer-wise in order that the inmates when coming out may not startle those immediately under. Those designing to hatch should be near the ground (where instinct teaches the hen to choose her seat,) and so arranged that the hen can easily enter them without disturbing the eggs. Wheat or rye straw is the most approved for the bedding, being cooler than hay, and less subject to produce lice in the hens, which often annoy them."—*British American Cultivator*.

GARDENS AND GARDENING.—There are few things which more clearly indicate a refined mind and a cultivated taste than a neat garden, and among our agricultural population there are few, who can lay claim to the title of a good farmer, who do not possess a good vegetable garden. Indeed it is an indispensable appendage to a farm house, which no individual, having any regard for economy or comfort, will overlook. Those who have not paid attention to the subject will have but little idea of the profit which might be derived from the small quantity of ground usually devoted to the purposes of a garden, or of the additions of comfort which it will make in his family. Mechanics and professional men too will find such to be a valuable acquisition, and that the pleasure afforded by its cultivation, will amply repay the labour expended for that object. One great principle that should regulate the conduct of both farmers and others is, seek happiness at home; and this end, we may rest satisfied, will be best accomplished by proper attention to all the appliances necessary to such a result. Every tree, plant, or flower, which an individual cultivates round his dwelling, forms a link in the chain of association which binds him to his home. They render his abode more delightful—they invite to a more intimate communion with nature—they increase the sources of rational enjoyment, and withdraw us for a time from the busy world, where the mind, in the retirement of its own contemplation, can forget the cares, the troubles, the vanities and the selfishness, which intercourse with an unfeeling world may develop to us. As a means of recreation and exercise after the labours of the day, we know of none better qualified to improve the mind than working a garden.—*Eastern Chronicle, Pictou*.

ASHES FOR FRUIT TREES.—A sprightly gentleman of more than "three score and ten," with alert step and quick eye for observation, told us that he had known a man make and preserve in a flourishing productive condition, an orchard of apple trees, on originally very poor ground, by every year sprinkling around each tree, to the circumference of the extent of its branches, half a bushel of ashes.—*American Farmer*.