

piles under the trees upon a layer of straw if the ground is not sod, and it certainly should not be sod. Both plans have their advantages. After being picked, apples deteriorate fast if left exposed to sun and rain in piles. This is the serious objection to piling in the field. The advantage is in economy of work. Apples can also be packed faster from a pile in the field in fine weather, and, moreover, they are not so liable to be bruised as when hauled to the barn and emptied out there; but on the whole I would prefer to have at least as many under cover as can be conveniently stored, as rainy days in November can then be utilized to advantage in packing. The apples are not suffering from sun and rain; the culls are under cover and do not have to be picked up, perhaps, out of the mud, and there is not the fear of frost that one has if the apples are left in the orchard. However, if one has no proper place to store the apples, and they are left in piles, they can be protected best by covering with cornstalks, which, when removed, leave the apples clean, whereas straw, having chaff in it, leaves them, especially after a rain, mussy. Never put chaff, and especially pea chaff, on apples. Old applemen may laugh and say, "Whoever would think of doing such a silly thing?" But I have seen it done many times, and it is for the benefit of the novice I am writing these lines—I am aware I cannot teach experienced packers or growers. Apples should be a week, at least, in the piles before being packed, to sweat. They should be packed in perfectly dry barrels, and the apples should be perfectly dry, also.

Sorting.—Now as to size. I consider a Greening or Spy that is under 2½ inches in diameter, too small to be classed as a No. 1 apple, and a Baldwin or Russet or Ben Davis, under 2½ inches. I have seen packers put up smaller apples mixed up with those above this limit, but I have also noticed that they invariably lost money on them. When apples are in demand, a grade can be put up measuring in diameter from 2 inches to 2½ inches in the largersorts, and 1½ inches to 2½ inches in Baldwins and other sorts of a similar natural size, and marked as No. 2, which sells very well, but in a year of excessive production, I think it would be better to feed these to the stock on the farm, or sell to cider-makers or evaporators. No apple should be packed as No. 1 that has on it the slightest bruise, that has any worm hole, even in the blossom end, or any scab. We cannot be too exacting, especially this year, and we may rest assured that, even with the strictest grading and culling, there will be too many apples this year to be disposed of at any price. It is a good year to raise the standard of quality in the British market. Already Canada stands at the top, let us this year more than maintain our position. It is in such years, when inferior apples will not pay freight charges to Britain, that we can score a great advantage. Other countries that cannot produce as good apples will be driven to the wall, and will cease to plant apple trees, forced out of the race by the superior quality of our apples. In future years we will reap a magnificent advantage from this if we plant now. We have the climate here in Ontario and in Nova Scotia, surrounded by bodies of water, to produce the finest and longest-keeping apples in the world, and if we handle these properly we must eventually drive competition from the field, and be in a position to carry on a branch of farming permanently profitable. With the enormous loads of apples we have this season, even at 50 cts. per bbl., the crop is an exceedingly profitable one, and an acre of Greenings, Baldwins, or other apples equally well loaded, will yield from full-grown trees easily 200 bbls. What farm crop will produce \$100.00 per acre? Ten acres of orchard this year, twenty years old, that has been properly attended to, will give more profit at only 50c. per bbl. than almost any hundred acres in Canada in grain.

Packing.—For the benefit of those who intend to pack their own apples, I may say after driving down the quarter-hoops and nailing them, and heading the top end of the barrel and nailing the hoops, pick out a basket of apples representing fairly the contents of the barrel, pick them of the highest color and even size, not the very largest and not the smallest; lay these with the stems down in the top of the barrel, which now is the bottom, put upon this layer a basket of similar apples, fill up the barrel, giving it a good shaking at least three or four times while being filled. This is a very essential part of the process of packing apples, for, no matter how tight you press them, they will not stay tight unless well shaken while being filled into the barrel. When the barrel is nearly full, fix the apples up as near like the top end as possible, with the top layer stems up, of course, and fill to one inch on an average above the barrel; put on the head and press down steadily. One inch above the barrel means that the apples are to go down about two inches or two and a half. Some varieties will stand more pressure than others, and so need to be rounded up more. Russets, for instance, should be piled up about one and a half inches above the barrel, and Northern Spy hardly an inch. When the head is pressed in and head lined and the hoops nailed, turn the barrel over and mark the other end so that you will know which is the top of the barrel, for on the top should be marked the variety in the barrel and the trade mark or brand of the shipper. When hauling barrels, after being packed, they should be laid on their sides and not on their ends. Barrels of packed apples should be at once taken to cover, as they are rapidly injured by lying in the sun.

POULTRY.

September Suggestions for the Poultry-Keeper.

BY J. E. MEYER, WATERLOO, ONT.

Provide Comfortable Roosting-places for your Chickens.—The nights at this period of the year are generally quite cold compared with the days, and we often have raw, cold winds. During such weather the young chickens should have well-protected roosting-places or they are liable to take cold or distemper, which, when it once gets into a flock, is almost certain to go right through it. Chickens that roost out in the trees are not as liable to be affected as those roosting in the draughts of poorly-made coops full of cracks. This disease confines itself to the young birds, rarely attacking the old ones. Birds having distemper quickly lose all their flesh, and in a short time become nothing but skin, bone, and feathers. The cockerels become unfit for market, and all hope of the pullets becoming early winter layers vanishes. The food you so carefully fed these birds during the summer has been literally thrown away.

You will be able to detect this disease quite easily by the running at the nostrils and the slight cough that is nearly always present. It requires immediate treatment, because when neglected it very often turns to rouble. We use a small oil-can filled with one part sweet oil to two parts coal oil, and inject a small quantity into each nostril. Hold the head up and mouth closed, so as to force the oil through the nostrils. A few drops put down the throat will help, and also enough in the drinking water to cover it. We make a practice at certain seasons of the year of going among our flocks at night and putting a few drops of coal oil down the throat of all birds we find breathing heavily. We have found this treatment most beneficial.

In order to avoid this great loss amongst our chickens we must provide sleeping-places free from draughts, and warm, so that the birds may not be affected by the great and sudden fall in temperature from the day to the night. We believe that the best, cheapest, and most suitable way to do this is to build our hencoops large, roomy, and perfectly tight on three sides and the roof. Arrange them so that you can put perches in when the chickens are weaned, and also so that you can close up the front sufficiently to protect the birds in late fall. In such quarters as these your chickens may safely remain until the snow falls, which will be soon enough to put them into their winter quarters.

Care of Molting Hens.—The molting season is again at hand, and by this time your hens will be shedding their feathers rapidly. It is a very trying time to them, and they need special care and attention. The new feathers are a very heavy drain on her system, and unless the strength of the hen be kept up she is going to become so debilitated that her future usefulness will become greatly impaired. It will not do to force the hens to hunt the whole of their living in the fields, as they are not able to do it. They should have at least one good feed of grain a day. The best time to give it is at night. If you are anxious that the new plumage should be the very best possible, feed linseed meal or sunflowers. We find that a light feed (about half the quantity they will eat) of soft food each morning, together with the linseed or sunflowers, and a full feed of whole grain (wheat preferred) at night, will produce the healthiest, best, and most profitable yearling winter layers. If your hens are not worth such care as this, we doubt that they are worth having at all.

Inbreeding is Most Unprofitable.—We have time and again heard farmers condemn excellent varieties of poultry because their birds are always wanting to sit—they don't lay, etc. True, some varieties are greater setters than others, and yet careful breeders of these setting varieties are never troubled as these farmers say they are. Why is this? There must be some reason. We answer that inbreeding does it. It is no uncommon thing to meet with farmers who never think of introducing a new male into their flock every year or two, but who instead keep anywhere between six and a dozen cockerels each year. This is a most ruinous practice, and one which in a very few years would destroy the finest flock of poultry in the land. It destroys their size, laying qualities and health—destroys them in every way, in fact. To avoid this kill off every male bird you have about the farm, make up your mind what sort of a *thoroughbred* male bird you will use next season, and begin now to look for one. On no account use anything but a pure-bred male, and one is all you need. The price you will have to pay is insignificant compared with the benefit you will derive. By breeding in this way you will greatly increase the value and productivity of your flocks year by year if you are judicious in your care and management.

The Market for Early Birds.—We feel confident that had M. M. M. (see August 15th issue) taken those early birds to London the latter part of June, when, according to his statement, they were fit for market, he would have found a first-class grocer with customers ready to pay a good price, or the proprietor of a first-class hotel anxious to have such an article. We would suggest that M. M. M. make arrangements with some such man as we have named to take his early birds next year. We believe satisfactory arrangements can easily be

made. We know that one large hotel in Toronto, and not the largest there either, uses 100 pairs of chickens per week. Our summer resorts are glad to get such, and pay, we believe, good fair prices generally. Be sure that whatever you do offer is the very best if you want best prices. We may say that we sold chickens to our grocer in Guelph in July at \$1 per pair. The demand there is, of course, much below that of London or Toronto.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Legal.

MUST A TENANT STAY.

Q.—"A rents a farm from B for seven years, paying rent half-yearly and in advance. When five years have expired, A, who says he is losing money on the farm, wants to leave. Can he do so, by giving notice after harvest, or at least six months before the fifth year has expired, when B does not want to let A off before the seven years are up?"

[The tenant is liable to carry out his agreement, and if he quits the place within the seven years, he is liable to make good the landlord's damages.]

LINE FENCE.

Q.—"B owns a farm joining mine. Neither farm being cleared up to the line, and he builds a fence along the line through the bush, can he compel me to build or pay for my share of the fence?"

[The law requires the owners of "occupied adjoining" lands to keep up fences, and whether or not your land is "occupied" within the meaning of the statute depends the answer to your question. If a comparatively small part of your farm is cleared and the balance is bush, unoccupied and not used, then you are not compelled to provide a fence, but if the farm is substantially cleared and occupied, although a portion of the land adjoining the line is still in a state of nature and unoccupied, then you could be compelled to provide your share of the line fence.]

Veterinary.

BARREN COWS.

G. R., Carleton Co., Ont.:—"Several of my cows missed last year; and they were served this season, but are dry; those milking have not come in season again. I have a bull running with them, and they are in fairly good condition. Can you advise me of any means to bring them around?"

[It is somewhat difficult to say from what the trouble arises. Evidently it is not from impoverishment, as you say the cows are in good condition. It is not stated whether they are closely inbred, or whether there has been any abortion in the herd. Try giving once per week a pound of Epsom salts with tablespoonful of ginger added. As a general advice, the animals should be kept in good healthy condition, receive sufficient wholesome food, pure water, salt and water.

WARTS.

J. F., Lambton Co., Ont.:—"Will you please advise me with regard to my heifer, three years old, with her first calf? She has a large wart on one of her teats about the size of a walnut."

[The usual method is to remove with a sharp knife, searing after with a hot iron to stanch the bleeding. Cauterizing with nitrate of silver is often attended with success.

DR. WM. MOLE, Toronto.]

Miscellaneous.

ROUND SILO.

G. F. M., Frontenac Co., Ont.:—"1. Are there many round silos in Western Ontario, and are they a success? 2. Does the ensilage freeze in them, and does freezing hurt its feeding qualities? 3. How are they built?"

[1. There are a good many round silos throughout Ontario; the Western section has possibly a majority of them. Their owners are as yet loud in their praises. They are cheaply and quickly erected. 2. In exposed locations, the ensilage does freeze near the edge, but when it is allowed to thaw in the stable before being fed, its feeding quality is not materially injured. 3. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE of April 1st, 1895; Feb. 1st, March 2nd, and May 1st, 1896, contained descriptions and methods of building round silos. For the benefit of G. F. M., and many new readers, we repeat how one 16-foot silo, 25 feet deep, made of planks 10 x 2 inches, was erected. A perfect circle was first struck, using a stake and a string 8 feet long. The ground was spaded out inside, three or four inches deep, so that the bottom of planks would rest against the outer edge of trench. Four posts or scantlings 12 feet high were set up on opposite sides, and the bottom and top iron bands placed in position, notches being cut into the posts and the bands securely fastened. A plank was next set up, plumbed and nailed to post, and braced from the ground inside. Each plank as set up was toe-nailed to the one beside it and braced. The brace consisted of a 16-foot fence board, the lower end placed against stake in center. The planks were also braced from outside. The staves were finally held in position by seven half-inch round iron bands with a long thread at the