

work of all kinds. The Great Northern Line, of the late Mgr. Labello, is being built, clearing the bush, road making, &c., are all going on and employing the people. Some are observed to be profiting by all this press to improve their land, and sell their produce for good prices. There is a cheesery at work. The Rev. M. Boulay, formerly of Ste Ursule, will push agricultural improvement and, as soon as possible, establish a good and prosperous club. Courage and success we wish to our good friends at the Lake.

## The Poultry-Yard.

**M. Dubord's Model Poultry House—**  
Care and management of chicks—  
The proper food and quantity to feed—  
Intelligence and activity wanted—  
Poultry development.

(A. G. GILBERT.)

In my last letter, having shown how to mate up the breeding pens, so as to obtain satisfactory results, in fertile eggs and improved stock, I promised to treat on the proper care and management of the young chicks, in order to secure rapid development. Before doing so allow me to express the pleasure I had in studying the sectional views of M. Dubord's Model henhouse at Beauport, P. Q., given in your March issue. The arrangement is up to date in all particulars, a little too elaborate for a farmer perhaps, but should be imitated in interior fitting up. I can readily imagine how warm the interior of the house must be when I read of the 9 inches of sawdust, between inside and outside walls. And an excellent antiseptic will the sawdust be found. I presume M. Dubord has taken precaution to prevent rats making lodgment in it. A grand plan is that by which platforms and feeding troughs may be cleaned and the eggs collected, without going into the pens to disturb the laying stock. In ordinarily constructed henhouses, the importance of disturbing the layers as seldom as possible, is overlooked. I do not mean that the layers should not be kept in active exercise, as much as possible, but the attendant or caretaker, particularly if careless, is very apt to scare, or give the fowls a shock, every time he goes among them. And hens so frightened will not lay as well as when left in peace and quiet. And the arrangement of the nests is admirably calculated to prevent egg eating. I hope, in the near future, to have the great pleasure of a personal inspection of M. Dubord's skilful and usefully arranged building. He has embraced in it many points that I have been contending for years should be found in poultry houses of modern construction. Imagine my pleasure then in viewing M. Dubord's arrangements.

### CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF CHICKS.

I have before remarked in your paper that the future fowl is either made or marred, by the treatment of the chicken in the first five weeks of its existence. In other words a chicken which has become "stunted" from being "stinted," in the period mentioned, will not make a good market bird, if a cockerel, nor an early layer, if a pullet. Whether hatched in incubator, or under hen the little chick requires to be gently pushed from its earliest days. On coming out of the shell the chick should be left under

the mother hen to become thoroughly "nest ripe." If the season is far enough advanced, as soon as the hen and brood are removed from the nest, they should be placed in small coops in the grass of the fields and in the warm sun. The mother hen on being removed from the nest should be taken aside and fed and watched, or she will gobble up the dainty morsels intended for the chicks. The coops should be so made that they can be securely fastened at night. It is poor policy to take the trouble of hatching out fine broods of chickens to make high living for skunks, weasels, rats or cats. If the chicks are early and cannot be put outside they must be kept on dry earth or sand and not on boards. If kept for any length of time on the latter they will "go off their legs" and die.

### THE PROPER FOOD.

Once on the grass and in the sun, if the chicks do not seem hungry let them brood under the mother, or bask in the sun. There is no food better calculated to put the chicks on their feet than stale bread soaked in sweet or skimmed milk, squeezed dry and given in small quantities at first. For a first feed stale bread crumbs are good. The latter may be given alternately, the first day or two, with the bread soaked in milk. In a day or two granulated (oats?) should be given. Nothing is better, nothing more enjoyed at this time than rice boiled dry, and fed, either alone or mixed with the oatmeal or bread and milk. On no account should "sloppy" or sour food be given. The feed must be "crumbly". Feed frequently but lightly. If the chickens are healthy they will have good appetites and be always hungry. Feed no more than the chicks will eat up clean and leave no food to turn sour. In a week add crushed corn and after 14 days feed wheat, but sparingly at first. Many a chick is killed by being fed wheat, too soon. As the chicks get to be ten or fifteen days old, reduce the more expensive oatmeal and rice ration and make a mash of shorts, cornmeal, bran, bonemeal, the table waste, &c. Mix with boiling milk or water. Send the chicks to brood at night with their crops full. Feed early in the morning and watch how the youngsters grow. As they get older, give cut green bone, or any kind of bone or meal. Feed them well, give them good clean grass run and take away the mother hen at the end of a month, or five weeks, by which time she ought to be laying again and her offspring well feathered. By such treatment as the above you will have Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Dorking or Java cockerels in 4 months that will weigh 4 lbs each or 8 lbs per pair. The food need not be expensive but let it be clean, wholesome and flesh forming. If the chicks get clogged at the vent, the cause is probably sloppy food, or over-feeding. If the chickens go peeping about and do not feather quickly, look for lice on hen and chicks. No doubt somebody will say "Oh! what a lot of trouble!" Well, you cannot get satisfactory results in any department of farm life, without trouble. Go to the dairy and see the trouble before the choice butter is made. Go to the garden and see what trouble a crop of strawberries, currants or raspberries will necessitate, before bringing in money.

You will see the necessity of activity; of unceasing vigilance in vegetable garden, in hay and wheat fields, in roots and vines. There is no dodging the inevitable. Man, can only make his

bread by the sweat of his brow. And that sweat is represented in a thousand shapes and in as many phases of life.

### POULTRY TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

The development of the poultry interests of the country in the past year has been most remarkable. A prime factor, has no doubt been the instruction given to farmers at different points in the shape of practical addresses, literature, &c. I will have something to say as to the different phases of this development.

**Poultry farms.**—Mr. Tegetmeier, the great practical authority in England on poultry, says that he has travelled far and wide, at home and abroad, and has never yet found a poultry-farm that survived the second year. Not but that there are plenty of small occupations in Britain where a large flock of poultry is kept, but he is speaking of a regular establishment in which nothing but fowls, ducks, &c., are reared and all the food bought for them.—Ed.

## The Hive.

### THE EARLY SPRING CARE OF BEES.

Bees should not be removed from the cellar too early. If they are quiet, with few dead bees on the cellar bottom, and little or no signs of dysentery, it is far better to leave them in until the 20th or 25th of April, in this latitude, than it is to remove them from their comfortable quarters. They begin breeding when put out of doors and pollen and water are required for this, and if set out too soon many of the worker bees are lost while seeking these, during the cool weather of early spring. The life of one bee at this season is of more value than several, later on, when the hive contains a larger number of them. The usual rule is to set the bees out when soft maples and willows are coming into bloom, and that is quite early enough.

However, should the bees be very uneasy in the cellar and spotting up their hives a good deal, it is a pretty sure sign they are troubled with dysentery, and for this there is no remedy but a good cleansing flight. Select the first warm, still day, and set them out on their summer stands, placing each colony just where it is to remain permanently when finally set out for good. After they have had a good fly they may be returned to the cellar again, towards evening, if it is too early for them to remain out of doors permanently. This will give them a chance to void their feces and they will remain quieter and in better condition in the cellar. In removing bees from the cellar, it is a good plan to have a lighted smoker convenient, and large strong colonies that show a disposition to fly while being carried out, will remain quite still if a couple of puffs of smoke are given them underneath, before taking from the cellar.

Where many colonies are to be set out, care must be used and not place them too close together, on first removing from the cellar, or during the excitement attending their first flight, too many of them may enter some hives and not enough others. At least 6 or 8 feet should intervene between the hives. If it is desired to set them closer, part may be set out one day and part next day. After the bees have had a good flight, the entrances

of the hives should be closed up to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 3 inches for the stronger ones, and less for weaker ones, to keep out the cold winds and also to enable them the better to protect their hives against robber bees, which are very industrious during dearths of honey. It is well to have some regular plan of placing the hives if one has a considerable number. The writer has all his sitting directly on the ground, in rows running north and south, the hives themselves facing east and west. Two rows face each other, eight feet apart, and then two more. The backs of the hives are together with a three feet alley between, which gives a passage way free of flying bees.

As soon as possible after being set out, each colony should be examined to see if it has sufficient honey to last until fruit blossoms yield honey. A great deal of honey is required in spring to feed the large amount of brood then in the hive, and little is to be had in the fields before the very last of May. More colonies of bees are lost during the month of May from starvation, than from all other causes combined, and a little care at this season pays many times over. If the bees are in movable frame hives it is an easy matter to examine them by the aid of a smoker. Some colonies may be found with an overplus of honey and others may be lacking, in which case one or two combs may be exchanged between the two, thus equalizing them. The immense superiority of movable frame hives is shown here, for it is a difficult matter to examine the condition of bees in box hives, to say nothing of exchanging their combs, which it is impossible to do. If colonies are found lacking in stores and no honey at hand to supply them, they must be supplied with a syrup made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  water and  $\frac{3}{4}$  white sugar. This may be supplied to the bees in various ways. If the bottom of the hive is perfectly tight, the front end may be raised slightly and a half pound or so poured in at nightfall, or it may be given them by means of regular feeders, placed at the entrance, or on the top of the frames. An excellent and cheap way of feeding is to remove one or two of the empty combs at the side, of the hive, place them on their side and by means of a cup punched full of holes and held a foot or so above them, the syrup may be placed directly in the combs. The cups should be placed in a large pan while being filled, after which they may be raised to their natural position, the surplus syrup shaken off, and then hung in the hive. This is one of the best ways of feeding extant, as it places the feed right where it is needed. More honey is required to supply the needs of the bees immediately after being placed out of doors, and before they can gather enough to support themselves, than is needed during the time they are in the cellar. It is a good plan too, to place some old pieces of blanket or carpet over the tops of the frames in early spring to keep the hive as warm as possible. Good spring care of bees, means good strong colonies later on, with plenty swarms and honey.

F. W. JONES.

Bedford, P. Q.

### SELF HELP.

A man said to me the other day "We farmers have to depend upon what God gives us" which is certainly, true, but I tried, I hope successfully, to explain to him that that is not all, and told him he must bear in mind the old Proverb "God helps