

## BEES AND POULTRY.

### THE WHITE COCHINS.

This variety of fowls, when so kept that their plumage does not become soiled, present a very beautiful appearance. They differ only in colour from the Buff Cochins. The advantages of these large Asiatic fowls may be briefly summed up by saying, that they are quiet in their habits; do not fly all over creation; bear confinement well, and so are adapted to small yards in towns or cities; may be restricted to their quarters by a low fence, and are good layers. It must be admitted that, as table birds, they are not first-class, their flesh being somewhat coarse, and inclined to stringiness, especially when they are no longer chickens.

### SUCCESSFUL POULTRY RAISING.

In raising poultry, or stock of any kind, it should be the aim of everyone to keep it healthy and improve it. You can do it very easily by adopting some systematic rules. These may be summed up in brief, as follows:—

1. Construct your house good and warm, so as to avoid damp floors and afford a flood of sunlight. Sunshine is better than medicine.

2. Provide a dusting and scratching place, where you can bury wheat and corn, and thus induce the fowls to take needful exercise.

3. Provide yourself with some good healthy chickens, none to be over three or four years old, giving one cock to every twelve hens.

4. Give plenty of fresh air at all times of the year, especially in summer.

5. Give plenty of fresh water daily, and never allow the fowls to go thirsty.

6. Feed them systematically two or three times a day, scatter the food so that they can't eat too fast or without proper exercise. Do not feed more than they will eat up clean, or they will get tired of that kind of feed.

7. Give them a variety of both dry and cooked feed; a mixture of cooked meal and vegetables is an excellent thing for their morning meal.

8. Give soft feed in the morning, and the whole grain at night, except a little wheat or cracked corn placed in the scratching places to give them exercise during the day.

9. Above all things, keep the hen-house clean and well ventilated.

10. Do not crowd too many in one house. If you do, look out for disease.

11. Use carbolic powder in the dusting bins occasionally, to destroy lice.

12. Wash your roosts and bottom of laying nests, and whitewash once a week in summer, and once a month in winter.

13. Let the old and young have as large a range as possible—the larger the better.

14. Don't breed too many kinds of fowls at the same time, unless you are going into the business. Three or four will keep your hands full.

15. Introduce new blood into your stock every year or so, by either buying a cockerel or sittings of eggs from some reliable breeder.

16. In buying birds or eggs, go to some reliable breeder who has his reputation at stake. You may have to pay a little more for birds, but you can depend on what you get. Culls are not cheap at any price.

17. Save the best birds for next year's breeding, and send the others to market. In shipping fancy poultry to market, send it dressed.—*Charles Lyman, in Empire State Agriculturist.*

### HOW FAR WILL BEES GO FOR HONEY?

The precise distance that bees will fly in search of forage I am unable to state. Some consider three miles to be the extreme limit, while others place it as high as twelve miles. The most satisfactory results may be expected if abundant stores can be found within two miles. It is evident that they work more freely upon the blos-

This is a fine illustration of the advantages of obtaining forage within a reasonably short distance. I have never had direct proof of the effect, yet there is ground for the belief that if honey could not be found nearer, bees would not fly the distance named without being gradually led along by newly opening blossoms, as in the case mentioned.—*Quinby's New Bee Keeper.*

### ROBBER BEES.

If all the colonies are kept strong, there is no danger of robbing. It is only the weak ones that are robbed. Working with bees at unseasonable times, leaving them exposed in the apiary, etc., induces robbing. Colonies of black bees and nuclei are usually the sufferers. Contracting the entrance, so that a single bee can pass, is usually a cure for robbing. In times of scarcity of honey, the apiarist should be careful not to keep a hive open long, or robbing may be the result. All strong colonies maintain sentinels at

the entrance in times of scarcity. Those of that colony are allowed to pass, but strangers are "arrested on the spot." If a colony is unable to defend itself, close up the entrance with wire cloth and remove it to the cellar, or some other convenient place, for a few days, and when it is returned to the old stand, contract the entrance to allow only one bee to pass at a time.

### FOWL IN CONFINEMENT.

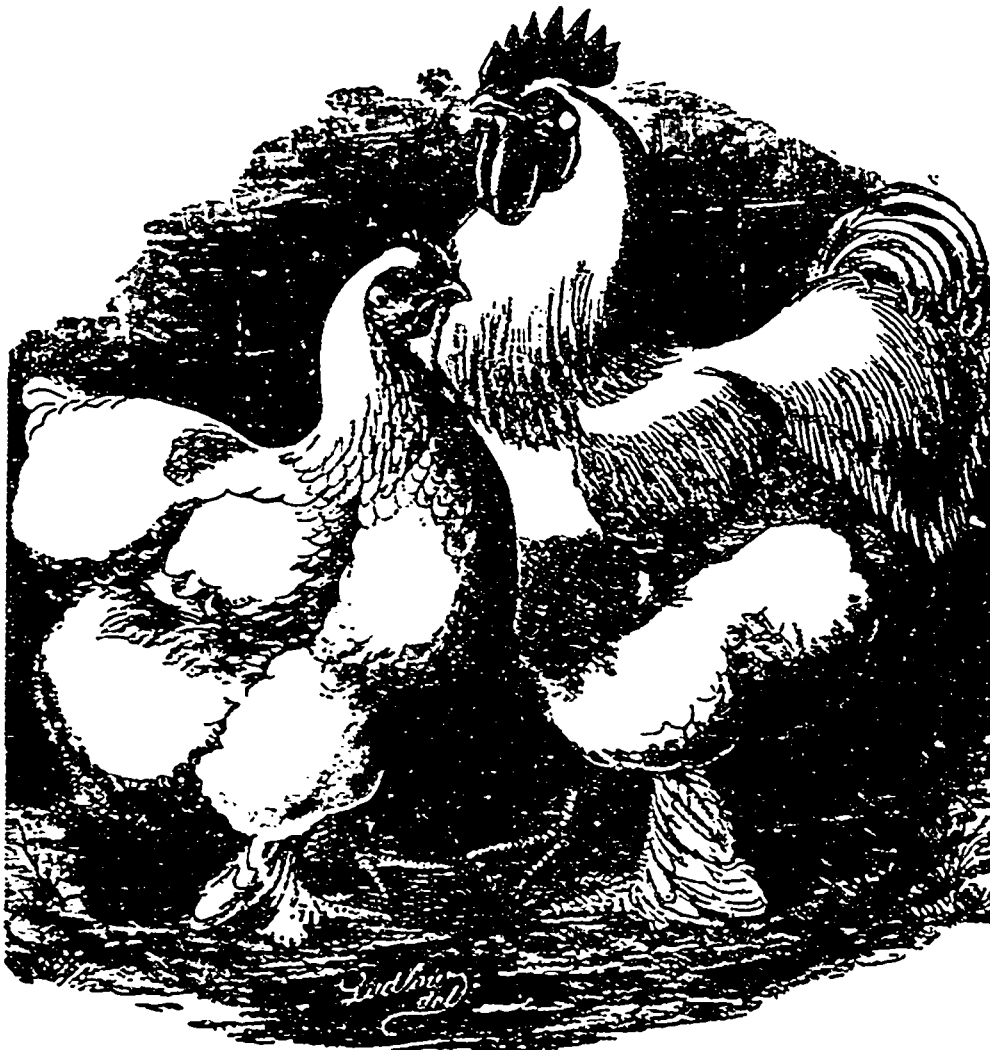
Fowls are always more profitable and less trouble when kept within certain limits. There are, perhaps, many that would disagree with me concerning the trouble, considering fowls at large the least trouble. From experience I cannot think so. I always feed my fowls regularly, and it is no more trouble in that respect. I furnish them with broken shells, and this I always do when at large. The green food is extra, but the pleasure of having a fine vegetable adjoining their yards, and the larger yield in eggs, more than compensates this

addition to the trouble. Besides, I always know just where the eggs are, and could gather them in the dark.—*Country Gentleman.*

### A PRECOCIOUS CHICKEN.

The following, from the *Hamilton Daily Times* of the 14th inst., will be of interest to poulterers: "Mr. Thos. Gain, of the East Hamilton poultry yards, exhibits a fair-sized egg, the product of a white Leghorn pullet hatched on the 15th April last. The egg was laid on Saturday last, and Mr. Gain claims it is about the fastest time on record. He does not know of faster. The usual time taken by a chicken to develop into henhood is from nine to twelve months.

If you use the eggs laid by your own fowls for hatching, select them from your best specimens, and have them as fresh as possible. If you are about buying those of any choice breed, be sure that you get them from reliable parties.



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soms at some little distance than when these are very near the apiary. If I were to sow anything with a view to a supply of honey, I should prefer that it should not be in the immediate vicinity of the hives. Their flights are evidently modified by local conditions. During the large yield from basswood in 1874, as the blossoms failed in the valley, the bees continued bringing in the same quantity of honey, following the basswood day by day, as it opened on the hills, until the first week in August, when they still came in heavily loaded, but very tired from a long flight. I drove to the heights, six miles distant, and found that basswood was there just coming into bloom. I immediately moved 48 swarms to this location, and in the following week those 48 colonies gave me one ton of surplus honey, while the 71 swarms left at home did not secure one-half the amount, yet they continued working upon the same ground during the same period.