

sides, if allowed to accumulate, the heat of the sun on fine days will cause it to melt, and the yard will be sloppy and uncomfortable. In the corner of the house, or under a shed in the yard, a dust box should be placed with dry wood ashes for the hens to dust themselves in; this is a great preventive against lice or other insect vermin. If the houses have not been well lime-washed in the fall, or if any appearance of insect vermin present itself, the house should be thoroughly syringed with a solution of carbolic acid prepared as follows. Three ounces of carbolic acid in crystals dissolved in twelve quarts of water, this will be instant death to all insect vermin, and if desired lime may be added to make it of the proper consistency, and the house washed with it.

It is a common practice among farmers at this season, to allow fowls to roost in the barn, or in the stable with cattle, arguing in favor of this comes that warmth to the fowls is communicated by the other animals, and therefore the birds are benefited. So far the argument appears good, warmth will undoubtedly be communicated, but so will moisture and damp from the breath and droppings of the cattle, which will settle on the combs and other extraneous parts of the fowls and render them much more susceptible of injury by frost than if free from it, indeed the least exposure to cold when in this state renders them liable to frost bite, and through this means many valuable birds are permanently disfigured. No matter how extensive the outbuildings may be, it is not good to allow fowls a free range at this season of the year and roosting where they please; they should be kept within prescribed limits and in houses provided especially for their accommodation. Thus confined it will be necessary to provide them with a substitute for the insect food they are deprived of, and which, owing to the frozen state of the ground, they could not, even if they were at liberty, pick up, occasionally, then, a piece of coarse meat, bullocks liver, or even chandler's graves may be left in their covered run and will be greedily devoured.

Eggs in January are of much greater value than later in the season, special attention ought, therefore, be given to their production. Early chickens, if properly cared for will now begin to lay freely; good and suitable diet with a warm abode will add materially to their egg-producing powers. An early breakfast of warm soft food should not be omitted, it has a wonderful effect in restoring the warmth to their bodies, lost during the long cold nights of this month; in the middle of the day, a little grain of some kind should be given, and again in the evening, before going to roost, a good substantial meal of wheat screenings, buckwheat, or other grain should be given. Green food should also be supplied, a cabbage head hung up by its roots in a sheltered corner of their yard will afford amusement and be freely partaken of; sliced carrots, turnips, mangolds, &c., will also be freely devoured. Special attention should also be paid to their drinking water; their fountains or drinking vessels ought to be filled morning and evening with fresh water. Various devices for drinking vessels have been adopted with more or less success, but, as the small iron pot is perhaps more generally used than any other, it may be well to state that if well greased on the inside before filling with drinking water, ice will not cling to the bottom or sides, indeed this holds good to all vessels, and therefore, at all times it can be readily emptied out and fresh water supplied. Not unfrequently, diarrhoea may be noticed in fowls at this season, and may arise from the entire absence of green food from their dietary, or from too free a supply given at long intervals between. From whatever cause means should be taken to remedy it, and the following will be found a good prescription,—five grains of chalk, five grains of rhubarb, and three grains cayenne pepper made into a pill and administered morning and evening till a cure is effected. A very good preventive of diarrhoea

is the use of Douglas' mixture in the drinking water; it is made as follows:—To half a pound of sulphate of iron add one ounce of sulphuric acid dissolved in two gallons of water, and kept in a large bottle or jar; to the water in the drinking vessel add in the proportion of one teaspoonful to each pint of water. In the *American Agriculturist*, and subsequently in *The People's Practical Poultry Book*, appeared a very ingenious contrivance for keeping water from freezing in the severe winter weather of our climate, with the following description. "A barrel is sawed into two tubs, and an earthen jug placed in one of the tubs, the bottom of the jug, and that of the tub being in contact, or nearly so, and the mouth of the jug close to the rim of the tub. The jug may be fixed in position by a few sticks nailed across the tub inside. The tub is then stuffed full of horse litter and manure, and strips nailed across to keep it in. When this is done, we fill the jug with water, put in a cork, and invert tub and all. The cork is then withdrawn at the same time that a small pan is slipped under. The pan remains full during the day, and, if set in the sun, will not freeze so much as a film of ice upon the surface, even out of doors, except on the severest days. At night the pan should be withdrawn and the water allowed to flow out."

Farm Poultry.

Mr Stephens, in his *Book of the Farm* says. Of all the animals reared on a farm there are none so much neglected by the farmer, both in regard to the selection of their kind, and their qualifications to fatten. All the sorts of domesticated fowls found in the farm yard. Indeed, the very supposition that he would devote any of his time to the consideration of poultry, is regarded a positive affront on his manhood. Women, in his estimation, may be fit enough for such a charge, and doubtless they would do it well, provided they were not begrudged every particle of food bestowed upon those useful creatures. The consequence is what might be expected in the circumstances, that go to most farmsteads and the surprise will be to meet a single fowl of any description in good condition, that is to say, in such a condition that it may be killed at the instant in a fit state for the table, which it might be if it had been treated as a fattening animal from its birth. The usual objection raised against feeding fowls is, that it does not pay, and, no doubt the usual price received for lean, stony-fleshed, sinewy-legged fowls is far from remunerative; but whose fault is it but the rearing of them, that fowls are sent to market in such a state? And why should purchasers give a high price for any animal, be it fowls or beast, that is under condition? There would be some excuse for the existence of lean fowls at a farmstead were there any difficulty of fattening poultry of every kind; but the idea of expense is a perfect bugbear, and this one, like all others that seize us through our fears, would vanish, were a plan adopted for rearing fowls more consonant to common sense than the one usually pursued. To judge from common practice, the prevalent sentiment seems to be, that fowls cannot be ill-off when they get leave to shift for themselves. Such a principal is a grievous error in the rearing of any kind of livestock. Better a man keep no stock at all than allow such a sentiment to influence his conduct to them. Fowls may be considered worthless stock, and so they generally are, but are you sure that it is not your mode of managing them that renders them so. But, apart from every consideration of profit derived from the sales in market towns, there is the superior care of the farmer having it at all times in his power to eat a well-fed fowl at his own table; and there is no good reason why he should not be able to enjoy such a luxury at any time he chooses. There would be economy in it too, in the long run, inasmuch as good poultry at command will keep him out of a butcher's market, into which he cannot go without cash in hand, and cash he cannot command except by realizing the money value of some commodity or other from the farm. Few farmers kill their own mutton, that is to say, keep fine, fat sheep for their own use; but like beef, it must be purchased; so that situated as the farmer usually is, the produce of the poultry-yard and pig-stye constitute the principal items of his board. And why should he not have these in the highest perfection?

To KEEP EGGS FROM BECOMING CHILLED.—In cold weather nests should be lined with soft paper. Then look sharp after the eggs when laid, and as soon as the animal heat is partially gone, wrap them in dry paper, and pack in a dry box in a dry cellar, then if you wish to ship to a distance, wrap in many thicknesses of paper (before they leave the cellar), and pack in paper shavings in a tight box, and you may ship successfully when the thermometer marks zero.

Turkey.

A Christmas Ode.

When is the turkey handsomest?
With sunshine on his brazen breast,
When every feather like a scale
On a glittering suit of knightly mail;
When his tail is spread, a splendid fan,
As he struts before his faithful clan,
With blue, bald head and threatening eye,
And wattles red as a stormy sky?
With lofty step and war-cry loud,
He marshals forth the glittering crowd,
Or leads their dance across the plain,
Or heads their march through waving grain,
Intent on plunder, red with pride,
Like warrior not to be defied,
In all the pomp of battle dress—
Then is the turkey handsomest!

When is the turkey handsomest?
When he is killed, and plucked, and dressed,
His spurs hacked off and thrown aside
With all the trappings of his pride,
He lies, a goodly shape of snow,
On stall or dresser making show
Of swelling breast and rampant legs,
Or, dangling from the larder's pegs,
Feeds to the cook-maid a practiced eye
How fast the days are flitting by,
How soon appears the day of days,
The hour of turkey's reign and praise;
There, hanging in his smooth white vest,
Is not the turkey handsomest?

When is the turkey handsomest?
Ah! when again he shows his breast,
Brown with the sunshine of the fire,
Crisp as the lady's silk attire,
With unctuous juices dripping down
In pools of gravy, rich and brown;
Odorous as any spicy air
That blows across an orchard fair,
His bosom swelled with savory meat,
Of sausages and bread-crumbs sweet,
His pinions neatly skewered and tied,
With giblets tucked in either side;
His legs resigned to any fate,
Rampant no more, but meekly straight,
Beside him cranberry, ruby clear,
With groves of brittle celery near;
As stately as a king he lies,
The centre of admiring eyes,
Now is the turkey handsomest,
Arrayed before the hungry guest,
Of all the viands first and best!
His life well lived, his woe at rest,
And the platter he lies on gaily dressed,
Now is the turkey handsomest!

—Our Young Fella.

The Early Ducklings that realize such high prices in the London market, are said to be principally the Aylesbury variety, distinguished by their great size, white plumage and flesh-colored bill. Their high quality is said to be produced by feeding the old birds largely with sound oats placed in a vessel of water. If not allowed much room to swim, old ducks will lay freely in winter; then the eggs should be hatched under hens, and the ducklings liberally fed with slaked oatmeal and fine middlings, and afterwards with oats in water. Under this treatment they may be made ready for the table in less than two months. *Country Gentleman*.

DUCKS AS EGG-PRODUCERS.—In answer to a correspondent, the *Collage Gardener* says: The number of eggs laid by a duck depends very much on the breed to which she belongs. In all poultry, the non-sitters lay more than those that are concerned in the rising generation. Thus the Aylesbury will lay a greater number of eggs than any other duck. The black duck, called the Labrador, the East Indian or Buenos Ayrean is a good layer. The Rouen is an average layer, and the wild duck lays few compared to these. An old duck is, as a rule, a better layer than a young one, but it is impossible to give the average of any of them. Aylesbury ducks begin to lay in November and December; Rouens three months later. Both the time when they begin laying, and the number of eggs they lay, are influenced by their keeping and by judicious management.

SULPHUR FOR GAPES IN POULTRY.—Mr. H. W. Lassar writes to the *Tribune* that when he was a boy, and big black ovens were in use in the south, every morning when the biscuit for breakfast were taken out and the oven yet hot, Sally made up a pone of corn meal (unsifted) bread, with a heaping tablespoonful of pulverized sulphur to the quart of meal, mixed with water and nothing else, and this was fed to the chickens and turkeys morning and evening, and I never knew one dozen chickens lost with gapes, as it is known that sulphur is death to parasitical worms. The young turkeys had a pill of ground black pepper given each morning when they appeared drooping, until again lively. These pills are easily made by adding enough flour to cause adhesion.