

POULTRY

MORTIMER'S MONTHLY MORSELS.

BY F. A. MORTIMER, POTTSVILLE, PA.

CONDITION powders cannot assist a hen to get something out of nothing. If the albumen is not in a large amount of food it will not be found in a teaspoonful of condition powders.

Most men never reform until they are too weak to do anything else.—*Galveston News.*

The hen product will fall off now, and all surplus fowls should be fattened and dressed nicely for table, use either at home or on the table of those who are willing to pay for them. This will be the most profitable way to dispose of them.

If you have a sickly or inferior bird in your yard remove it at once as it may ruin your reputation to a certain extent to keep such a fowl in the yard, as visitors are always calling, and to see such a bird in the yard may lose you a first class sale.

A very cheap way to fence poultry from the garden is to stretch three No. 12 wires quite tightly and then weave in common swamp willows, sharpening the ends and sticking them in the ground a couple of inches. This fence does not cost over six cents a rod and is very effective.

Never keep a cock for breeding purposes over two years.

Gapes consist, at least so far as actual symptoms extend, in a number of small worms which infest the wind pipe and cause the chicken to gasp for breath. If taken early it will be sufficient to give every day a morsel of camphor gum the size of a grain of wheat, and to put camphor in the drinking water, or a little turpentine may be given daily in meal. In fully developed cases the worm must be removed. There are various ways of accomplishing this, the most usual one, perhaps, being the introduction of a feather stripped almost up to the top into the windpipe, turned round and drawn out. Some persons oil the feather. One authority advises wetting it with a solution of twenty grains of carbolic acid and one ounce of glycerine. Another plan is to make the infected bird inhale the vapor of carbolic acid by placing a few drops on a red hot shovel, and holding the bird in the fumes until it is nearly suffocated. Another plan is that of placing the chicks in a box, covering the top with a piece of muslin and dusting fine lime through the cloth. The chick breathes, the lime, and as it comes in contact with the worms these are dislodged by the coughing of the chicks.

Except when communicated by others, gapes never occur unless there have been foul water, exposure to wet and want of nourishing food. A frequent occurrence of gapes, therefore, is a disgrace to any poultry yard. If cleanliness and carbolic acid disinfection are freely practiced gapes will not be.

In planning his poultry garden for next year no poultryer should neglect the sunflower, mammoth Russian. The soil must be very rich, when they will be found to be heavy croppers. The seed must be gathered as soon as ripe, else the Blackbirds will

destroy a goodly part. They should be stored where the chickens can't get at them, and then should be fed out not more than twice a week.

When you separate the sexes of adult birds in the summer they should be kept apart until they are all through moulting.

Let the big, growing young Brahmas and Cochins roost on the floor awhile longer, but keep their roosting places clean with dry earth or litter. The breast bones of such birds are apt to crook if they are trained too early to sit on perches.—*Ex.*

As the cool nights begin to come on, see that you have plenty of room in your houses. Don't let them crowd.

If the ground is not already frozen, cut a load of sods and pile them up in one corner of the hen-house. You have no idea how much the fowls will enjoy it through the winter.

The *Indiana Farmer* makes the statement that the hens of Kansas yield six times as much as the orchards, eight times as much as the market gardens and sixteen times as much as the potato fields of that State.

Do not let the cockerels run with the pullets until the latter are ready to lay. It will give better birds all around.

In picking out your birds for the show room, beware of crooked breasts, and crooked backs and crooked tails. A twisted feather in the tail will be cut a point and a half, but a twisted feather in the wing disqualifies.