

Poultry Ward.

Poultry Paragraphs.

Never keep poultry without thinking it worth your while to give it a fair share of your attention, or while satisfying yourself, if your time is otherwise engaged, that it has the attention of your servant or the person who has the charge of them. Never keep persons for that purpose who do not show by activity and forethought, that they are fond of this employment, and who think of it at other times beyond the periods in which they are actually engaged. When you are fortunate enough to find these various qualifications united, you may hope for the best, and will probably find that many a useful observation as to the particular characteristics of the different breeds, and many a hint may be profitably acted on, which will reward your discrimination.

It is a fact that most old women who live in cottages know better how to rear chickens than any other persons; they are more successful, and this may be traced to the fact that they keep but few fowls, and these fowls are allowed to run freely in the house, to roll in the ashes, to approach the fire, and to pick up any crumbs or eatable morsels they may find on the ground, and are nursed with the greatest care and indulgence.

The aim of every one who keeps fowls should be the possession of first rate stock, whatsoever the breed may be. Every breed has its standard of excellence, and it is desirable to have that standard raised as high as the most approved system will carry it.

Which are the best fowls to keep? is a question often put to us. Our answer—that which produces the most eggs, and that which feeds best at an early age, and at the least expense, and that which possesses those qualities most valued for food.

Every one should be made acquainted with the fact that some hens are more prolific in eggs, and that in some kinds the flesh is much superior in richness and flavour than in others; and that some are large in size and more hardy than others.

If any one should desire the *ne plus ultra* of excellence in a fowl, let him eat and pronounce his opinion on the wing of a well-fed Game pullet, and we will venture to have no fear of his disagreeing with this expression of our judgment on the good qualities of these birds for the table. And Game hens as layers are as good as any; as many as twenty-four eggs being constantly laid by them before manifesting any desire to sit. But with regard to the number of eggs laid by fowls of any breed, previously to their manifesting a desire to incubate, much will depend on whether the eggs are removed and a porcelain egg allowed to remain, or whether to accumulate as day by day the store may receive additional deposits. If the latter plan be adopted, few Game hens, we imagine, would be found to lay beyond what instinct would suggest as the proper complement for their nest, and this we find from twelve to fifteen.

As sitters, Game hens have no superiors. Quiet on their eggs, regular in the hours of coming off and returning to their charge, and confident from their fearless disposition, of repelling the incursions of any intruders, they rarely fail to bring off good broods. Hatching accomplished, their merits appear in a still more conspicuous light. Ever on their guard, not even a shadow of a bird overhead, or the approach of man or beast, but finds them ready to do battle for their offspring; and instances are on record where rats and other vermin have thus fallen before them. The greatest objection to the Game fowl is its pugnacious propensities.

By warmth and judicious feeding, a hen may be made to lay as many eggs in two years as she would under ordinary circumstances in three; and every one knows, or ought to know, that a fowl fattened at two years old, is much more tender and palatable than one that is older.—C. N. BEMENT, in *Country Gentleman*.

A landlord, who had some very weak chicken broth for dinner, the other day, was asked by a wag of a boarder if he couldn't coax that chicken to wade through that soup once more.

To fatten geese, the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*, says—Put three or four into a darkened room, and give each bird one pound of oats daily, thrown on a pan of water. In fourteen days they will be found almost too fat. Never shut up less than two together, as they pine if left alone.

MALE TURKEYS INCUBATING.—Could any of your readers state whether they have known the male of the American turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) to sit on eggs, as at the present moment I have two sitting on hen eggs. One of these birds has previously sat upon goose eggs. I have frequently observed a tendency to sit in the male of this breed, but I have never before seen such an instance of continued and persistent sitting. Until they commenced their maternal duties they were constantly fighting with each other, or interfering with the peace and comfort of others; one of them having so far indulged in his animosity, as to have scalped a goose. But ever since they have taken to regular sitting they have become quite docile and amiable in their disposition.—W. LOR., in *London Field*.

The Apiary.

Management of the Apiary for December.

BY J. H. THOMAS.

If stocks have been properly prepared for winter little more is required; if not they should be at once, and the management for November carefully carried out. Strong stocks will then require no more attention this month, except when wintered out of doors; care should then be taken that ventilation is not closed up with snow or ice. When stocks that are housed keep up a continual roaring, they are too warm, and more air should be given them.

Weak stocks should be housed if possible, especially if they require feeding, but where it is impossible to house them, they may be wintered by occasionally bringing them into a warm room and feeding them from half a pint to a pint, and then setting them out again; but it is not well to carry directly from a warm room into the open air, the change should be more gradual. If such stocks have little or no honey, they should be fed as often as once a week. Weak stocks that are housed, if in moveable comb hives, may have a pound or two of candy sticks laid upon the frames, and if they have a few pounds of honey they will winter without further trouble. I mean by "housed," put into a cellar or room where they will not freeze and yet be cool, dry and dark; a woodshed or common out house would not answer, especially when stocks are weak.

BEE-KEEPING IN MINNESOTA.—In a grocery store in this city (St. Paul), where I pass every day, I have noticed some very nice honey in the comb, in boxes. On enquiring where it was made, I found it came from a very large apiary just out of the city. Yesterday afternoon I visited the establishment. On arriving there, I found two young men, brothers, by the name of Bidwell, who own a farm one mile from here on the other side of the river. Their house is built about half way up the bluff, and their farm extends back from the river. I found they have over 400 swarms of bees, 350 of them working hives. They expect to have twenty thousand pounds of saleable honey this season. They are the most successful apiarists in the State, if not in any other state. By their politeness in giving information, I gathered from them some very valuable facts, which would be of much use to bee-keepers. They are introducing and breeding the Italian bees, and seem to understand the art of managing them perfectly.—*Exchange*.

TAMING BEES.—A writer in a recent number of the *Scottish Gardener* says—"To tame vicious bees, we have only to accustom them to the form of human beings. A scare-crow, or what my Scotch friends call 'a potato bogie,' placed in front of the hives of stinging bees, is a great help. It can be shifted now and then, and, to provoke a general attack, place a loose waving rag or handkerchief in the hand of the bogie. I have been told that vicious, kicking horses have been completely cured by hanging bags of hay behind them in their stalls. They kicked and plunged at the bags till their strength was exhausted, when their vice and folly left them; so that they quietly tolerated the bags to dangle by their sides, and groomed to do as they liked. In like manner, the bees attack the waving, provoking handkerchief, and sting at it till their vice leaves them. That which scares crows tends to domesticate bees. If kept in a garden where men, women, and children are often seen, and where they are not disturbed, bees are as tame and peaceable as cocks and hens."

Entomology.

The Gooseberry Saw-Fly.

A recent number of the *Practical Entomologist* (and for September), contains a long and very able and valuable article by Mr. Walsh, on this most destructive insect, which has been committing so much havoc among the gardens in almost every part of the Province, and in many parts of the United States. After a careful examination he comes to the conclusion that this insect has been originally imported from Europe, and that it is identical with that described by Stephens, under the name of *nematus ribesii*, but which had long before received the name of *nematus ventricosus* from the German entomologist Klug;—the latter, having the priority, is the name by which it must henceforth be known. Mr. Walsh further states that the only way in which we can hope to keep down this rapidly increasing pest is by importing from Europe the parasites which there attack it and keep it within due bounds, but which unfortunately did not accompany the destroyer in its voyage across the Atlantic. With this view we fully coincide, and we fully believe that no other perfect remedy for this insect, the Hessian Fly, the Wheat Midge and other imported pests, can be found than their natural enemies, the Ichneumonids created for the purpose of preying upon them.

The Chinch Bug.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Enclosed I send you specimens of the "Chinch Bug" found in this neighbourhood, under the bark of old logs, where they appeared to have taken up their winter quarters.

It would be interesting to know to what extent they have invaded Canada, but from their diminutive size they will not probably be noticed in most localities until their numbers or depredations render them obvious.

In most accounts given of this insect it is stated that a wet season at once puts a stop to its ravages, but that it will not expel or destroy the insects themselves, seems proved by the unusually wet season just passed.

SUBSCRIBER.

Grimsbey, Oct 24, 1866.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We are much obliged to our correspondent for the number of specimens of this redoubtable insect that he has kindly sent us; we have never taken it ourselves in Canada, nor, indeed, are we aware that it has ever appeared in any considerable numbers in this country, though it has frequently been very destructive in the neighbouring States. If any of our readers have met with it, or have been unfortunate enough to suffer from its ravages, we shall be glad to hear from them any particulars they may be able to communicate. The Chinch Bug, of which we have given a description and figure in THE CANADA FARMER for July 1st, 1865, page 205, is a tiny black insect about three-twentieths of an inch in length, with the wings and wing-cases white, the latter having a conspicuous black spot near the termination of each. It belongs to the order *Hemiptera*, the true "Bugs" of Entomology, and like all its fellows is provided with a sucker or beak through which it imbibes the juices of the plants on which it feeds. Taken individually its capacity for mischief is very slight indeed, but when it appears in myriads as it generally does, its multiplied assaults upon the grain crops are excessively injurious. As our correspondent relates, it goes into winter quarters at this time of year, sheltering itself from the frost under the bark of trees and logs, and in other protected situations. In the spring, when the grain has commenced to grow, it issues forth from its hiding place, and proceeding to the fields, lays its eggs on the roots of the tender grain, wherever it can gain access to them. These eggs soon hatch and produce another brood, which attain their full size at the close