

days, and then keep her away from her accustomed nest and well fed for two or three more, and the effect is certain.

Home-made nest eggs may be made by taking a shell (the smaller the opening in it the better) and filling it with water and plaster of paris; fill the shells full, and when the contents have hardened peel off the shell and you have as good a nest egg as you can buy for ten cents; if you wish to color use a little annatto, and your hens are satisfied.

The Creve-Cœur Fowls.

We give an illustration of these now favorite fowls. The name is derived from the town of Creve-Cœur in Normandy, near which the breed originated, and not, as many suppose, from the supposed resemblance of the comb to a broken heart—the meaning of the French word “creve-cœur.” No fowls, excepting, perhaps, the Houdans, have met with more universal favor than these. Quiet, domestic, great layers of very large eggs, hardy, prolific, eggs hatching uncommonly well, large bodied, and of the very first quality for the table, they seem to combine all but one of the requisites of the fowl for the people, and that is, they are non-sitters. As to their beauty, there is great diversity of opinion, some considering them very handsome, others very ugly. M. Jacques, a French writer, describes them concisely thus: Comb various, but always forming two horns; sometimes paralleled, straight and fleshy; sometimes joined at the base, slightly notched, pointed, and separating at their extremities, antler-like. The legs should be black, or very dark slate blue. Plumage entirely black, with metallic lustre.

Roosts and Roosting Benches.

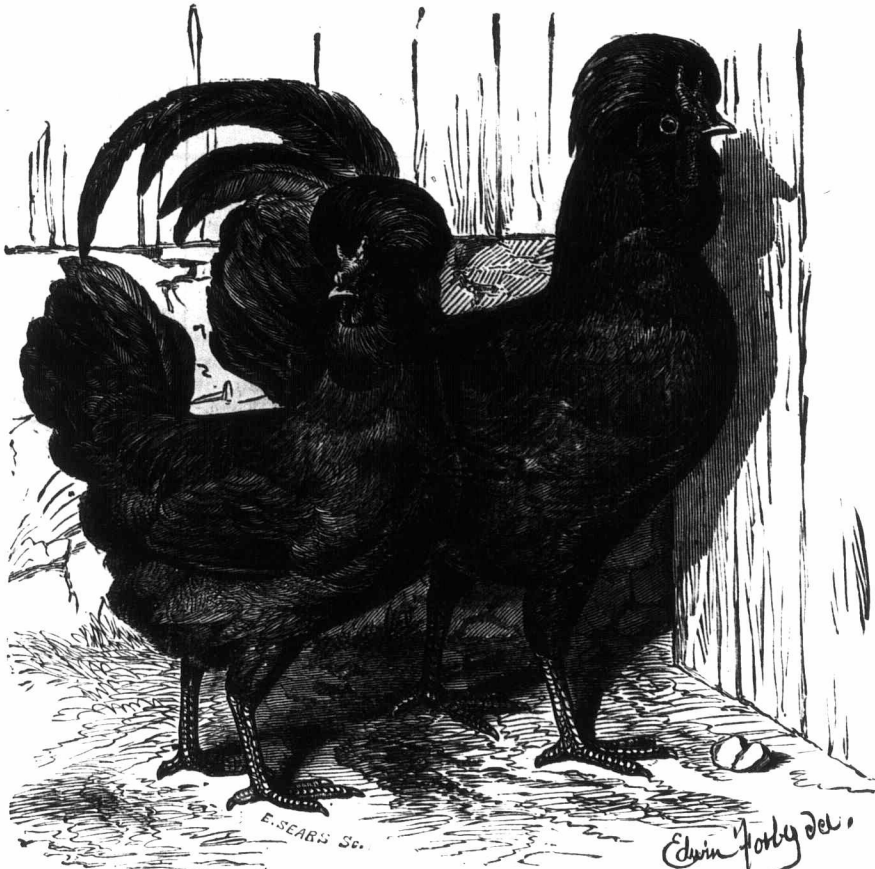
There are almost as many different kinds of roosts as there are different varieties of fowls, but all are not equally desirable. Where but few birds are kept, and these only common, inexpensive ones, it may not be a matter of much moment whether they are high or low, or neatly made or only “in the rough.” In some localities it may be necessary to have high roosts in the poultry house, to keep the birds beyond the reach of the nocturnal marauders such as the weasels, foxes, dogs, etc., but then we have an idea that a closely shut door might answer equally as good a purpose, provided someone of the family make it his or her business to shut the door regularly each evening. In making regular roosts, it is always best to have the poles or roosting slats so they can be taken out whenever it is desired to thoroughly cleanse the house. This can readily be done by nailing notched strips on each side to receive the roosting poles, slanting the strips so the last pole will be considerably higher than the first, which will facilitate the “bed going” of the fowls. The roosts should be made of easy access, and should not be more than three feet (two feet is better) high, at the lowest part from the ground, and supplied with a board to make it still easier for the fowls.

In nearly all poultry houses, roosting benches will be found a great improvement on the ordinary roosts, for they are so quickly removed, and can be put in any part of the poultry house whenever desired, being always ready for use. They should be from twelve to eighteen inches high, with the legs well spread apart at the bottom to give them a greater bearing and thus prevent them from overturning with the birds. The best and cheapest wood to use, especially as it is the easiest worked, is inch pine boards, which can soon be slit into suitable widths, from two to two and a half inches wide being about the proper thing, to secure nicety, as well as to aid in keeping vermin away; the lumber should be neatly planed, and if desired, a coat of cheap paint put on before they are used.

Fish for Poultry.

Poultry, whether kept in confinement or given the run of the farm, require meat food in some form to keep them healthy and enable them to become profitable to their owners. When the fowls are not restricted in their range, they can get all the meat diet they need, in the shape of insects, worms, &c., through a greater part of the season, the cold weather alone cutting off this supply. When the birds are kept yarded all through the warm weather, they must depend upon their owners for what food they get, of all kinds, tho' too frequently the meat food is omitted, either through carelessness or want of knowledge of the requirements of poultry in general. Eggs are highly concentrated articles of diet, and to produce these the hens must have good, strong food, and plenty of it, else the quality of the eggs will be poor and the quantity very small indeed. We know there are some few who feed too heavily with meat and meat scraps, but where we find one case of this kind, we can find at least a score or more of the other kind, and there is not much need, at present, for us to warn against it specially.

There are many of our readers who raise large flocks of poultry annually, who live on or near



THE CREVE-CŒUR FOWLS

large rivers or bays where fish are caught, in great numbers all through the season, and but few seem to know that fish, in moderate quantities, are most excellent poultry food, in connection with grain, both for the laying hens and the fattening fowls. In feeding fish the proper way to do is to fill a large pot (a “farmers’ boiler” is the best) with the fish that are thrown out as too small for table use or sale, and then cover these fish with cold water, build up a moderate hot fire, and about as soon as the water comes to a boil, the fish are cooked, which is found by seeing if they will readily fall to pieces. While still hot remove to a stout barrel, liquor and all, and stir briskly with a stout stick, and most of the bones will settle to the bottom. When the mass is cold it will be like thick jelly, and the fowls will eagerly eat it.

Some breeders contend that both the flesh of the birds and the eggs will partake of fishy flavor, if fed on fish. If fed in moderation, as all meat food should be, and in connection with grain food, we defy any one to detect any unpleasant or objectionable flavor either in the egg or the flesh. We have fed fish, as above, for several seasons and have yet to find any reasonable objections to their moderate use.—[Poultry Monitor.]

Egg-testers are in use in England, by which an unfertile egg can be detected.

Summer Quarters.

Poultry need as much protection during the summer from the fierce rays of the sun, as they do in winter from the severe cold, although far too many of our farmers lose sight of this very important fact, and suffer corresponding losses in consequence. Birds compelled to stay in yards which have little, if any, shade during the entire summer, with the sun pouring down on them with the intensity it does in July and August, cannot thrive, while they are rendered much more liable to disease and disorders. It pays, and pays well too, to give the fowls comfort at all times, and it costs but little to furnish the necessary shade, no matter how large the runs may be. Trees, such as plum, peach and apple, should at once be planted in the runs, especially the former, which seem to thrive better there than the other kinds named. As these trees will not afford much shade for a few years, temporary shades must be made by making skeleton sheds of poles along the sunny side of the runs, and then covering them with boughs, cedar limbs, or almost anything cheap and convenient which will afford the necessary shelter from the sun. These may not look very handsome, but then the utility compensates fully for the lack of beauty.

Some breeders make the top covering with coarse muslin stretched on frames, first having treated the muslin to coatings of paint to render it more durable and impervious to water. If stored away carefully when not needed as sun screens they will last for several seasons, and are by no means unsightly, especially if neatly arranged in the yards or runs.

Some breeders, to make the poultry houses more comfortable in the summer for their birds, remove the sash and make a movable frame of slats or lath to take the place of the sash, while the solid door is removed and a slat one substituted. This is a very good plan during the hot, still nights of summer, but when high winds as well as rainstorms prevail, the fowls are rendered very uncomfortable all night. A good plan is to have it arranged so either can be used at pleasure to suit the weather. Any one with average ingenuity can make the necessary alterations to suit.

Thorough ventilation must supplement extreme cleanliness, else disease and sickness will creep in these hot, sultry days, and claim by far the largest share of the profits. Ventilation can be secured without having draught blowing on the birds constantly, endangering their health instead of benefiting them.—[Poultry Monthly.]

Much of the profits from duck raising depends on raising prime stock. The Pekin, Rouen, Aylesbury or Cayuga duck will, with ordinary care, bring in a handsome return without much outlay. Ducks are great foragers, and will greedily devour insects, grass, slugs, larvae and vegetable refuse. They are not as fastidious about the quality of food as other kinds of poultry, although quantity even of the coarser kinds is always acceptable.

Farmers in general have all the facilities necessary for raising ducks advantageously. They do not require a large supply of water, as many suppose, for successful rearing. A pond for the accommodation of a large flock could be easily made in a short time and would more than repay for the labor. Ducks need but very little feed besides what they pick up. They acquire fat much more readily than other fowl except, perhaps, the goose. They grow steadily, and their flesh is in much demand by a large class of city folks. Any of the improved breeds of ducks are generally prolific layers, and with ordinary care will yield a handsome profit.