

for boiling. If you want them to sit early leave the eggs under them. Fowls in their native habits never lay more eggs than they can hatch. Remember that no success can be expected from poultry-keeping if their houses be damp, cold, unclean, or badly ventilated; if their food does not approximate to that which they get in a state of nature, viz., a mixture of animal and vegetable food; if the water they drink be stagnant, the drainage of the manure heap, &c., or if the strongest and handsomest be not bred from."

NESTS.—Hens exhibit peculiar fancies about nests, which, like our watering places, suddenly become all the rage at one time, and pronounced unfashionable at another. Out of about ten nests in my own house, but three are at present popular, why, or wherefore, I know not, as they possess very different qualities. One of these is in a cold corner on the ground, the second is in a window exposed to light and heat, and the third is situated in a dark nook in an iron pot. Although I am of opinion that nests had better be left an open question for the consideration of the hens themselves, I will give my ideas on the subject. Of all materials usually employed in their construction, I think heather or straw the best. Hay is bad, as it soon generates insects of a kind 'not to be mentioned to ears polite.' My own experience is in favor of shallow holes in the floor, loosely lined with a little clean straw, and I have almost invariably found that the largest and strongest broods are hatched on the ground.

TO PREVENT HENS EATING THEIR EGGS.—Watch the hen when she goes to nest, and remove the eggs immediately. If this is done for a day or two, she will discontinue the practice. Let there be some bricklayer's rubbish thrown down in their haunts—old ceilings, mortar, &c. Generally speaking, a hen first eats the egg for the sake of the shell. An old remedy was to blow an egg, and fill it with mustard, pepper, ginger, or anything distasteful to the bird, and put it in her way.

FEEDING POULTRY.—Professor Gregory, of Aberdeen, in a letter to a friend, observes: "As I suppose you keep poultry, I may tell you that it has been ascertained that if you mix with their food a sufficient quantity of egg shells or chalk, which they eat greedily, they will lay twice or thrice as many eggs as before. A well fed fowl is disposed to lay a large number of eggs, but cannot do so without the materials of the shells, however nourishing in other respects her food may be; indeed, a fowl fed on food and water free from carbonate of lime, and not finding any in the soil, or in the shape of mortar, which they often eat on the walls, would lay no eggs at all with the best will in the world."

QUALITY.—In order to give 'quality' to the plumage particularly on special occasions, as a poultry exhibition, boil half a pint of linseed in a quart of water until it is reduced to a pint.—Pour the seed and liquid over as much meal as will absorb it, and give this every other day for a fortnight to your pen of birds, i.e., a cock and two hens.

KILLING FOWLS.—As fowls are to be killed for the table, it may be as well to point out a merciful way of destroying them—a point on which few concern themselves. Fowls are never bled to death (like turkeys and geese) as, from the loss of blood, the flesh becomes dry and insipid. Poulterers and higglers either strain at the vertebra of the neck till their dislocation takes place, or produce the same effect by a sudden twist.—The former mode is very cruel; the second plan is more merciful, but is not always skilfully managed, and requires considerable dexterity. The best plan is to take a blunt stick, such as a child's bat or boy's wooden sword, and strike the bird a smart blow at the back of the neck, about the third joint from the head; death follows in a moment.

POULTRY DUNG.—Have this regularly swept up every Saturday, packed away in barrels and sprinkled over with plaster. Dana, with force and truth, says: "The strongest of all manures is found in the droppings of the poultry yard." Next year each barrel of it will manure half an acre of land; save it, then, and add to the productive energies of your soil. Don't look upon it as too trifling a matter for your attention; but recollect that the globe itself is an aggregate of small matters.

THE AGRICULTURE OF PALESTINE

In no part of the civilized world where a productive soil abounds, is the condition of agriculture at a lower ebb than in the country about Jerusalem. The city is largely inhabited by Jews, many of whom are pensioners of their brethren in all the rest of the world. They are miserably poor, indolent, and without employment. The country round about is in possession of the Arabs who hate the Christians much and the Jews more. The Arabs are the worst farmers in the world.

It is supposed by many that the lands of Palestine are generally of the poorest character for the purpose of the husbandman. Nothing could be further from the truth. The country possesses a great diversity of climate, owing to the variation in elevation. The Valley of the Jordan, at that level of the Dead Sea, is 1,312 feet below the Mediterranean, while the Mountain of Lebanon rises above the line of perpetual snow, which is at 9,300 feet above the sea, so that here is eternal winter, while the Valley of the Jordan is a perpetual tropical climate, and between these variations of latitude there are all the varieties of productions of the temperate zones. The soil in general a calcareous, light-colored loam in the interior, particularly near Jerusalem, and near the sea shore it is a dark red loam, and on the plains of Sharon very productive, yielding three crops a year of such things as will ripen within that space. The soil produces good wheat, and corn, oats, potatoes, &c., about equal to the average crops of Connecticut. Cotton has been produced here in quality and product per acre equal to the best upland plantations in the country.