

time, the stomach of the fowl is so constructed that it can prepare grain for assimilation without cooking. There is no doubt but cooked food will fatten a fowl in shorter time than whole grain, but it is not so beneficial for them in the long run.

A simple plain for cutting off a cock's spurs without pain or loss of blood is stated, viz: Let one hold the cock firmly, placing the spur on some steady place, and another with a fine saw cut off the spur just far enough from the "quick" to prevent bleeding. Then with an ordinary file round the edges of the spur. This will save the plumage of the females and laceration of the flesh on the back which so often occurs. Yes—but where shall the sawing be done to avoid the "quick?" A good sharp pocket-knife will work just as well and it should be used to blunt the points of the male's toe-nails also.

Plenty of exercise is necessary to both male and females, if the strongest and best fertility of eggs is desirable. Fowls in close confined quarters should be compelled to exercise and no better plan can be proposed than a place not larger than 5 or 6 feet square, to be filled with straw and leaves six inches deep when well packed down. By throwing wheat and other small grain on this the kernels will fall down through and the fowls will be compelled to scratch and work through the straw to get at them. Some careful breeders insist on stirring the blood of both horse and mare, before mating them, to secure vigorous offspring.

A white-wash which will stick is very desirable for certain fences and interiors of sheds, stables and poultry houses. Here is one highly recommended: For a barrel of wash, use half a bushel of white lime, three pecks of hydraulic

cement, ten pounds of umber, ten pounds of ochre, one pound of venetian red, one pound of lamp black. Slake the lime, cut the lamp black with some vinegar and mix it with the lime; then add the cement, umber, ochre and venetian red, and fill the barrel with water. After standing twelve hours it is ready for use. It should be frequently stirred while being applied. Use a white-wash brush.

Symmetry, as a special feature in connection with the Standard plan of arriving at the merits and defects of fowls, is doing a great work by assisting the amateur in holding the required shape of the various breeds of fowls distinct from each other, enabling them to more readily detect any inroad of the one upon another, as it is a true guide to complete shape, no matter from whence the specimen came or by whom bred. It keeps the breeder and judge brightened up and ever watchful of true type. In a recent article, we made a very clouded remark about the shape of back of a certain variety, and were at once corrected by a correspondent who is ever on the watch to defend encroachments on symmetry. Of course, this object is not declared in so many words, but it is tantamount to holding us all down to a true symmetry or shape.

Rats. A cat, reared with chickens up from a small kitten, rarely acquires the habit of killing the chicks, but will make havoc with rats that infest the yards and destroy the chicks. The loss which arises from the ravages of rats amounts to fabulous figures annually. In suburban places and on farms, cats trained in the manner stated, can be of great value for this purpose, but in towns and cities there is an innumerable army of stray, thieving cats prowling around yards and barns night and

day, ready to grab up and destroy any young chick within reach. A small rat dog, one of those quick, nervous and diligent little fellows will make both rats and cats seek safer retreats, and are, therefore better than cats in thickly populated localities.

Poisons and traps are a failure, as a remedy on account of the danger connected with their use, hence it is safe to endorse the trained cat and the rat-dog for the poultry yard.

Like all other kinds of business, not every one is qualified for breeding fine fowls or desires to engage in it, yet there are but few who do not receive the advantages of it, or wish to do so. To whom are we indebted for the fowl for our table that will weigh from six to ten pounds? Certainly not the farmer or market poulterer, but to either professional or amateur breeders to whom we are indebted not only for the increased quantity of this food supply, but the enhanced value of its quality, and from none other than the scientific breeder could that laudable desire for the beautiful in fowls have been gratified.

Fancy breeding has been practiced for many years, and there are communities in which there has been a sufficient number of thoroughbred fowls purchased and bred to have had an entire supply of that kind, and, although the effect of the "fancy" can be seen in the enhanced value of nearly every flock, yet they rapidly deteriorate from the neglect to apply the principles of the "fancy," from which they were originally brought to their highest degree of excellence.—*Pierce's Poultry Gazette*.

The following useful advice is taken from the *Kansas Farmer*: Few persons know how to secure a fowl to advantage. Never seize a fowl by the tail, if a fine bird,