

which used to be considered trifling as compared with the art of farming, and were very often set apart as the producing source of pocket money for the guidwife and children, the manager of the poultry-yard usually being some worn-out domestic known as the "hen-wife." The millions of eggs that are annually imported into the United Kingdom (last year the number was given as one thousand and thirty-four millions) furnishes ample proof that the producing power of these millions must be based on a systematic and paying principle, else the supply would soon cease; and were the same care and skill brought to bear on the subject in this country as in France, there seems no reason why the production of eggs should not form a very important and paying portion of the industries of our agricultural districts. I say agricultural districts, for there the neglect is most apparent, as there the best facilities lie. Farmers are very often much prejudiced against the idea of a hen paying her way, believing in the old saying that "there never was a hen but died in debt." We have proved to our own satisfaction that a hen can with care and skill, based on an economic point of view, be made to pay her way and something more, in strict confinement, with every particle of food to be paid for. This, as well as other economic matters, requires knowledge, and that of a kind which can only be acquired by study and practice; and far be it from us to advise the uninitiated to run headlong into poultry farming. Knowledge of this kind can only be learned bit by bit, and as there is at present every probability of dairy schools being established in the country, let us hope that the henwife's department will soon be lost sight of. From a dietary point of view we are very apt also to overlook the value of eggs, whether to the stalwart man or the nervous invalid. There are few appetites which do not relish an egg in some of the many ways

in which it can be cooked, and few stomachs but what will retain and digest it cooked in some of these ways. Eggs come next to milk in containing all the elements that are necessary for complete nutrition, both of the physical and mental powers, containing as they do phosphorous, sulphur, albumen, &c., thus giving alike blood food, brain food, and muscle food. Eggs vary much in flavour, the different breeds and the different circumstances under which they are kept accounting mainly for this. Eggs laid by hens in confined runs, and fed mainly on grains, are not so strong in flavour nor so dark in yolks as the eggs of those on grass runs and fed mainly on insects and animal food. Invalids, and those of weak digestion, often prefer the eggs of the former on account of their mildness; while others of more robust digestion and stronger palates consider them "fashionless" and insipid. For our own part, we prefer the mild type, not new-laid, however, - although that is considered a recommendation for all eggs, - but stowed away for two or three weeks carefully embedded in bran or some such air-obstructing material, and then we have what is, to our taste, the most palatable egg that could be produced; but then tastes differ in most things, and very likely in eggs as well, and doubtless some will laugh me to scorn here. After trying many methods of cooking eggs, we prefer the ordinary method of boiling them. By this means they are more digestible and more nutritious than when cooked in any other way. If there is an improved plan we think it is this - Put the egg in boiling water, and let it stand close by the fire five or six minutes, keeping the water almost but not altogether at boiling point.

Eggs are also very valuable from a medical point of view. The white is serviceable in all cases of burns or scalds, and also acts as a capital antidote to corrosive poisons; and the yolk contains

an oil which, if properly extracted, is very efficacious for all kinds of flesh wounds. In their raw state eggs are also used in many ways as medicines, and singers and public speakers appreciate their value, the oratorical efforts of some of our modern statesmen being said to have been sustained by that potent compound known as "egg slip."

CRAWNESTIE.

—*The Scottish Fancier and Rural Gazette.*

RANDOM NOTES.

BY W. C. G. PETER.

In June No. of the REVIEW there are so many excellent remedies and suggestions concerning roup, that everyone should preserve that number carefully for reference when needed. With friend WIXSON I have found late chicks to be the easiest subjects for attack, and at the critical period of getting adult plumage they are very liable to contract colds, owing partly to the unfavorable season in which the change occurs, and partly to their own condition, the change incidental to that period being common to them, as to us. We cannot say they are delicate but they need care and comfort for a few weeks because the season is wet, cold, and windy, very often hot in the middle of the day with very cold nights and mornings, often frosty, or worse still raw cold rains. Shall we visit on the chick, the accident of change of season and charge it with being of a sickly nature? In common justice, no! Just as we guard young stock in our sheep and cattle owning readily their need, we should shelter and care for these little creatures in a like emergency. Who would leave young lambs to the pitiless cold and storm when weaning, and though a chick is so unlike it, in the way of obtaining sustenance, it has its corresponding season in growth, a fact so many forget. I am