

Poultry Yard.

Feeding Fowls.

There is much difference of opinion as to the best method of feeding grain to poultry. Some leave open a barrel of shelled corn, and say that less is eaten in this way than in any other. It is true that after the first few days poultry will eat less when grain is constantly by, than when fed twice or thrice each day all that they will eat by throwing it on the ground and letting them scramble for it. This is because of the strife among them for the largest share. The quantity eaten when the barrel is left open will be great for a week or so, and then the fowls will become cloyed. It is not a good practice, because the cloying process is a fattening one, and excessive fattening and thrift are not compatible. Of course, in fattening for the table this practice is good, but not in the ordinary management of fowls kept for general purposes. Even after the first rush and gluttony are over, there will be too much consumed daily. The better way is to throw down twice a day just enough and no more—never as much as they will swallow. Practice only can determine the quantity required to keep them moderately fat. They should be handled occasionally (night is a good time for this) to find out their condition.

The caution respecting over-feeding does not apply to young or partly grown birds. Give them all they will consume. There will be no danger of injury by over-eating if fed from four to a dozen times a day, according to their age. They require a highly nourishing diet, for they develop very fast and make great demands on the material stored up in their tissues. Making half-grown fowls too fat is simply impossible if they are allowed plenty of range and inducements to keep in almost constant motion. All young domestic animals require abundant exercise. Confining young chickens in pleasant weather indicates a lamentable ignorance on the part of the breeder. In fattening adult fowls, induce them to eat as much as possible for fifteen or twenty days, and then kill them before they become diseased or enfeebled in digestion. For a time they will take on flesh rapidly, and the knack consists in butchering just before the appetite is satiated, and a reaction of the system prevents a further accumulation of fat.

ICE FOR SITTING HENS.—J. E. Smith, Durham, N. H., states that he has cured an obstinate hen of a desire for "setting," by putting several lumps of ice in her nest. Such uncongenial nest-eggs must certainly exercise a demoralizing influence on the would-be mother, but in some cases the operator may surely calculate on requiring duplicate eggs.

WINTER FOOD.—In the morning we must feed boiled potatoes, or wheat bran, scalded and fed warm, as it digests easily and warms the hens up after a long, cold night. At night we must feed corn, oats and the like. At noon, vegetables, such as cabbages, raw potatoes, onions, apples, and the like, chopped up together with plenty of pepper. Meat is relished well once or twice a week. Coal ashes are of great benefit to the hen-house; put them in a box or in the corner of the house, changing them every day; the hens pick out all the little bits of slate, which serve to make eggshells. Old plaster is good, for it helps to make shell. Hens should have plenty of clean water or thick milk (the milk I think preferable) every day; there is more profit in feeding milk to the hens than to hogs.

WARM POULTRY-HOUSES.—In clear winter weather, no matter how cold the air is, if the sun shines brightly, and the air inside the poultry-house cannot escape, a surprising amount of solar heat may be collected in the house by having considerable glass on the south side.

The *Rural New Yorker* tells a correspondent that if he will "keep his fowls well supplied with lime and gravel, or brick-layers' rubbish, and animal food (fresh meat) in some form, it may prevent or cure his hens eating their eggs." But as soon as the fowls are hungry again after their repast of fresh meat (which will be in about ten minutes), they will eat either more fresh meat or eggs, if accessible, and prefer the latter. Another remedy is to scatter china eggs all around the poultry-house for fowls to peck at until disgusted, but we have found that they will not entirely cease pecking at either china eggs or the genuine ones.

WINTER PRECAUTIONS.—Too many birds should, under no circumstances, be crowded in the same room. Houses, fountains, nests, feed-boxes and yards must be kept clean and well disinfected.

Fresh, pure water for drinking, and diet changed frequently and given with discretion. Dusting baths, lime and broken or ground bones, charcoal, gravel, a limited amount of fresh meat and green food should all be provided. By adhering strictly to these requirements you need have little fear of disease.

Poultry Shows for 1877.

Ontario Poultry Society will hold their show in Galt, from the 16th to 26th January, when about \$2,000 in prizes will be awarded. D. ALLEN, Sec.

Southern Poultry Society will be held in Brantford on the 20th to 23rd February, when we have every assurance of a good exhibition. Their prizelist will be out in a few days. W. SANDERSON, Sec.

National Association of Fanciers will be held in Chicago on February 12th to 17th. C. J. WARD, Sec. and Treas.

Value of Oats for Feeding.

There is a valuable article, bristling with statistics on this subject in *Le Journal de Agriculture Pratique* for June. The writer (Mons. L. Grandean) observing that the general opinion having been that the heavier the oats weigh the more nutritive they are, states that the General Omnibus Company having for several years allowed the agricultural laboratory to make experiments, these have resulted in showing that there is no relation whatever between the natural weight and the nutritive quality of oats, the greatest difference per 100 kilogrammes found in the analysis being: In water 3.26 k.; azotized matter 3.33; fatty matter 3.64; starch 7.32; cellular tissue 7.36; and ashes, 2.22. The azotised substances and the sum of the hydrocarbons (fat, starch, &c.) varied to the greatest extent in a hundred parts of the former 35.42, and of the latter 19.70—hence, says he, the first conclusion: "That for large consumption of oats, such as those of carriage and omnibus companies, there is real interest in knowing the composition of oats, whether for purchase or for mixing rations. Giving a table of the mean analysis of nineteen kinds of French and twenty-one of foreign oats he says: "These remarkable differences between the mean composition of the oats of the two series bear mainly on their absolute richness in azote and amylaceous matter. The oats of Bohemia, Hungary and Germany, richer in protein substances, and at the same time poorer in starch, present a nutritive value superior to the mean of the nineteen French sorts analysed." To what cause, then, he asks, must we attribute these differences? To the soil, the climate, the kind cultivated, the manure, or the year of harvesting? That the nutritive value of oats, as regards the relative proportion of the protein to the non-azotised properties, was utterly independent of weight, was shown thus: "Irish black oats of 1874, the most nutritive of all analysed, weighed 44 kilogrammes a hectolitre, whilst Poutou grey oats, weighing 51.1 k., only stood eleventh in nutritive value. The oats of the Haute Marne, and of Burgundy, weighing respectively 40 and 40.2 k. per hectolitre, were far in advance of black and white Swedish; and grey Brittany oats, weighing respectively 50.5 and 48.48 k. per hectolitre. Finally, the two last oats in order of nutritive value, white Russian of 1874 and grey Brittany of 1872, weighed the one 43.5 k., and the other 42 kilogrammes. In a great many rural and, M. Grandean might have added, town works, the ration of oats is still given by measure, without taking into account the weight per hectolitre of the grain.

The Cost of Crops.

But few farmers, we think, spend a thought on the actual cost to them of any of the products of their farms, per bushel, per hundred weight, or per acre. They content themselves with knowing that the farms, as a whole, are paying their expenses and a little over. Still it is well to know of each crop, if it be profitable, and if so, what profit does it pay. The process is a simple one, and these long winter evenings give a good opportunity to those who have as yet made no calculation, to make a commencement. Will some of our subscribers examine the calculation of a Michigan farmer given below, and compare it with such items of his own farming, and let us have the result?

THE COST OF WHEAT, BY ACTUAL ACCOUNT WITH THE FIELD.

Not long since I was somewhat amused at reading in your paper a report of the proceedings of a certain Farmers' Club, in which was given some rough guessing on the cost of raising wheat. I have aimed to keep an exact account of the labour done upon my wheat crop which has been harvested the past season, and have attached to it and the other items

of expense what I considered to be a fair valuation.

Below will give you my account with a field of twenty-three acres, which may at least amuse your readers:

11 days' Plowing at \$2.50 per day.....	\$27 50
31 " " Dragging " " " " " " " " " "	13 75
31 " " Drawing manure at \$2.50 per day " " " "	8 75
6 " " Spreading do. at \$1.25 " " " " " " " "	7 50
5 " " Ganging at \$2.50 per day.....	12 50
21 " " Drilling at " " " " " " " " " "	6 25
231 bush. seed at \$1.20 per bush.....	28 20
Harvesting.....	57 85
Threshing.....	20 76
Interest on land at 7 per cent.....	119 70
Taxes.....	7 36
Wear of tools.....	10 00

Total cost.....\$320 12
Deducting \$1 per acre value of straw.... 23 00

Net total.....\$297 12
Machine measure gave 427 bushels, which, at the above estimate, would be a trifle less than 70c. per bushel. The soil in which this crop was raised is a sandy loam. The wheat grown in another field the same season cost me 80c. per bushel.—J. K., in *M. Farmer*.

CHEESE FACTORY—SOMETHING FOR THE HARD TIMES.—This is the fourth year for the Kintore Cheese factory. It has paid a profit of about 28 per cent., and the previous year the profit was 25 per cent. It is owned by about sixty or seventy partners; Mr. James McLeod, President. The cheesemaker's salary is one dollar per cwt. The number of cows whose milk was sent to the factory was 700 the past season, 11 of them the property of the writer. The price of cheese sold in August was 10½c. per lb., and the two following months 11c. So money can be made even in the hard times.
JOHN LAY, Kintore, P. O.

Miss Edith Head will please forward her P. O. address, as it has been mislaid.

Sir,—I am troubled with the bark lice on my apple trees. I have tried different kinds of washes, but cannot get rid of them yet. Please give the best remedy.
J. SEMONT.

Lakeville, Cornwallis, Nov. 25th, 1876.

FOR THE BARK LOUSE.—Scrape off the rough, scaly bark without disturbing the sound bark beneath; then soak well with lye. Some add to the lye carbolic acid. Their breeding and hiding place is under the scales and in the little corners of the rough bark. For the scraping we prefer a cow's rib to a knife. The rib does not wound the bark that is to be preserved.]

Commercial.

The markets have for some time been very inactive; in the English markets, owing to a great measure to the unsettled state of political affairs in Europe, buyers and sellers have in consequence been inclined to bide their time and wait the course of events. Prices have, however, been firm, and in some cases have again advanced.

Receipts of grain in Canadian markets have not been large. Stocks stood in Toronto on Monday as follows: Flour, 6,512 bush.; fall wheat, 35,959 bush.; oats, 17,195 bush.; barley, 438,407 bush.; peas, 29,026 bush. English markets took a start in the latter part of last week, which has been firmly maintained ever since.

ENGLISH MARKETS.

Liverpool, Dec. 27. Wheat steady; Corn firm; California White Wheat, per cental, 11s. 5d. to 11s. 9d.; Red American Spring Wheat, range of No. 2 to No. 1, per cental, 10s. 3d. to 10s. 9d.; American Mixed Corn, per qr. of 150 lbs., 27s. 6d.; Canadian Peas, per qr. of 50 lbs., 38s. 6d.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Barley, 50c to 65c per bush.; Spring Wheat, \$1.18 to \$1.20; Red Winter, \$1.15; Treacle 1, \$1.15 to \$1.25; Deihl, \$1.15 to \$1.22; Oats, 41c; Peas, 70c to 74c; Flour, from \$4.70 for superline, to \$6.50 for superior; Hogs, \$6 to \$6.80; Butter, 18c to 21c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Flour, extra, \$6.10; Choice Western Strong Bakers', \$6; Grain quiet and unchanged; Hogs, \$7 to \$7.10.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

Wheat, \$1.25 to \$1.45; Bye Flour, \$1.50 to \$5.15; Corn, 60c to 64c; Barley, dull and unchanged; Oats, 38c to 52c; Cheese, 7c to 14½c; Butter, 20c to 36c.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

Wheat, \$1.25 to \$1.28; No. 3, \$1.12; Rejected, 90c to 99c; Corn, 4½c; Oats, 34½c; Rye, 72c; Barley, 67c.

LONDON MARKETS.

Grain in all classes very steady during the week: Wheat, Deihl, \$2 to \$2.05 per cental; Treacle, \$1.80 to \$2; Red Winter, \$1.80 to \$1.90; Spring, \$1.85 to \$1.95; Barley, \$1 to \$1.20; Peas \$1.12 to \$1.15; Oats, \$1.15 to \$1.18; Corn, 90c to \$1.10; Beans, \$1 to \$1.27; Rye, \$1 to \$1.10; Apples, 30c to 50c per bush.; Potatoes, 70c to \$1 per bag; Dressed Hogs, 25.50 to \$1.50; Beef, per 100 cwt., \$4.50 to \$6; Cheese, 10c to 11c; Egg Butter, 22c to 25c; Egg Butter, 17c to 18c; Hay, per ton, 8s to 10s; Turkeys, each, 50c to \$1.50; Geese, 40c to 50c; Ducks, per brace, 50c to 60c; Cordwood, \$3.50 to \$4.25.