

Poultry Yard.

Poultry Shows.

CHICAGO POULTRY AND DOG SHOW, which took place in January last, proved the largest that has ever been held in America. We understand there was over two thousand entries of fowls, besides a good many entries of dogs, cats, rabbits, etc. Below will appear a list of the winners from Canada: Messrs. Wright & Butterfield, Sandwich, Ont.; Lamb & Jarvis, London; F. Sturdy, Guelph; Duncan Kay, Galt; A. Allen, Galt; R. McMillin, Galt; H. M. Thomas, Brooklyn; W. H. Doel, Doncaster.

CANADIAN POULTRY AT THE DETROIT SHOW.—A very fine exhibition has been held lately in Detroit, under the auspices of the Michigan State Poultry Association. Mr. Wm. Wright, of Petite Cote, Sandwich, is President. There were quite a number of Canadians among the competitors, and they attained great distinction in the prize list.

A POULTRY SHOW has been held in Brantford. It was a good exhibition, and was a credit to the Brantford Poultry Association.

Lime.

Some of our farming friends appear to be deeply impressed with the notion that hens need no food but corn in some one of its forms. But we ought not to forget that "food" means the material for everything that comes out of the system, and that if any particular race takes up any special branch of manufacture, they must have the raw material. All animals consume more or less of lime; it is one of the principal elements entering into the composition of the bones, but the hen needs an extra supply.

The domesticated hen also needs more than wild stock of any sort, since she is stimulated to a greater production of eggs. In consequence, we must give her more than is contained in the various grains.

The most useful forms in which to give lime are pounded shells, pulverized mortar and crushed bone. On the whole, we prefer the former. Its preparation makes a good stint for the boys. We object to bone meal if not perfectly sweet, but a good, sound article is a first rate thing for this use.

Feed lime most abundantly at the time when hens are laying most freely, and anticipate, if possible, by beginning early in the season, lest your fowls eat a shellless egg and acquire bad habits.

Raw and Cooked Food.

We believe in due caution in applying the needs of one kind of animals to another, as the most outrageous blunders are sometimes made in so doing. Yet we wish that poultry breeders would take a hint from the experience of breeders of other stock in the matter of cooked food, particularly for delicate, sick and valuable fowls.

Cooking adds to the amount of nutritious matter in some kinds of food, and in all, or nearly all, softens it and renders it easy of digestion. (Cooking, indeed, is not the only method of softening grain. It is sometimes fermented, thus advancing it one stage in the process of digestion before it enters the stomach.)

The evidence for horses, cattle and swine is greatly in favor of cooked diet, both as to the health of the stock, and the percentage of grain in weight.

We boil corn in the kernal, or even in the ear, not letting the ears rest against the bottom of the kettle. Mush is, of course, just as good, but you must grind it and stir it while boiling.

If you use cooked food, alternate it with raw, for the sake of variety, but do not give them together, as the hens will not, as a general thing, touch the boiled corn if the uncooked article is at hand.

Is Poultry Keeping Profitable?

The above question has been asked me many times, and, I am sorry to say, I have heretofore been obliged to say "I did not know." I can now answer very decidedly in the affirmative, having kept a correct account of profit and loss from Dec. 1, 1874 to Dec. 1, 1875.

As a minute statement of statistics is uncalled for, I will only say my profit for the year has been

\$50 on fifty hens. We have concluded eggs pay better than poultry. Unless one can get chicks into market when they are bringing 40c. to 50c. per pound, it does not pay to raise them for market. Of course one must raise enough for his own table; which he would naturally do, as many must be hatched to get 30 or 40 pullets. I keep only two kinds, and think I shall keep but one another year; that will be the Light Brahma. I now have Plymouth Rock, large and handsome, but can see no advantage in keeping them, as everything to be asked for in fowls is combined in the Light Brahma, and they have one great advantage over the Plymouth Rock, namely, picking so much whiter and looking very much cleaner and handsomer dressed.

Condiments for Poultry.

A moderate quantity of cayenne pepper, mustard or ginger can, with great benefit, be added to the food of fowls to increase their vigor, and to stimulate egg production. This diet, although apparently artificial, is really natural; for wild birds of the gallinacean family have access to very many highly spiced berries and buds—articles that give the "game flavor" to their flesh. Although there is more or less of an aromatic principle in wheat, Indian corn and other grains consumed by the domestic fowl, yet the quantity is not sufficient to supply the place of the stronger spices, a taste for which is inherited by the fowl.

The Apiary.

Honey Resources.

Let every bee-keeper prepare a sheet of paper as follows:—Head it with Honey Resources; draw four vertical lines on it, thereby making five columns; over the first column write, Name of Resource; over the second, Commencement; third, Quality; fourth, Quantity; and over the fifth, Duration. As soon as you find your bees are gathering honey in the spring, ascertain the source and quality of the honey being gathered, and enter them in their respective columns, together with the date of commencement. When they cease gathering from this source, note the quantity, and write the length of time which has elapsed since its commencement, the column marked "duration." Continue in the same manner throughout the entire season to record each source from which your bees gather honey. The quantity of honey gathered can be very nearly ascertained by weighing the hives each day and noting their weight.

When we judge of the quantity of honey secreted by different varieties of flowers, by the quantity which is gathered while each kind is in blossom, we must take into consideration the strength and condition of the colony, as it works upon each variety, for its numbers are liable to vary greatly during the honey season. Much also depends upon the weather.

At the end of the season, in looking over the table in which you noted down the different weights of your hives, you will find there were times of scarcity, during which little honey was gathered; and, by referring to the table which we have just described, you can very readily tell what kinds of flowers were in blossom at this time.—This would be a hint for you to cultivate those varieties more extensively another year; or if they were wild flowers or weeds which you did not wish to cultivate, let it be a hint for you to ascertain what kinds of field crops or ornamental flowers are in blossom at time of the year, also for you to cultivate them.

All this may seem considerable trouble, but it will pay.—*Bee Journal.*

Ages of Bees

The queen passes about three days in the egg and five a worm; the workers then close her cell, and she immediately begins to spin her cocoon, which takes her from twenty to twenty-four hours. On the tenth and eleventh days, and perhaps a part of the twelfth day, she seems to be exhausted by her hard labor. She now remains in almost complete repose; she then passes four or five days as a nymph, and on the fifteenth to the sixteenth day a perfect queen is attained. Much depends upon the strength of the colony and the heat of the season, which will vary from one to two days.

The drone passes three days in the egg and about six in the worm, and changes into a perfect insect

on the twenty-fourth day after the egg is laid. Much depends upon the strength and heat of the colony, which should be about 70° Fah., for their speedy development. They lie in rather a dilatory state for several days after they hatch, before taking wing.

The worker bee spins its cocoon in thirty-six hours. After passing three days in the egg in this state of preparation for a new life, it gradually undergoes a great change, and becomes armed with a firmer body scales of a brownish color and somewhat fringed with light hairs. On its belly it has six rings or scales. After it has reached the twenty-first day of existence—reckoning from the egg—it comes forth from the cell on the twenty-first to the twenty-second day a perfect insect, and is termed an imago. This is the simple stage of the worker bee. As it is fully developed when it comes forth, except in size, it soon becomes a sportive inhabitant of the air, and ready to enter upon the duties of gaining a livelihood, which varies from six to eight days from its birth, then all seems to be business the remainder of their existence.—*Ex.*

BEES ON A SMALL SCALE.—There are many householders whose means will not enable them to buy a cow, or provide keeping for her were they in possession of one. But they may be equal to the purchase of a colony of bees, and to provide hives for the swarms resulting therefrom. Bees, like other stock, require pasturage, but, unlike horses, cattle and sheep, they are free commoners, ranging at will in search of stores, nor can they be arrested and punished for their intrusion upon premises alien to their owners. A single colony of bees, in good condition in the spring, may be counted upon to double or triple their numbers in a single season, securing ample stores for winter consumption, while supplying a gratifying surplus each autumn for household use. This accumulation will prove most acceptable in families, especially while the price of butter rules so high as to place it beyond the reach of those not blessed with elongated and plethoric purses. Try a colony of bees as an experiment.—*Farmers' Union.*

Catalogues Received.

James Vick's, of Rochester; new cuts, neat and spicy. He cuts into the United States Government agriculture affairs lively. Read it.

Briggs Bros., Rochester; very neat.
B. K. Bliss & Sons, of New York; catalogue much improved.

J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass.; gives accounts of a fresh importation of a melon and other novelties.

D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, send us the largest of American catalogues; it is well got up.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, send three catalogues; they speak highly of a new pear.

Stoors, Harrison & Co., Rochester, fruit, bulbs, &c. They are celebrated for the sweet chestnut.

Fleming, New York; Vanderbilt's, New York; Hawkins's, Goshen, and H. Michel's, St. Louis, all contain useful information.

CANADIAN CATALOGUES.

G. Keith, Toronto. He sells more seed than any other house in that city.

J. A. Simmers, Toronto. His greatest specialty is flowers. He has his name up in that city.

W. Rennie, general list of seeds and implements.

W. H. Marcon, Guelph, seeds and superphosphate.

J. & A. Bruce, Hamilton, have the largest and best seed store in Canada.

McColl and Child, of London, both send out good catalogues.

We consider Sutton's Amateur Guide, sent by Sutton & Sons, England, is the best catalogue of the season. We thank each of you for your kindness.

NOTICE.—As our greatest loss consists in the credit system, we are determined to discontinue it as soon as possible. We wish to improve your paper; and, as the credit system prevents our progress, we intend striking off the names of those that are in arrears, and charging those that continue in arrears a higher rate, to make up for the losses of delinquents. After this date 12½ cents per month will be charged, and all costs of collection will be added. The cash system is the best.
EDITOR.