



## Poultry Yard.

### Poultry as Egg Producers.

We commend the following article on this subject, as being eminently judicious, and can confirm it in most particulars from a pretty thorough experience with nearly all the varieties of fowl named. The article is from *The Field*, one of the best, if not the very best, rural newspaper in England:—

"Many persons keep poultry almost exclusively for the sake of their eggs, and the question which naturally presents itself to their minds is, what variety of poultry will yield the greatest value in eggs in return for the corn they consume? Like many other questions, this does not admit of a straight-forward answer. Before it can be answered other questions must be asked. Are you particular as to the size of your eggs? Do you especially want a good supply in winter? Have you an unlimited range for your fowls, or are they in a place more or less confined? If the mere weight and number of eggs is taken into consideration, we believe that no fowls will give so good a return for their food as Gold and Silver Spangled. The pullets of this breed will, if well fed and with a free range, commence laying at about six months age, and will continue to lay 10 or 11 eggs a fortnight until next moulting season. After the next season they will lay admirably, but not quite so freely. We are certain that no fowls will give so many eggs for their food as these beautiful birds; and, for choice as layers, we would select the Silvers. There is no doubt but that five pullets of this breed may be depended on for supplying considerably over 1,000 eggs in twelve months. But they have their drawbacks—they are innocent of all knowledge of bounds, and fly like wild-fowl; as might be inferred from their laying propensities, do not sit, and their eggs are slightly below the average size of those of the larger fowls.

"If eggs of large size are required, and the fowls have to be kept in or near large towns, none answer better than Spanish. In the number of eggs they yield they fall short of the Spangled, but still they are very superior layers. They do not as a rule arrive at maturity quite so early, and their laying is rather interrupted by their prolonged moult in the autumn.

"Where a supply of new-laid eggs is required in the winter, irrespective of temperature, Cochins, Buff, White, or Partridge, or Brahmas, are the most to be depended on, as when they have attained an age of seven or eight months the pullets of these breeds lay quite irrespective of season, of course supposing they are well fed. They have the advantage of not requiring a very large space, and of being easily confined by low fences; but from their size they are necessarily large eaters, and, in spite of all the nonsense written about them on their first introduction, they do not lay two eggs in one day; and unlike Spanish and the Spangled Hamburgs, their laying propensities are very much interfered with by their tendency to become broody.

"If eggs and eggs alone are the object for which fowls are kept, we would say keep Hamburg or Spanish, and every autumn buy a few small sized Cochins pullets; these will answer a two-fold purpose, they will lay in the most intense frost, and when broody will hatch out your pure-bred eggs. From their buff colour the eggs of the Cochins will be at once distinguished from those of the other fowls, and no chance of rearing half-bred mongrels will ensue. None of these varieties will furnish first-class table poultry. The Spanish are too long in the leg, the Hamburgs, though plump, are too small; and the Cochins are too yellow in the skin, and too little developed in the breast."

### Poultry Experience and Questions.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

Sir:—Having determined to keep fowls this year, I bought a cock and 11 hens, some of them very old, and with them I raised 58 chickens, Brahmas, Polands, Dominiques, and Spanish. Some of them are very

fine, the largest cock (hatched the 25th of April), weighing over 7½ lbs. More than half of the chickens are cocks. My fowls have laid badly since I have had them, the greatest number of eggs I have had per day being 1, and that only for a short time in the month of April, and often I get only 1 egg every other day. Some of my pullets 6 months old do not lay, while others (of the same age and of the same breed, viz., Brahmas,) do. I have tried corn, peas, oats, tailings, and frequently large quantities of meat, sometimes mixed with cayenne pepper and sometimes with sulphur. I always feed them until they leave, and beside this, they always have the run of the garden and plenty of clean water.

Will you, Mr. Editor, or some of your correspondents, be kind enough to answer the following questions, through THE CANADA FARMER: 1st. Can fowls be made too fat for laying, and is that the matter with mine; or do they not lay because of the number of cocks? 2nd. What is the best and cheapest food for fowls? 3rd. What is the best way of telling the sex of eggs? 4th. Are Brahma fowls pure when they have no feathers down their legs? 5th. Are the Black Polands with white top-knots pure when their top-knot is part black? 6th. Are Dorkings ever yellow and without a fifth toe? J. H. L., (a boy.)

Elgin, Oct. 31, 1861.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We are glad to find so intelligent and enquiring a mind in our young correspondent. Most of his queries admit of ready answer. The numbers prefixed to our replies correspond with those of the above questions.

1. Fowls can be made too fat to lay, and this may probably explain your lack of eggs. There is, however, considerable difference in the egg-laying propensity among fowls as it respects earliness. Some begin at a much earlier age than others. It is well to keep the earliest layers as breeders. 2. This is a much debated question, and no reply can be given that applies in all cases and all localities. The articles of food you mention are all good. Lime should be given in some shape to form the material of egg-shells. It is well to vary the food of fowls somewhat. 3. Several methods are proposed; we cannot say which is the best, or if any one of them is a certain test. One mode is given in THE CANADA FARMER No. 7, p. 109. 4. They may be pure without being feather-legged, but they are not considered so handsome by breeders generally. 5. It is thought a mark of beauty to have the top-knot as purely white as possible, but there is often a mixture in pure birds. 6. The Dorking cock is often yellow or straw-coloured about the neck hackles. Pure-bred Dorkings sometimes lack the fifth toe, and some breeders think it a defect that should be bred out.

### Another Good Egg Average.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

Sir:—Noticing in your last issue the statement of Mr. Veitch's success in poultry keeping, I would like to give it a parallel by recording the results of our own. We have nearly the same number of Black Spanish and Golden Pheasant, and according to our experience, they have done as well, if not better, than any other breed that I have seen recorded. At the same time they are very easily kept, and are not expensive. The six best months of 1863 and 1864, show as follows:—

	1863.	1864.
March 11 hens	54 eggs	10 hens, 150 eggs
April, 13 "	198 "	" 216 "
May, 11 "	222 "	" 180 "
June, 9 "	78 "	" 174 "
July, 9 "	84 "	" 150 "
August, 7 "	60 "	" 144 "

Being an increase this year of 318 with a less number of hens. Last year's average was 121, this year's 174. We attribute the increase entirely to the difference of food. Last year we gave them grain, such as corn and barley, which made them too fat to lay well. This year we gave them bran, shorts, and screenings. We have no difficulty in keeping our hens from sitting, as we have never yet known any of the English Pheasant (golden) to want to sit, and the Black Spanish but very seldom.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Collingwood, Nov. 7, 1864.



## The Household.

### Corns.

MANY persons live in daily martyrdom from these painful excrescences. How to get rid of them is a question they often ask very anxiously. Often the remedy tried is as bad, if not worse, than the disease itself. A very simple and effectual plan, as we know by personal experience, is to put on an adhesive wool plaster, having a hole in the centre, and apply a little sweet oil to the corn night and morning. By persevering in this course for a short time, the corn will scale off, until not a vestige of it is left. Most druggists keep the plasters we refer to; but a good substitute for them may be made with any thick cloth, cut about the size and shape of a copper cent, with a hole in the centre to admit the head of the corn, and fastened to the place by some adhesive substance. The plaster keeps the shoe from pressing on the tender spot, and the oil softens and loosens the hard substance of the corn. The following paragraph on this subject appeared recently in the *Country Gentleman*, and describes a process of eradication similar in principle to the above, but at once quicker and more painful:—

"The shape of a corn is exactly similar to that of a carpenter's nail, having a crown or head and a stem pointing downward, which, piercing through the true underskin, irritates the nervous fibres in its vicinity. To cut off the head of the corn is only temporary relief—a cure can only be accomplished by cautiously digging out the stem, which may be thus done by a steady hand: steep it in hot water, and rub it with a coarse towel, or the finger-nail will not remove it; place a small quantity of oil on the corn, and let it soak well in. Then with a penknife, or what is still better, a sharp bodkin, work it out of its bed as you would a thorn. Not a drop of blood should be shed during the operation, and its success may be tested by finding pressure unaccompanied by pain. A small piece of diachylon plaster, with a cessation of pressure, will complete the cure. Should inflammation have been excited—which may be known by the redness prevailing around it—rest and emollient applications, such as linseed poultice, or a fig, will be found beneficial."

### Receipts.

"W. H. Pugno," of Little Britain, sends us the following receipts:—

DEAD SHOT FOR BED BUGS.—Persons troubled by this race of nightly rest disturbers, will be glad to hear that by putting into water as much Corrosive Sublimate as will dissolve, and doing the joints of the bedsteads and cracks of ceilings a few times, the bugs will entirely disappear.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS.—Hogs, when put to fatten, should be supplied with plenty of fresh earth. Their nature is to wallow. Pounded charcoal, if fed twice or three times a week, will be eaten freely. It corrects the stomach, and combines with the digestible properties of the food, and is deposited with it. Thus it adds to the weight and greatly to the solidity and flavour of the meat.

HOW TO CATCH HAWKS AND OWLS.—Erect in the middle of your field, a long pole. Set a steel trap upon the top, and the unwary hawk and owl will light directly in the trap. By this means hundreds may be taken in one season.

SOFT GINGER BREAD.—Two eggs, 1 cup molasses; 1 cup sour cream; 2 tablespoons ginger; 1 teaspoon soda. Stir quite thin.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—One egg; 1 tablespoon sugar; 1 tablespoon sour cream; 1 cup sweet milk; 2 teaspoons cream of tartar; 1 teaspoon of soda; 1 pint of flour. Bake half an hour. Serve with any sauce. Sweetened cream is good.