

with admirable docility, and wake up quite hungry when the admission of light about an hour before next feeding time, reminds them of benefits to be received. They are fed three times a day—viz., 6:30 a. m., 1 p. m., and 7 p. m. Each time they are given as much food as they can devour, and the feeder waits till all have finished before darkening the sheds. During feeding time the windows are opened in order to admit fresh air. No water is ever given. I find the birds do much better without it. The foods vary very much, in the following order:

Sunday.—1. Bread and milk. 2. Barley meal with a little spice. 3. Toppings and maize meal mixed.

Monday.—1. Boiled rice and milk, sweetened with coarse sugar. 2. Oatmeal and milk. 3. Boiled barley, made quite soft.

Tuesday.—1. Barley and maize meals mixed. 2. Rice boiled in milk and rolled in choppings. 3. Oatmeal and potatoes mixed.

Then as before.

Skim milk (quite sweet), coarse sugar, and the cheap treacle are most useful adjuncts. The boiled grain, which is not a constant diet, is very useful in "breaking in" fowls that have not been accustomed to the soft food. In hot weather cabbage, lettuce, or grass is mixed with the food finely chopped.

To finish off birds which are approaching the end of the regimen, mutton or beef-suet, or good dripping, is given separately. A piece the size of a walnut three times a day will be eagerly devoured and materially assists in putting on fat. The duration of fattening for a bird of 5 lbs. is from thirty to sixty days; for a larger fowl, from three to three-and-a-half months. Large birds should, if put in at 7½ lbs., weigh quite 9½ to 10 lbs. at the end of their time. The troughs are soaked in clean water all night to keep them free from sourness. If a bird refuses to eat, it should not be coaxed, but starved a little; it will come round very soon. How much better is a fat, tender fowl than a hard, lean one!—*Henwife, in London Live Stock Journal.*

Another English paper treats this subject as follows:

Now-a-days it is the custom among many breeders of table fowls to finish them off with a fortnight's close feeding, which is calculated to increase their weight considerably and give them a flavor which is at the same time rich and palatable. This is done in different ways. Some raise a lot of birds together, picking them up from their runs once a week and shutting them in a house together, where they are crammed with prepared food, which generally consists of ground oats and suet, or fat

of even a cheaper kind. The birds manage to digest this soft food very well without exercise, put on flesh rapidly if in good health, and are soon ready, the period being ascertained by the feeder by handling, when they are at once killed. Some birds will not fatten, as it is called, although chickens do not really put on much fat at any time, but rather flesh, while if they are kept too long, or their food or drink be allowed to get sour, they sometimes go the other way. There are men in Sussex who are fatteners or finishers by trade, buying up hundreds of young birds from the cottagers and farmers, feeding them at home in the way described, and then killing and plucking them and sending to market. Some of these people do a tremendous trade, especially at those seasons of the year when prices rule high. They have the usual advantages enjoyed by middle-men; thus they always know the prices they are likely to obtain for their goods. The salesmen depend upon them, or always endeavor to suit them, because they are compelled to work together with men who really stand in a position as customers to them, or one which is at least as important. This being the case, the fatterer, whose business is large and money always ready, is depended upon, to a great extent, by the little people in his district, who really breed for him, and are in reality compelled to receive his prices. Thus he actually has a good margin which secures him from loss and enables him to do very well indeed. It is safe to say that as a general rule the breeders seldom get the benefit of high figures or anything more than a sensible advance when London prices are very high indeed.

Not very long ago we were at a farm where many hundreds of birds were bred each year, and a system used which differs something from the above. At about 16 weeks the chickens are taken up and put in rows in little compartments, the floors of which are composed of a few slats of wood, so that the manure could fall through into the drawer beneath, which was sawdusted. In front of each little case was a trough of wood, into which the soft food was placed, and this was composed of milk and meal boiled, or fine greaves and meal also cooked. It was given in a thin, sloppy state, in order to prevent the necessity of giving water as well; but the birds did well, although some difficulty was experienced in keeping the troughs absolutely sweet. Here some two or three hundred were caged and fed at once, and their places filled up as fast as they were taken out for market.

In France another system is adopted in some places where chickens are fattened by a machine, the invention, we believe, of M. Odele Martin. A nozzle is put into the bird's mouth, and, with a slight pressure of the foot, a quantity of soft pre-