

## The Poultry Yard.

### Emblen Geese.

The appellation of Embden has been obtained from a town of that name in Westphalia, but, in this country, they are sometimes called by the name of "Bremen," owing it is claimed, to the first two tries ever brought into America having been imported from Bremen in Germany, by a Mr. Jacques in 1821, and called by him after that town. Originally however, they were brought to England from Holland.

The Embden goose has prominent blue eyes, is remarkably strong in the neck, and the feathers from near the shoulder to the head are far more curled than is seen in other birds. The plumage is uniformly pure white, the bill flesh color and free from dark blotches, and the legs and feet orange. In carriage they should be tall and erect, with fine square bodies, which in fat specimens touch the ground. They come to enormous size, a three year old gander has weighed as much as thirty-two pounds, and a goose of the same age twenty-six, but a good bird of any breed weighing twenty pounds is considered very fine, and for breeding purposes such weight is quite sufficient to ensure good stock.

The Embden goose seldom lays till after a year old. Their eggs are white in color, very large and rough in the shell, which is extremely thick. Regular goose breeders rarely, if ever, allow the geese themselves to sit, but put from three to four eggs under a cochon or dorking hen, which can well cover and take care of them. A turkey hen also makes a capital mother. The eggs should be regularly sprinkled with luke-warm water to prevent the shell becoming so hard as to check the egress of the young. Sometimes, but not often, they lay two settings of eggs in a season. The period of incubation is thirty days.

The goslings are easily reared on the same food as ducklings, but they require green food as well, and for this purpose young green onions are strongly recommended. When once fledged, they will thrive well with no other food than can be procured by them in the field or by the wayside, until later in the fall, when they should be shut up for a few weeks, and fed on meal, oats &c.; they will lay on flesh quickly and come to great weight. Embden geese do not necessarily require much water, but of course, to look well, the pure Embden geese will require a large pond or brook to wash themselves in.

One of the great advantages of the Embden geese, is that all their feathers being perfectly white, their value where many are kept, is far greater in the market than is even the case with "mixed" feathers. The quiet domestic character of this variety causes them to lay on flesh rapidly. They never stray away from their home, the nearest pond and field satisfying their wants, and much of their time is spent in quiet repose. Their flesh is equal to that of the famous Toulouse of France. Mr. Hewitt says, "these birds have an advantage even over the Toulouse. In instituting comparisons between the white and colored geese, I have noticed that the pendent abdominal pouch of the Toulouse tells sadly against it when dressed, and would undoubtedly be prejudicial against its sale, in accordance with current opinion of such an appendage being indicative of advanced age."

All white aquatic poultry are considered to dress of a clearer and better appearance than the parti-colored or dark feathered birds, more especially when young. This arises from the patches where the dark feathers grow, showing even after being carefully plucked, more particularly if the plumage at the time they are killed happens to be immature.

### Good Range and Plenty of Water.

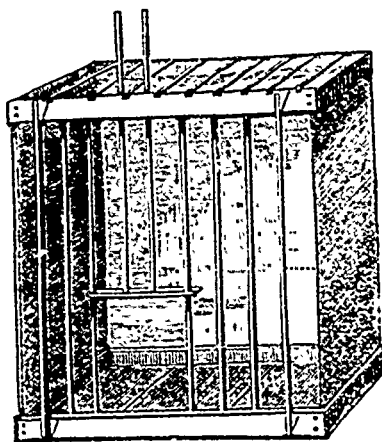
I have for many years been a poultry fancier, and for a few years have bred the Asiatic and French varieties, and am satisfied that it pays better than the same capital in any other investment.

Although the past year has been a very unfavorable one, and many poultry yards have been almost entirely depopulated by diseases incident to fowls, still this is no argument against the improvement of our domestic birds. Large numbers of fowls cannot be successfully reared

together, especially in limited range, and this is often a cause of defeat with inexperienced fanciers who are anxious to increase their numbers beyond the capacity of their accommodations, and ready to ascribe the cause to something else, for which they look forever in vain. This is the rock on which I split, and it was only by sad experience that I learned the truth that beyond a certain limit you must not attempt to go, and if you do, your chances are, to lose all. As to the number of fowls which may be successfully reared on a given amount of space, that will depend on the location and surroundings. If the ground be high and dry, and remote from marshes, a larger number will thrive than on low and swampy ground, and although a pure and plentiful supply of water is indispensable, it should be supplied either by an active stream or a dripping fountain. It has been estimated that one acre of ground is enough for 300 fowls, but my opinion is to the reverse, and that three acres of ground will better accommodate 100 fowls. In conclusion, let me say that upon the hygienic surroundings of your poultry yards, buildings, etc., much of your success will depend. —Cor. Poultry Argus.

### Exhibition Coop.

The coop depicted on this page is an American invention, and is called "Shepard's Collapsible Coop." It was used, and found great favor at the last shows of the Connecticut Poultry Societies. To our mind it could be im-



proved by substituting an opening door for the sliding one, as the latter could not be got at if there were more than one tier of coops. The top and bottom of the coop are drawer-shaped, and are held apart, when expanded, by four removable posts. The two sides and back are of cloth permanently secured to the top and bottom. The rear posts are on the outside of the cloth, so that there are three smooth cloth walls against which it is impossible to injure a feather. The posts are keyed-in by dove-tailed wedges, which hold the parts very rigidly together. For packing, the four posts and the rounds in front are withdrawn and packed inside the bottom, when the cloth sides



are folded inwards with a bellows fold, and the top and bottom collapse. Although designed for exhibition purposes only, some of the exhibitors use it for transporting their birds to and from the exhibition.

### Diseased Feet in Chickens.

Under the above heading we find in the London *Fanciers Gazette* a communication from M. Leno, an old and some what famous breeder of chickens, in which he says:

During the last twenty-six years I have been solicited by near neighbors to unravel, if possible, the mystery of diseased feet in chickens, which included young turkeys, pheasants and poultry. I found the toes of many completely eaten off, some crumpled up with sores, others with toes turned under the foot and of course many deaths, as they could scarcely move about. I made the most careful enquiries of the several individuals as to the food given to them, and in every case I found a large quantity of animal food was being used, such as hard-boiled eggs, mutton and boiled rabbit.

A man employed by myself also tried one year some mutton for young pheasants. I cautioned him, desiring him to use it very sparingly, but my cautioning was un-

heeded; the consequence was, that in a few days numbers of the birds became lame, their feet and legs appearing as though they had been dipped in hot water, the feet of many breaking out in sores—the toes, as disease increased, turning and crumpling up as before named, the toes of some completely rotting off, and only a very few that were affected recovering. I ordered the meat to be discontinued at once, the result of which was that not a single bird fell with the disease that had not been fed with the meat, proving to my mind that the disease was caused through the too liberal use of animal food; and the other cases I inspected were similarly affected to mine.

My opinion, founded on long experience, as regards so-called cramp in young pheasants and poultry, is that it is caused by a too bountiful supply of animal food, and not by wet ground. I know many game and poultry rears who will believe me to be on the wrong scent; but when so-called cramp makes its appearance, reduce the quantity of animal food and note the result. I am not against the use of animal food, for I know, if judiciously and sparingly used, it is a very great help; but overdo it, and the result will prove very disastrous.

## The Apiary.

### Bees, Wasps and Grapes.

Some persons imagine that the bees injure fruits, and especially grapes. They are greatly in error. It is useful to insist on the part taken by bees and hornets in the prejudice done to our vineyards. First let us consult the books. I do not find a single book on agriculture or horticulture, fruit or grape culture, that does not cite the wasp among noxious insects that should be fought incessantly and mercilessly; while not a single book mentions as such the industrious honey-bee, whose indicator I now am.

The wasp pierces the fruits, to the grapes it leaves nothing but the skin and the seeds. The bee only profits by those spoils; for she usually goes from blossom to blossom, gathering honey in gardens and fields. If at times she is seen in orchards or vineyards, where she only goes after the wasps, it is only to gather the remains of the feast.

Curious experiments have been tried, it appears. Some sound fruits were placed simultaneously within the reach of both wasps and bees, the former have soon achieved their work of destruction, while the latter starved to death.

Therefore, bees do not eat grapes. So it is with profound conviction that I say to those who wish, if not to prohibit, at least to render impossible the establishment of hives in the neighborhood of large cities, under the fallacious pretext that they destroy grapes. Respect the bee, since she respects our fruits: let her live in peace near us, she never will be ungrateful. Is she not the mysterious instrument that helps and facilitates the phenomenon of the fertilization of flowers, and perhaps produces those innumerable and beautiful varieties by carrying pollen from the calyx of one into that of another? Is she not the living image of work, that gives us the perfumed honey and the wax that we use so diversely? —*Bee Journal*.

**RED CLOVER.**—I noticed in August and the beginning of September, while the bees were gathering honey from the buckwheat, that they obtained pollen of a brownish color from some source. On investigating the matter, I found that they collected it from the red clover. This somewhat surprised me, as I had never seen them gathering honey from the red clover to such an extent, particularly while other forage was plenty. It is true I have seen a few, in the fore part of summer, at the red clover; but they were very few. I have also noticed that the bees visited only those heads that were imperfect, the tubes being shorter in consequence. —*R. B. O., in Bee Journal*.

**PRUNING BEES.**—Most apiarists would be benefitted vastly by having the combs lifted out of each hive just before they gather any quantity of honey to fill the combs and give them a thorough examination; some have too much drone comb, which should be cut out; others have ill-shaped or crooked combs, which may be straightened or cut out. Brood combs after being in use a few years, get filled up with cocoons so as to reduce the size of the cell, and require more labor of the bees to keep them in order than to make new ones. We have extracted out of one cell forty-four cocoons of bee shrouds, which was evidence that forty-four bees had been raised in this cell, such combs should be rejected, but never on account of being black or of a dark color. The dressing up of the combs of a stock of bees, if properly done, will encourage and induce new industry into them. We have known colonies that were doing little or no good, which, by pruning, were made to pay a large per cent. The combs of each colony should be examined, at least once each year; a careful inspection will do a prosperous colony no harm, while it will rid the defective ones. —*Practical Farmer*.