Poultry Yard.

Management of Chickens.

Chickens require neither food nor drink on the day on which they are hatched. Both are injurious, as they interfere with the natural digestion of the yelk, which is absorbed into the bowels at the period of hatching, and constitutes the first food. If grits, oatmeal and the like are spread before the hen on the twenty-first day, she is induced to leave the nest, the last-hatched chickens are unable to follow, and being weakly, frequently perish. If undisturbed, the hen seldom leaves the nest on the twenty-first day, while on the twenty-second day the chickens will be found strong enough to follow her. The plan of cramming pepper-corns or grains of barley down the throats of newly hatched chickens is exceedingly injurious. The best food for them is sweet, coarse oatmeal, mixed into a crumbly paste with milk, and a certain proportion of custard made by beating together an egg with two tablespoonfuls of milk, and "setting" it by a gentle heat. Custard so made is eaten with avidity, snd the chickens make rapid progress upon it. Such a preparation is far superior to the hard-boiled egg so often employed, which is not relished by the chicken. The young birds are also very fond of a little cold oatmeal porridge; milk is frequently used to mix the barley or oatmeal, but it should be remembered that it soon becomes sour in summer, and is decidedly injurious if employed in that state. No more food, therefore, should be mixed with milk than can be eaten in a few hours. Sopped bread is by no means desirable, since it does not appear to afford the necessary resistance to the natural grinding of the gizzard, and consequently the chickens soon become weakly and affected with diarrhœa from its use. In order to satisfy the hunger of the hen, which is usually very great when she leaves the nest, it is quite desirable to give her as much grain as she can consume. Then, having satiated her own appetite, and quenched her thirst, which all this time is considerable, she will brood over her unfledged young and keep them at rest, whilst they are digesting the yelk that has been absorbed just before hatching. After the first few days some whole grain, such as small tail wheat, or some barley, may be given to the young brood, and it will be found to be greatly relished, and doubtless affords a wholesome exercise for the extraordinary grinding power of the gizzard. Chickens should either have a constant supply of food, or be fed at very short intervals. The first food should be given at daybreak. With regard to animal food there is none equal to the natural supply of worms and insects obtained by the hen when she is at large; small worms or a shovelfull of mould, containing an ant's nest, may be given, if the chickens are in a confined situation, and will be found far superior to boiled egg, chopped meat, or any mere artificial substitute. Cooping, which is frequently employed to prevent the wandering of hens with chickens, is not desirable, and though in many cases it is a necessary evil, yet not the less an evil.—*American Cultivator.*

Speaking of ill-flavor of eggs, *The Journal of Horticulture*, London, remarks that it is the result of one of two causes—either the food on which the fowls are fed or the substance on which the eggs are laid, and adds:

This may be easily tested by shutting up a laying hen and giving her garlic or malted barley to eat. In a few days the eggs will taste of the food. We have tried this ourselves, and know it to be correct. Another theory is—but we cannot speak of it with the same certainty—that an egg laid on any strong smelling substance will contract it. This is explained by the fact that the shell when the egg is first laid is comparatively soft and impressionable, and only hard after contact with the atmosphere. Let your birds be wholesomely fed on plain food and your nests be made with clean staw. Hay nests have a tendency to make eggs taste. Follow Nature and you will have nothing to complain of.

Packing Eggs for Transportation.

Many devices have been tried for packing eggs for hatching after transportation. My way is to take a box of suitable size for the number to be sent, allowing plenty of room. I bore a hole in two opposite sides, and make a rope-handle by putting a piece of rope in from the outside, and tying a knot on it to keep it from pulling out. The knots at the ends should both be on the inside, and the rope should be long enough to have a little slack when the lid is on. I pack a layer of hay, about two inches thick, on the bottom of the box; on this I put a layer of fine, perfectly dry sawdust or bran; now take the eggs, one at a time, and wrap them in a small piece of paper, and stick them into the bran endwise; when all are in, put on enough bran to cover the eggs, shaking slightly, so as to settle it close around them. Now another layer of hay to cover all. Screw the lid on, and mark. Eggs should not be too close to the sides of the box, nor too many in a box, unless one has had experience in packing. The box should be marked with a stencil "Eggs! With Care." The neater and more convenient it is to handle, the more respect it will probably receive at the hands of expressmen. Fresh eggs from healthy, thrifty fowls packed in this way, should (and do) hatch a fair percentage after long trips.—*Dr. Dickie.*

J. J. Cohems, in the *Journal of Agriculture*, says, "Use wood ashes, four-eighths; lime, three-eighths; salt, one-eighth. Mix well and apply around the trunk of fruit trees, and it will cure blight, provided the ground near the trees is not deeply cultivated, as the deep cultivation will surely cause blight.

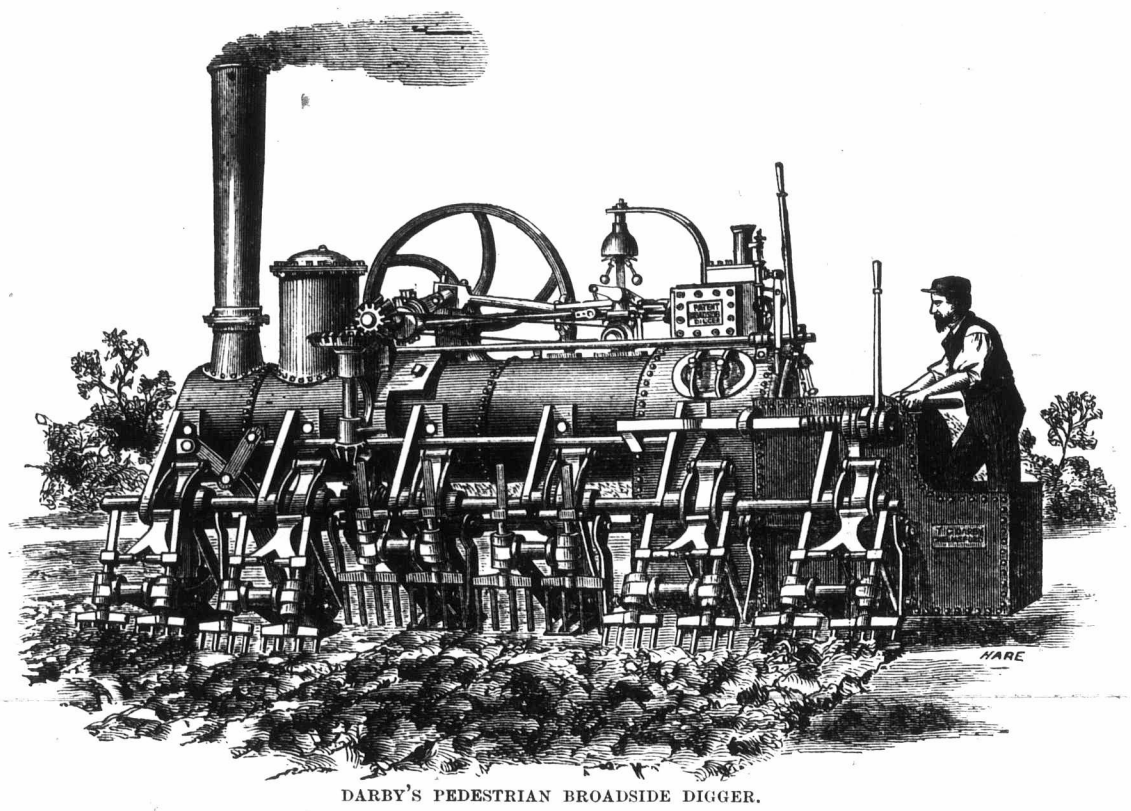
The *Scientific Farmer* says that Hungarian grass cut green and well cured, is used by some good Vermont dairymen as a food for butter cows, and they claim that it has the effect to give butter the true summer yellow. It is suggested that Hungarian so cured remains bright and green all winter, and because one of the elementary colors which goes to make green is yellow, that it is this greenness of the fodder which imparts the yellow color.

Agriculture.

Darby's Pedestrian Broadside Digger.

It is our duty to give you information about any new agricultural machinery. We now introduce to your notice a new implement that has been recently invented in England.

The intention of the inventor is to supercede the steam plow. This is a steam digging machine, and the advantages of digging land are many. The plow and horses first pack and press the land solid and hard in the furrow; this prevents aeration, as it closes the pores and prevents the water from soaking as readily through the soil. In digging the land is left uneven and broken at the bottom as well as loose on the top. We think it possible that digging machines may in the course of a quarter of a century be found in common use among goood farmers. One man will invent, another will improve, and what may appear absurd to old plowmen may be found on trial to produce better crops and be even more economical than the plow. The flail and the reap hook have both vanished, and the time may come when the plow will perhaps be as hard to find on a good farm as a flail now is.



DARBY'S PEDESTRIAN BROADSIDE DIGGER.

This implement is not yet in general use in England: it is being improved. Our manufacturers will be on the alert as soon as it is ready.

The digging apparatus is attached to one side of the machine, and consists of six pairs of forks attached and working in combination with six legs. On the other side there are two pairs of wheels; these, together with the legs, take the weight of the machine evenly and equally.

In traveling from place to place the two pairs of wheels are removed from the side and placed at each end of the machine.

A horizontal shaft extends alongside the engine and tender, upon which are six eccentrics, working alternately the several legs and forks, producing a smooth onward movement at the rate of two to four furlongs per hour. In turning the machine one of the outside legs marks time, and the others step round like soldiers wheeling. The whole gearing consists only of two pairs of bevel wheels and a short downright shaft from the engine crank shaft. Thus nearly all the power is applied direct in moving the land. The thickness as well as the depth of the spit can be easily adjusted.

The engine is eight-horse power, and is capable of digging five acres per day, ten inches deep—only one man required to work the whole.

The advantages of this system of cultivation are obvious. A great saving of power and manual labor is effected, and ropes, riggers, windlasses, anchors and porters dispensed with. Thus wear and tear is reduced to a minimum.

This machine is made by T. C. Darby, of Chelmsford, England. G. F. Francis, of London, Ont., is the general agent for this continent.