

A meat diet is very essential to the well being of all fowls during cold weather, when worms and insects are not to be found. This is well known, though very few give the matter the attention it deserves. Those who live within a reasonable distance of a slaughter house, or butcher shop, can secure plenty of scraps of waste meat, and bloody pieces, which are unsaleable, at a trifling cost. Cut them in small pieces, put into a large kettle, with plenty of water and boil them until they are very tender, stirring in meal until it becomes a thick mush, and then cook until done. Turn it out into pans and let it cool, and you have an excellent food for your fowls, which, if put in a cool place, will keep a long time. Green food should also be given occasionally, as fowls need some coarse and refuse matter to keep them healthy. In the summer they can find this for themselves, but in the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, we must supply this deficiency with cabbage, turnips and onions cut fine, or coarse, as seems to suit them best. Onions are especially valuable for keeping off vermin.

Sunflower seeds are a very valuable food for fowls. They are the best egg producing food known, good for the plumage, and very warming, since they contain a large quantity of strog vegetable oil. If given too abundantly, the fowls will shed their feathers; once or twice a week is sufficient. Fowls should have free access to fresh water at all times; milk will also conduce much to egg production. Land, and oyster shells, should be kept within reach of the fowls, to feed upon, or dust themselves in; a few ashes mixed with them will also be found useful.

E. K. D., in *Country Gentleman*.

Diseased Fowls.

Take one pound of wood charcoal, pulverize it coarsely, and mix with it half a pound of common table salt. To half a pint of this mixture, add one quart of corn-meal and bran, half and half, mix well, and give to about six or seven fowls. Procure some hard coal screenings and place within reach. Give occasionally a few oats. Always keep some old iron in the drinking water; allow all the out door exercise you possibly can, even chase them about a little. Place plenty of straw for them to scratch among for exercise; throw some small grain among this to encourage scratching, but, above all, give pure air, and keep them perfectly clean. I find a little coal oil, the commoner the better, to be a fine preventive of disease, and lice of all kinds; smear this all along the perches, also under the straw in the laying boxes. This is a disinfectant and deodorizer also. On cold days be careful; on warm ones give them air. WM. HORN, V. S.

"Good luck" in Poultry keeping.

"You've had prime good luck with your chickens, ha'n't ye?" I was so busy cleaning my hen house that I hardly noticed the coming of my neighbor from whom the voice came. Now, I looked up. "Yes," I said, "first rate luck; raised every chick that left the shell." "Wall" he replied "that just the way, some folks always do seem to have luck, but I never did. Hens lay any?" "Yes," I replied, "my pullets are laying from four to six eggs a day." "Only see," he said, "I must have your breed of fowls." "All right," I replied, "but you must also get a comfortable place for your chicks, and give them the same care and management that mine get, and then I think your hens will lay as well."

As he walked away I fell to cleaning the room again, and to thinking wherein my "luck" consisted. In the first place. I had the "good luck" to have clean, comfortable coops for chickens; second, I had the "good luck" to see to it that they are fed regularly with corn meal, buckwheat, and oats and

corn ground together; and thirdly, I had the "good luck" to furnish them clean, pure water, and safe quarters for the night, secure from prowling skunks or marauding rats. The fact is, that most of the "good luck" in chicken raising is simply the result of good management and careful, persistent industry. J. H. SEVERSON, ALBANY Co., N. Y.

A Cover for a Barrel.

When a barrel of flour or sugar is opened, the head should be taken out carefully, and the three parts hinged together,



FIG. 1.—The barrel.



FIG. 2.—The cover.

by means of strong linen, glued on the sides, but not the edges of the pieces, or strips of leather, nailed on as shown at figures 1 and 2. The cover is fixed to the head of the barrel, by tacking one of the end pieces of the cover, to the chine of the barrel, and the other parts rest as they are laid down. This makes a good cover for barrels in the house, and also those used in the barns.

A hoe is shown in perspective in fig. 1 p 164, where *a a* is the framing, which also constitutes the horse shafts, supported on iron brackets, which in their turn are supported on an iron axle, *b*, as high as to permit the crop hoed to pass under it. The axle, bent down at both ends, works in the wheels, *c c*. These form the carriage portion of the machine. The hoe consists of a bar *d*, which bears the shanks *e*, of six triangular duck footed hoes, or shares, made to embrace as many rows of corn, at the ordinary breadth of 7 inches asunder. The handles, *f f*, by which the driver guides the hoes along the centres of the rows, are attached to the bar *d*. The carriage and hoe are connected by means of the rods *g g*, which, at one end, are attached to the handles *f*, and at the other linked on by eyes to hooks in the head part of the brackets, which support the framing or shafts *a a*. The rods *g* are strengthened by others, passing under the bar *d*, and welded at both ends to the under part of *g*. When the rows are placed wider than 7 inches, the axle is expanded to the requisite width by being slipped outwards through the collar, and fixed at any given width by the pinching screw at *b*. A. R. J. F.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Murray Harbour, P. E. Island,

Mr. Editor,

Judging from the ability of your Journal, I am convinced that any opinions expressed by you, on agricultural matters, are *bona fide*, and are accepted as such by the great body of the people of this Dominion. Under these circumstances, I write this communication for the purpose of ascertaining whether a certain plant known as "Prickly Comfrey," is a genuine article or a humbug? Our farmers are just now in a dilemma, and are afraid to invest in this plant, as there are so many conflicting stories afloat concerning it.

Will you be kind enough to publish this letter in your next issue, and express such views upon the subject as are calculated to enlighten the public upon its merits, and oblige. AN ISLANDER.

Answer. — We have not tied the "Prickly Comfrey," and would like to hear from our readers who have given this plant a fair trial. Respectable dealers in seed who advertise this novelty