

It will not pay one who has to purchase the food for his fowls, and keep them confined, to allow all to grow to maturity before marketing. The farmer may do it where the stubble fields with their dropped grain and insect life supply ample food that would otherwise be lost; but even he will make more profit by thinning out when the birds are fit for broilers, and bring a high price, for a chicken three months old will bring a better price in June and July than it will if allowed to run till winter; therefore what it has eaten in the meantime brings no return.

A profitable trade in spring chickens might be built up in every town and village in the country if a little effort were made by those breeding poultry. There are always those who are willing to pay handsomely for broilers if they could only get them. Even the hens of the previous year, after getting through spring laying, can be fattened and profitably marketed then.

As soon as qualifications appear in the chicken it should be set apart to be marketed at the first favorable opportunity. Later on serious faults may develop in others, and they will follow. Those with crooked backs, wry tails, single combs on rose or pea-combed varieties, or *vice versa*, should never reach maturity. It is the worst kind of management to allow such birds to crowd the promising stock, and thus endanger their health and retard their growth.

In order that poultry keeping may be made a profitable occupation in densely settled countries, small matters must not be neglected. The success of the French peasant as a poultry keeper is principally due to the fact that everything that can be used is utilized by him. A great deal of that which is considered of no use is utilized by him so as to largely supplement the proceeds from flesh and eggs. How seldom do poultry keepers in Canada or the United States go to any trouble to save the feathers from the chickens they kill for market. Nine-tenths prefer marketing in the feathers to plucking them before selling. From this source alone a great deal of money is made by the French poultryman. The feathers are carefully sorted, the quills even being stripped of their webs. This affords occupation for the children of the family. The comb (of the large-combed varieties), which with us is never utilized, is carefully saved, and brings a high price, being regarded as a rich treat by the gourmets of the eating houses, as is also the heart, liver and gizzard. In the matter of feeding, also, nothing is wasted that can be made use of. As our country becomes more densely populated, and the food supply becomes a more important consideration, these things will receive more attention than they do now.

## Falconry.

Falconry, or hawking, is perhaps the most ancient of field sports. It can be traced back long before the Christian era. In those early days it was almost a universal sport of the Eastern hemisphere. In Britain it was followed before the time of the Heptarchy, and was a very aristocratic sport. It was fashionable in those days to indicate the rank of a noble by the particular kind of a hawk he carried on his wrist; for instance, an Earl carried a peregrine. The sport declined in the seventeenth century; in the eighteenth it partially revived, but on the improvement of firearms, and the art of shooting birds with the wing, about the year 1725, it again declined, and although it is now practised by a few noblemen and sportsmen in England, it has never revived to anything near the extent it was indulged in in the early days. It is still, however, followed very keenly in Persia and some of the Eastern countries.

There are several kinds of hawks used for this purpose. Some kinds, of course, are considered better than others. The peregrine, the merlin, the goshawk, and the sparrow-hawk, are the most commonly used; the peregrin and goshawk on account of their larger size are used for large game, and the little merlin and sparrow-hawk for smaller birds.

Some hawks are taken when quite young from the nest and raised by hand, and trained for hawking; others are caught wild, and are termed passage hawks. They are caught on the continent of Europe when on their passage migrating, hence, I presume, the name passage hawk.

The way in which passage hawks are caught is very interesting. The hawk-catcher builds a mound, or what would be called in this country a root-house, (in the locality where they fly) with a door at the opposite end to the birds' flight. Inside he has a seat, perhaps two, or one large enough for two persons, and being a sod house it is warm, snug and comfortable. To get sufficiently into his good graces to be allowed to accompany him and occupy a seat in his little snugery and smoke a pipe with him, and help wile away the long hours he is watching for his game, and see his *modus operandi*, is considered a privilege. Besides his own little earth house he has three or four miniature ones. These are made the same shape as the one he occupies himself, but are only just large enough to hold a bird nicely, and are open at one end. These are made at different points at a distance of a few rods from his own mound. In each of these, except one, he has a pigeon with two strings attached to it, so arranged that he can pull the bird out of his little hut and back again as he wishes, and in front of each little