

grapes, we can easily turn them out until the fruit is gathered.

This grape yard will supply an abundance of welcome shade to the fowls, and we expect the latter to keep down the weeds and eat up about twice their weight in bugs and worms.

We turned thirty White Pekin ducks into our blackberry patch this season, waiting until the bushes and weeds got a pretty good start. The ducks have been there all summer, loafing, laying and hatching under the thick, shady bushes, and they did not eat the fruit, nor have they injured the bushes, so far as we can learn. They have managed to keep the weeds down somewhat. Now about 200 Pekin ducks and 50 Toulouse geese are enjoying life in this patch.

Our latest hatched chicks (June hatch) are now lost in the shady recesses of a red raspberry patch. A 2-inch wire mesh has been stretched around the berry bushes and confines the chicks. They are doing nicely, the shade and mellow ground being very welcome to them.

"Live and learn" is a good rule to go by.—*From Reliable Poultry Journal.*

POULTRY MANURE IN SUMMER.

NO matter how the droppings may be preserved, they should not be kept in the poultry house, but removed daily, if possible, during the warm days. The reason for this is that the droppings very quickly decompose in warm weather and cause the fowls to become unhealthy. Then, again, if the manure is not removed, it becomes an excellent breeding place for lice, as is the case when any kind of filth exists. At present, during the spring months, the droppings should be at once spread on the

garden and immediately chopped into the soil before they become dry and hard. During the summer place them in a barrel or hogshead, mixed with an equal part of dry dirt, adding a peck of kainit to each bushel of the dirt. Keep the mass in the barrel damp (not wet) with soapsuds, and after a short time they will be in excellent condition for use. The kainit will fix the ammonia, changing it to a sulphate. As the majority of writers have suggested that droppings should be kept dry, this may be considered an innovation on old methods, but we suggest that it be given a trial, as we can assure our readers that the result will be highly satisfactory.—*The Poultry-Keeper.*

THE GUINEA FOR THE TABLE.

THERE is no sale for guineas in the city markets, yet if the consumers in cities were aware of the luxury of eating guineas there would be a demand greater than could be supplied. Its flesh has what may be termed a "gamey" flavor, and it is well filled with meat, especially on the breast and thighs. In fact, a bird that is so active and which uses its wings and the legs without rest from early in the morning until late, must necessarily be covered with muscle on the breast and thighs. High prices are paid for prairie-hens and other game birds that are in no manner superior to the guinea, and which do not arrive in market in as fresh condition as would the guinea if it was an article sought. So far as the farmer is concerned, he can at least use them on his own table and afford to allow the city people to have the other fowls.

We use half a dozen guineas on our farm as watch dogs.—*Fanciers' Review.*

SWANS.

WE have yet to know of a farmer, or even a poultryman, who has ever taken up the breeding of swans, one of the most beautiful fowls we have, also fowls of great value. They are not so difficult to rear, with the same amount of care and attention that are given to other poultry. Most of the public parks, such as Central Park, New York; Fairmont Park, Philadelphia; Lincoln Park, Chicago, and many others, keep and rear young stock annually. Live breeding pairs cost from \$50 to \$75. At such prices it looks reasonable to believe that there is profit in breeding them. Eggs cannot be obtained, but the birds can be bought from any of the large parks that breed them. Would it not pay to try a few? By the fanciers breeding them we could get the prices reduced some. S. W. STOOKEY, in *Reliable Poultry Journal.*



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