

FATTENING POULTRY.

THE fattening of poultry is an established and lucrative business in the south of England and is finding its way by degrees into Ireland, but for those who keep a few birds and wish to prepare them for the table, I offer the following hints: Put your birds in a pen with open floor, so that the droppings can fall through. Put peat-moss dust, ashes or dry earth underneath and rake them off every day. Feed from a trough placed in front of the pen, with the following mixture: Ground oats, when procurable, or barley meal; skimmed milk, or buttermilk; flaxseed, water, sulphur and sand, or grit sieved through a hair sieve. For twenty birds the proportions should be: water, six gallons; flaxseed, one half gallon; four to five gallons of milk. For the first four days, give three feeds of the above thin, and getting thicker, till they go off their feed, then cram. After the fourth day give only two feeds daily. The food should go through them tolerably quickly, and be helped to it by sulphur and sand, or fine grit. Fat chopped up, or passed through a mincing machine, to be added when cramming. For cramming, the food should be made up in plugs about one inch long, and as thick as the little finger. The bird is taken between the knees, and the mouth opened with the finger and thumb of the left hand, the plug dipped in milk or water to facilitate its passage down the bird's throat, and then put in its mouth, and pushed down with the finger when necessary, and if not swallowed at once, the head should be held up with the left hand, and the plug pushed down with the finger and thumb of the right hand outside. The bird will generally swallow the plug without any extra push. The bird should put on one ounce in weight each day for the

first four days, and the food will not only put on flesh, but will make the flesh juicy, soft, and much more digestible.

Few people know how to kill a bird properly, and in the most humane way. It should be done as follows: 1. Take the bird by the legs and tips of its wings in the right hand, back towards you. 2. Take its head between first and second fingers of the left hand and turn its neck up, with your hand on your left hip. 3. Stretch steadily till the vertebral column is broken, taking care not to break the skin. Death is instantaneous, though a considerable amount of fluttering will follow, the result of muscular action only.

Plucking is the next process, and the most difficult. The pluckers spit in their hands, and rub the feathers breast and back, up against the grain. Plucking should be done at once after killing while the bird is warm, when the feathers come off more easily, or it should be left till quite cold. 1. Place the bird between your knees, head down, breast up. 2. Pluck the breast with the first finger and thumb, twisting your hand and drawing the feathers up from you, gently, so as not to break the skin. Practically only one feather at a time should come away at the same moment, though a handful may be taken. They should come off like a flock of ducks rising from off a pond. 3. Pluck back. 4. Wings. 5. Legs and tail. 6. Tie legs loosely, so that they may rest at the sides of the bird.

Shaping is the next process. 1. Flatten the stern against the wall. 2. Draw the legs up close to the body. 3. Fold the wings close to the body. 4. Place the bird in a shaping board, breast down. 5. Put a heavy weight on it and leave till cold. The shaping trough consists of a back, two sides, a bottom, and loose board. The bottom is placed at an angle with back (V-shaped). The birds'

heads hang over the front, and the loose board is placed on their backs with a weight on it, and a brick can be placed alongside the outer bird to fill up any unoccupied space. A bird so shaped will fetch one shilling more in London, than a similar bird not shaped.

It is not always easy to get a market for one's feathers, nor is one always disposed to dress them, as very ably shown lately in your paper. Messrs. Cronin & Nolan, feather exporters, Cork, gave me 1s. 2d. per lb. for white goose feathers, and 2 1-4d. per lb. for common feathers, some more than a year old, that I could not find a sale for locally.—R. G. Trail, in "Fowls."

AMERICAN INDIAN GAME CLUB.

THE object of the Indian Game Club is to encourage the breeding and improvement of the Indian and the aim is to create an ideal that will suit the majority of breeders. With a slight amendment to the club constitution and by-laws, all members would have the privilege of voting by mail for whatever they wanted. Every member would have a direct influence whether attending the annual meetings or not, and would derive much good. Our club would be of mutual benefit to all members.

Fanciers from all sections are joining, and those not fully decided are requested to write to the secretary. The initiation fee is only \$1 and members have no other expenses except fifty cents each year for annual dues, which is certainly a very small amount for the privilege of competing for valuable cups and specials. Address the secretary-treasurer.

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Dakota, Ill.