

are never sick and lousy. I put kerosene on the roosts once a month, and sulphur in the nests, using china nest eggs.

POULTRY PARAGRAPHS.—As soon now as you can spare the old hens fatten them for market. They will not lay much for some time, and in that time they will eat as much as they are worth.

Cabbages, onions, turnips, beets, apples, potato prings or other vegetable refuse should be given the poultry. Clean water should always be provided. Sulphur, insect-powder and kerosene should be used freely in preventing the spread of and in destroying poultry vermin.

Chickens and turkeys should not be fed together. The chicks get more, the turkeys less, than their share.

Have you never noticed that the place to look for the chickens—and find them too—on a hot day, is under the currant bushes? Take a hint from nature and give your chickens, if convenient, such natural shade.

Apples are good for laying hens—good raw or cooked and mixed with bran or meal, just as you would potatoes, and the small ones that are not good for anything else except cider will do just as well as better ones. So save the small apples for the hens.

A fowl that is constantly stuffed soon becomes disordered and deficient in digestion, and gets off feed. Exercise is the best antidote for overfed birds. Reduce the allowance, and compel them to work. Industry means a production of eggs, and the fowls will also keep healthy by having something to do.

Lice do not attack birds that are in a good condition as they do those in an impoverished state. Lice and poverty go hand in hand among fowls; but if fat and in good flesh, the lice are repelled, as they are not partial to oily carcasses. With clean quarters, a dust bath, and liberal feeding, fowls will rid themselves of vermin completely.

OUR COSY CORNER.

THE FASHION.—The most striking feature in the fashions at present is the tendency to return to old forms, writes a lady in the *London Standard*. An idea is taken from a fashion-plate of the Directoire, the Consulate or the Empire and a little added here, or pruned off there, and the result is a modernized Directoire coat and skirt, or a short-waisted Empire gown and wide sash. The last style, however, has to be more modified than the first, as the English women do not, as yet, take as kindly to the high waist as their French sisters, not having discovered that, to a really good figure, it is by no means unbecoming. This opens up the vexed question—what is a really good figure? Does it consist in a long, misplaced, unnaturally compressed waist, small to an absolute deformity, such as is now too frequently seen, and so out of just proportion with the rest of the figure? Or is it found in the undulating, graceful lines of a natural figure? It is Hogarth, if the memory serves aright, who is responsible for the saying "Nature abhors straight lines." Ease and perfect freedom of motion are not only necessary to health, but to grace. A cramping, tight-fitting garment is neat, possibly, but not graceful, in that it is unnatural. Some of our *elegantes* are at last becoming awake to this fact. Hence the return to a less stiff and formal style of dress, cut after simple flowing lines following the natural curves of the figure. By some a semi-classical attire, after the toga, tunic and chiton of the Romans and Greeks, is adapted to the requirements of the present day, while others return to the fashions which prevailed in the early part of this century—the simple gown confined by a sash round the natural waist. These are, as it were, in the van of the advancing army of the high-waisted, which is presently to invade us. On the score of health alone this revival of an old fashion is to be recommended. Another fashionable folly has had its fate sealed—the so-called "dress improver." To Mademoiselle Pantine, we are indebted for the introduction of stays, or rather for the stiff pasteboard case called the Pantine, which in course of time developed into the corset of modern days. But to whose folly that excrescence known as the "dress improver" is due, is not known. For the last year and more it has been growing small by degrees, and beautifully less, and the Empire dress will give it its final coup, for, with short, or rather high, waists, and scanty, clinging skirts it is obviously impossible.

The lady writer in the *Standard*, however, seems to rather overlook one great canon of reason and artistic taste in dress, that which never loses sight of the requirements of the natural figure. There are perfectly good figures of many types. Nature turns out endless varieties, and all or any of them may be strikingly beautiful. For instance, we no longer regard as supremely lovely, the elongated throats and narrow sloping shoulders, which were the delight of Sir Thomas Lawrence and the other portrait painters of the days of our grandfathers. Nature sometimes makes a woman long, sometimes short, in the waist, and either peculiarity, even in a marked degree, may consist with distinguished grace and elegance. But the grace and elegance will assuredly disappear if the intent of nature is violated. A long waisted, woman's figure is utterly destroyed if her gown is the least bit too short in the waist. It is impossible, therefore, that such a figure can look well with an Empire waist tucked up close under the arms. Probably, however, extremes will be avoided, the tendency of fashion of late years being in that direction.

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