

splendid pedigree, appear at our shows, but, as far as we have seen, none of the young ones yet exhibited promise worthily to fill their places. The reason for this must be in their not receiving the study and care they require to fully bring out their inherent excellencies, and we fear that so long as they only receive the divided care of the breeder no great improvement will take place.

### Poultry on the Farm.

Editor Review,

DEAR SIR:—

I purpose calling the attention of the farmer readers of your valuable journal to a few facts in connection with poultry raising and poultry keeping, and in doing so shall commence with chicken raising from a financial point of view, and by endeavoring to meet some of the objections usually advanced by farmers in agricultural papers, and in conversation upon the subject, to raising poultry. "In the first place, they are of such little importance that they demand or claim very little attention." I do not intend to advocate poultry farming, nor am I prepared to put down hundreds of dollars as the returns from a flock of fifty or one hundred fowls, but I do say that this decision does lead to the second objection, that is: "They do not pay." Not so much that they do not pay, even under the present unfavorable conditions, but from giving no attention to the matter any further than noticing every deprecation committed by them, and taking care that they shall receive very little of the grain so lavishly bestowed upon hogs, which do not bring in half the return according to the amount invested that poultry do. They are not in a position to know whether they do pay or not. You will find in the majority of cases that the farmer's lady is the strongest advocate for chickendom. And why? Simply because she is aware of their usefulness and value from experience. She remembers how many good wholesome dinners she has been able to provide for her family from her flocks, not to say how she could possibly get on without the eggs which enter into nearly every dish which her husband enjoys; but as they do not appear as boiled eggs, or as ham and eggs, they are not apparent, and the poultry yard is only given the credit for what is seen; but his wife is aware that from one-half to a dozen is consumed each day as pudding, cakes, &c.

Again, as a flock is usually kept it had better be kept under those conditions which will yield the greatest returns. And it is just at the commencement that the greatest mistake is made, a result of the conclusions already enumerated, and which lead to so many bad effects: acres of wheat trampled down and destroyed, grain recently sown

scratched up and eaten, and in the fall a lot of chicks at 25 and 30 cents per pair—and it is all they are worth, or were worth last fall, according to the price of other food. I notice in an agricultural paper a writer, in discussing this subject, quotes these prices to show how little deserving of attention is this part of farm stock. But why are these the prevailing prices? Because the chicks have not received the attention they demand. But a farmer may say, and truly too, "We cannot neglect the more important matters of the farm to attend to a few chicks." It is not at all necessary that you should. Fowls, like mankind, are omnivorous. Now there is only one appetite you are called upon to satisfy, (if I may be permitted the mode of expression,) that is their appetite for grain; give them all they will eat of this, and by satisfying their appetite for this their desire for animal food is not allayed, but they will forage as perseveringly for insects as ever, with this difference, having had enough grain they will look for no more, and just as much green food as is desirable for them will still be eaten by them. Farmers make no objections to taking a load of grain to the mill to have it chopped for pigs, or feed it whole, but how many farmers ever take a few bags of third-class barley or corn to the mill with which to feed young chicks. Too often the good wife has to slip out a little grain to feed a stunted allowance to her flock. And what is the result of all this? Why, as I have before said, ten times the value of what would have fed them destroyed, and chicks worth 25 cents per pair in the fall, either for market or for the table—they are worth no more, if they are more can be got. As I purpose confining myself to chicken raising I shall only ask any reasonable man: Are such fowls capable of performing any function during their life as a perfectly developed bird? Hence we see what have been Light and Dark Brahmas tipping the scale at three pounds at six months old and no more.

Now, I do not want my farmer friends to misunderstand me; I do not wish even to seem to say that too much attention is given to cattle and sheep and other stock. I do not think so, and as so much more can be invested in these than in poultry, so much larger returns are derived from keeping them.

But this is all theory; let us have something practical. Well, I will give something practical, and in doing so shall confine myself to hard matter of fact prices; those fine prices we so frequently read of in poultry items fail to influence when our mind comes down to home prices. (If any assertion made in giving my experience with a flock of fifty chicks last summer seems unreasonable, I give friend Fullerton authority to give my name