

it is indeed only a *seeming* indifference. I find their duties so much more arduous and extensive that but for the necessity of having eggs to bake with and furnish the table in summer, few can take upon their already over-burdened shoulders the additional labor of keeping a large flock of fowls. To my mind farmers are sadly out of pocket in not adding a substantial flock of well-bred stock in either ducks, hens, geese or turkeys, to swell their profits every year. My experience is that hens and ducks pay by far the best, as a general rule, and the reason is this: ducks lay well, their eggs hatch a good percentage, and young ducks fed all they will eat, for market stock, are ready for killing at from eight to ten weeks' old. It is folly to keep them longer, for if well forced forward they will be in prime condition at ten weeks' old, and are in the market at a season when they will command extra high prices. In favor of hens we say, they lay more eggs, and pullets lay earlier than young ducks, and if the large breeds are kept, they will market at eight months old, from eight to ten pounds, according to variety. As my idea just now is to lighten the labor of those who have the care of the poultry on the farm, I will mention as first in order setting hens. A great deal of time can be saved by having a place set apart for them, so that if you have a dozen or so of sitters you can put them in one room or small shed, where all can be attended to at the one expense of time and trouble; their nests should be made to shut them in, so that they cannot then get off at unreasonable times, or stop off the nest so long that the eggs will get chilled. By setting two or three hens at one time all the chicks can be given to two, or if poor hatching, to one hen; this not only saves time, but money, for the hen eats most of the dainties that are in some cases saved and given to her for the chicken's benefit. To make the nests, take a box, or make one about twenty inches square, leaving the front open; across the bottom of the front nail a strip about four inches wide; this is to hold in the nest material, or else the hen in getting in and out will spread it so that the eggs will roll out. Make a door of lath strips to finish the front, and nail it by leather strips to the side of the box; fasten the door with a hook and ring, or a button. Any boy of ten can make these nests, and by storing them away after using, they will answer for several years. Nests such as these could be put in a woodshed, or any small place near at hand to be convenient for those attending them. Put dry sand in the bottom of the nest, at this season, and short straw in plenty, to make a good snug nest, well filled in at the corners, and nicely hollowed in the centre; but if the nest is not shaped and the corners not filled, they will roll out, and into the empty corners; and you will be surprised to find two or three quite cold some morning through this cause. And did you ever notice that it is always the eggs you prize that come to grief; or they were so nearly hatched that a few more hours would have given you living chicks? I think the art of doing mean things, in the saintliest manner, is the hen's greatest natural forte; they can make you bubble and boil with rage; they can make you say words you thought you never knew till then, and look like a picture of calm content and ineffable sweetness all the time. Well, to return to business. In setting the hens I give them nest eggs for a couple of days till they get used to their quarters, and to being let off for their feed. Let them off every day as near as possible at the same hour. If they will not get off, lift them off, and shut the door until you wish them to go back. If you cannot remember the hens that occupy each nest, tie or sew a piece of cloth to the leg of each hen, and tack a piece like it to the

nest she occupies, and when she is ready to return open her door, and nine times out of ten she will go to her own nest. Feed setting hens on whole grain and give clean water. If you have a sand floor to the house she will take a dust bath; if not, provide one or two boxes of sand for the biddies; they will often prefer a bath to their food. Now you see by this plan, while the hens are off feeding you can examine the nests, for some will be near hatching, some may have a broken egg that needs removing, etc. Always shut the doors so that the hens cannot go on to each other's nests. All this is so very simple to perform, it is a pity it seems so much on paper. Any one can attend to forty sitting hens, look at every nest and have the birds closed in again in half an hour, whereas a trip to the stables for one hen, up in the hay mow for another, and in odd corners every where for the rest, entails a lot of trouble, and Biddy is almost sure to treat her nest in an inaccessible place, so you cannot see if anything goes wrong with her. Hundreds of chicks die unsuspected of having been hatched, for want of proper food, small grain, etc., which they cannot procure for themselves, and their owners not knowing of their existence, cannot provide; and in most cases it is the early flocks that are lost, for as spring advances Biddy will make her nest out of doors almost every time, or on the floor at any rate, nature teaching her that it is the coolest place.

Let me say in conclusion, that one early chick is better than two late ones. Be kind to your stock and gentle in your manners. There is enough of the aristocrat about Biddy to appreciate these attributes of gentility. Never give a sitting hen a chaff nest, it will stick to the moist stuff of the newly hatched chicks and fairly glue them up.

### Raising Young Turkeys.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have great difficulty in raising young turkeys. There is no trouble in hatching them, but I cannot raise them, as they all die before six weeks old. They seem strong enough for about two weeks, then they will drop their wings and die. By giving me any hints on food and management that this may be overcome you will greatly oblige

MRS. W. M'C.

ANSWER BY W. C. G. PETER, ANGUS, ONT.

As I have no symptoms to guide me, will say it may be lice, or the young flock may be confined too much to one place, or on the reverse side allowed to have too free run and get out while the dew is on the grass, which is almost surely fatal at the age you mention. The birds may be inbred, and in that case are inherently weak; or your soil may be damp and clayey, and if so you may as well give up trying to raise turkeys. They can not succeed and pay well on a damp, cold, clay soil. Here where the soil is light and sandy, turkeys thrive with little care. I am often surprised to see them grow and do so well, in some cases almost entirely neglected. As far as my experience goes in giving advice as to management, I would say, dust the turkey or hen before you set them with Persian insect powder. This will keep the mothers from getting loaded with vermin while they are sitting, as the feverish state of their bodies while brooding generates lice in awful numbers sometimes, and these are deposited on the young poults as soon as they are hatched, and then begins the work of destruction. Just before the eggs are to hatch, dust the mother again very gently while on the nest all along the back, and if all the mites are not gone from her, they will take their departure directly. This ounce of prevention will save much trouble and many poults. When all are hatched next morning lift off the mother gently to a new place, and for the first six weeks or so the coop should be moved daily, so the birds have clean ground to prevent disease getting a hold; but if kept in a coop and not often moved they will surely droop and die off in large numbers. It is well not to let them out of a coop till between two and three

weeks old, as the mother will stray too far and the poults get almost exhausted, and some will be lost. Always keep them in till the dew is off the grass, till the red head is well shot. This will be, under favorable circumstances, when they are about eight to nine weeks old. After that your young birds are very hardy. Feed the young the first week five or six times a day, not too much at a time—hard boiled eggs chopped fine and mixed up crumbly with bread crumbs or oatmeal; boiled rice, curds, a little cooked chopped meat, bread and milk. Millet seed, canary seed and the large oatmeal grits, an onion cut fine, are all good for the first two weeks, also a meal occasionally of scalded mixed bran, shorts and cornmeal—not much of the latter. When the red is shooting put a little cayenne in the mixed food now and then. Always scald the soft feed. Rice boiled in milk will prevent diarrhoea, that is so apt to attack them then, and it is better to prevent it than to doctor them after they are attacked. I have said so much on this question because it will interest many readers besides your correspondent. If the birds are inbred, to purchase a male bird at once is the best remedy.

### Trouble with Hens.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL.

I wish to know, if possible, the disease which affects hens as follows: They throw their heads up, stagger, look straight up, and some even turn their heads backward until they tumble over.

If you will kindly answer through the columns of your valuable paper, stating some effectual remedy, you will greatly oblige, yours truly,

SUBSCRIBER.

ANSWER BY W. C. G. PETER, ANGUS, ONT.

You say your hens stagger, turn their heads backwards, and tumble over. Look for lice. But I think more likely they are over fed. You can tell by examining the under part of body at the back called the apron, in England. If too fat, separate the fat ones from the rest, and feed largely of bran and oats, no corn, and very little wheat, and make them scratch. Fasting for a day will do them good—no feed nor water. If inbred, it is epilepsy, which affects the brain; or indigestion will cause a similar condition. Indigestion is largely caused by too much sameness of food, and inactivity while in winter quarters. Give all the fowls "Douglas' Mixture" in the drinking water, a gill to a ten-quart pail. It is made as follows: Take 8 oz. of sulphate of iron (copperas) and ½ fluid oz. of sulphuric acid, put in an earthen vessel one gallon of water, into which put the sulphate of iron. When thoroughly dissolved, add the acid, stir, let settle, and bottle off, and it is ready for use. You can use it three times per week.

### The Apiary.

#### Spring Feeding.

BY R. F. HOLTERMANN, BRANTFORD, ONT.

After such a season as the past there is no doubt that shortage of stores will be all too frequent. After bees have past through the winter to what extent the absence of abundance of feed effect brood rearing is a disputed question, and one which might well receive some careful investigation. Of course there should be enough honey or stores in the hive to provide the old bees with all they require for themselves. Next it is highly probable when the bees see there is a likelihood of shortage in this direction they will not allow as much brood to be reared as if such shortage would not be probable, therefore plenty of stores should be given.

#### HOW TO FEED.

This is a question difficult to answer. Solid food, and all at one time if possible, is perhaps the safest, the theoretic objection being the liquid feed, and that frequently will excite the bees, making them imagine a honey flow exists, and after having stored all in the combs they next rush out of the hive on the lookout for more. This, especially with cold winds, will occasion heavy losses. The excitement wears the al-