

POULTRY AND PETS.

MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY.

Mr. Editor,—In continuing my letter on the management of poultry, I would say, as this is the season of the year when people are more or less troubled with sitting hens and hens wanting to sit when they are not wanted, it will be well for such people to have a small yard of lath or wire fence, say eight or ten feet square, to put such hens in for the purpose of treating them properly to get them out of the notion, and, in the common term, to break them up. This yard should be in a light open place with no nests or material to make one, and then by feeding mixed food, chop and bran, with an extra supply of egg and shell material mixed with the food, so that they must eat it if they eat the food; also add a little red pepper and salt, with plenty of grass and fresh meat. Four days of such treatment will put them out of the notion of sitting and they will begin to lay again. I do not mean to say that they will lay in four days; but they will be far enough advanced in that direction to have no inclination to return to the old nest and can safely be put with the rest of the flock.

During the time they are in the clucking pen do not feed any corn, peas or barley; wheat and oats at evening will be found the right thing for them. Be sure that they have plenty of fresh water to drink and a dust bath made of ashes and sand, in which put a pound of sulphur.

I have been experimenting this season on nests for sitting, and am fully convinced that a sod nest is not a good one. They are too hot. A far better nest can be made either of coal ashes or leached wood ashes put in a box and made damp, then put a good quantity of lawn grass in to make it comfortable. It will be a good plan to put a few cedar cuttings, such as hedge clippings, in the nest. Vermin do not like cedar. Any one who tries this kind of a nest once will not use a sod nest again.

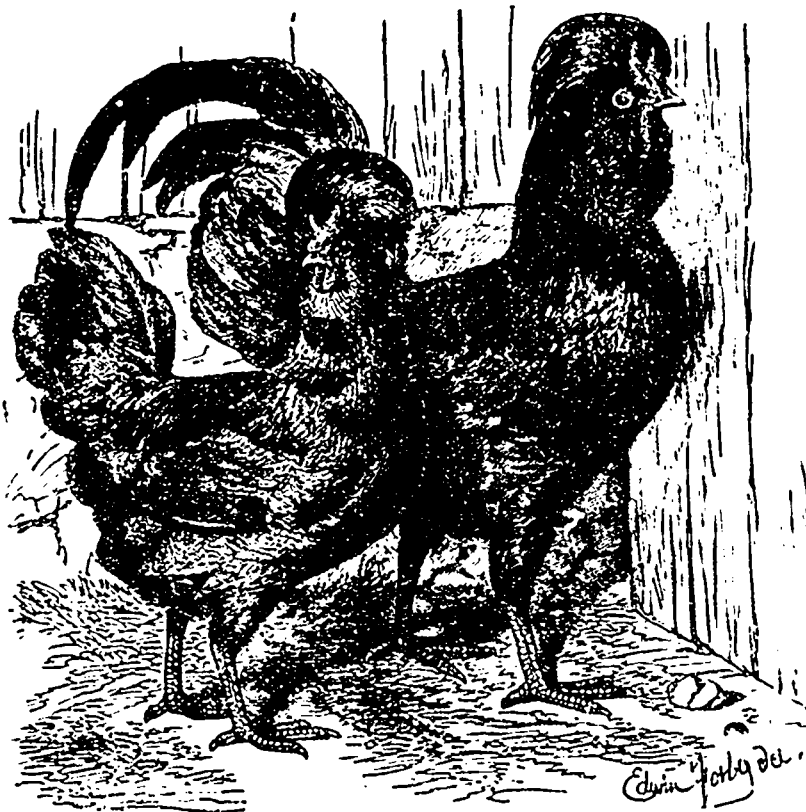
After chicks are hatched out do not allow them to stand on the cold ground during the night, they will not do nearly so well as on a dry board floor with some sawdust or chaff under them. I have found that chicks are sure to get diarrhoea when they are allowed to stand on the ground at night. I find that dry, fine sawdust is a splendid thing for them to sleep on. Many imagine that chicks always stand up while sleeping, which is a great mistake. They often lie stretched out on their sides like a lot of kittens, and seldom remain all night in a standing position. Any one who is sceptical on this point had better take ten or twenty young chicks into the house the day they are hatched and place them in a shallow box in which an old flannel is laid, and cover them over with a light flannel, cover so that it rests on the chicks; then examine the happy family from time to time and you will find that they sleep, and soundly too, providing the temperature is about ninety to ninety-five degrees. I had a box of this kind in the house two days last week with thirty white leghorns in it, and some of them were taken from the nest before they were dry, and after they were fed twice and about thirty-six hours old I gave them to two hens. I went and chose two kind, quiet hens which were sitting and gave the chicks to them, placed the coops close to each

other and the chicks all mix up. Sometimes one hen will have most of them, then the other will call and away they go to her. They have not quarrelled over them nor do they offer to hurt the chicks, and, so far, I have not lost one of this lot. There is nothing like giving the little fellows a good send off. The first ten days is the most important time in the raising of healthy chickens. If they are safe and healthy when ten days old and free from insects, they will almost look after themselves.

Parties raising large quantities of chickens will find it a great advantage to use a bone mill and mix fresh ground bone meal with their food two or three times a week. Some one will ask what I did with the eggs which were under the two hens when I removed them to the coops. Well, I gave them to the hens that hatched out the chicks and by the time they sit ten or fifteen days longer they will be more suitable to take care of a brood of chicks.

Yours truly,

Jagersoll, June 20, 1885. G. E. PERKINS.



CRESTED POLANDS.

MEDICINE AS PRACTISED BY ANIMALS.

Mr. G. Delaunay, in a recent communication to the Biological Society, observed that medicine, as practised by animals, is thoroughly empirical; but the same may be said of that practised by inferior human races, or, in other words, by the majority of the human species. Animals instinctively choose such food as is best suited to them. A large number wash themselves and bathe, as elephants, stags, birds, ants. In fact, man may take a lesson in hygiene from the lower animals. Animals get rid of their parasites by using dust, mud, clay, etc. Those suffering from fever restrict their diet, keep quiet, seek dark and airy places, drink water, and sometimes plunge into it. When a dog has lost its appetite it eats that species of grass known as dog's grass (*chien dent*), which acts as an emetic and purgative. Cats also eat grass. Sheep and cows when ill, seek out certain herbs. An animal suffering from chronic rheumatism always keeps as far as possible in the sun. The warrior-ants have regularly organized ambulances. Latreille out the antennae of the ant, and other ants came and covered the wounded part with a transparent fluid secreted from their mouths. If a chimpanzee be wounded,

it stops the bleeding by placing its hand on the wound, or dressing it with leaves and grass. When an animal has a wounded leg or arm hanging on, it completes the amputation by means of its teeth. A dog, on being stung in the muzzle by a viper, was observed to plunge its head repeatedly for several days into running water. This animal eventually recovered. A sporting dog was run over by a carriage. During three weeks in the winter it remained lying in a brook, where its food was taken to it. This animal recovered. A terrier hurt its right eye. It remained lying under a counter, avoiding light and heat, although it habitually kept close to the fire. It adopted a general treatment, rest, and abstinence from food. The local treatment consisted in licking the upper surface of the paw, which it applied to the wounded eye, again licking the paw when it became dry. Animals suffering from traumatic fever treat themselves by the continued application of cold, which Mr. Delaunay considers to be more certain than any of the other methods. In view of these interesting facts, we are, he thinks,

forced to admit that hygiene and therapeutics, as practised by animals, may, in the interest of psychology, be studied with advantage. He could go even further, and say that veterinary medicine, and perhaps human medicine, could gather from them useful indications, precisely because they are prompted by instinct, which are efficacious in the preservation or restoration of health.—*The Veterinary Journal (London)*.

COOKED FOOD FOR POULTRY.

The practice of furnishing at least one meal of cooked grain and vegetables to fowls daily, is now much more generally in vogue in this country among fanciers and breeders than it formerly was.

If this plan has not been customary throughout the year, as a rule, with any of our readers, then we especially commend it at the present season, and through the winter and spring months, as the very best that can be devised.

Such food is more nourishing, and is more easily digested. It is more palatable and desirable to the birds. And in every way we deem this the better mode, as we have frequently stated in these pages.

It is best, and usually most convenient to the poulterer, to furnish this meal in the morning. If fed warm—during the frigid months, from December to April—it will be still more acceptable to the birds. Especially the meat you give your fowls should be cooked always. Raw meat is too crude, it makes them quarrelsome, and causes illness, frequently. Cooked meat goes further, is more nourishing, and less injurious if over-fed than in the raw state.

For young fowls, very little is needed at a time; and either old or young birds, when kept in confinement, should not be stuffed with this kind of allowance. A large share of their feed should be grains and cooked vegetables. For growing fowls of any age, this is the best staple food, when properly varied.—*Exchange*.

NEVER breed from late turkeys, if it is possible to get better. Never breed from yearling turkeys, if you can get two-year-olds.