

able for feeding laying hens and young chickens. It is largely used in France for fowls when they are being fattened, but is then mixed with fat and milk, which, for the purpose named, impart the elements in which it is wanting. It gives a good color to the flesh, and is in every way one of the most suitable foods for poultry.

Dari is a grain which has come much into favor in Europe for feeding poultry and pigeons, more especially the latter. It is a small white seed from the plant called Indian millet or Guinea corn, which is largely cultivated in India, China, Africa, Italy, the West Indies, &c. It appears to be specially valuable during the breeding season, and is most useful for young chickens. Dr. Voelcker says that while "it is rich in starch, and contains an appreciable quantity of oil, it is poorer in albuminous compounds than barley meal, and scarcely as valuable for feeding purposes." *Dari* is of the size of the large millet seed, is covered with a husk or envelope, and gives, when crushed, a beautiful white flour. The analysis shows it to contain:

Water ..	11.96
Starch ..	68.70
Sugar ..	1.84
Gum ..	1.23
Cellular Fiber, Husk ..	4.66
Casein ..	4.71
Other Protein Compounds.	6.48

99.58

From this it will be seen that the nutritive power is high and *dari* is a grain which can be recommended.

Damaged grain is generally sold for poultry, and its great recommendation to many purchasers is its comparative cheapness, or, rather, low price. I do not say that damaged grain is not frequently very good for poultry, but it is not necessarily so, and considering the amount of nutrition in it, which is thing we have to regard, this class of feeding is often the most expensive.

Some of it is quite unfit for food and should not be given under any circumstance whatever, as it is really only fit for manure. If the grain *must* be given it should be first boiled and as much of the scum removed as can be. In this way it may be partially improved. Sometimes grain can be bought which has been slightly damaged with water, or has been badly harvested, which is little the worse for feeding, but the grain sold in ports, which has been heated in the ships is not so suitable. Tail wheat does not come into the category of damaged grain, and it is, as a rule, even better for fowls than full bodied grain, especially for laying stock.

THE FEEDING OF CHICKENS.—While feeding is at any period of life a most important matter, there can be no question that it is of special importance during the earlier stages. Therefore, if it is desired, they must be fed accordingly. No animal which has been neglected during the period of its growth can ever attain either the size or the stamina of those more favored. For this reason it is essential that the feeding be well attended to, and that the food be of the right kind and quality. The poultry breeder should study the qualities of the different foods, most of which are dealt with above, and feed accordingly. In raising chickens it is needful at the outset to remember that they must be fed according to the object in view. For instance, if they are reared to be killed at an early age, they should be fed in a different manner than if they are reared to be layers or breeders. The food suitable in the one case would be fatal to success in the other. The food which would go to produce bone and muscle would be unsuitable for table chickens, and *vice versa*.

During the first few days of their lives the best food we know is eggs boiled hard, chopped fine, and mixed with an equal bulk of bread crumbs, the whole being moistened with milk, but not sloppy. This may be given

entirely for three or four days, when there may be alternated and then substituted, other foods, such as oatmeal mixed with barley meal, Spratt's poultry meal, or other similar preparations. These must be continued if it is intended to rear the birds to adulthood, but if for killing, there may be alternated with these for the first month, boiled rice and a little Indian meal, both of which are flesh-formers more than anything else. For the latter, the food should be, until the time of putting up for fattening, barley and Indian meal, in which a little meat or suet may be mixed, and wheat or buckwheat; but for the chickens which are intended to have a longer period of life, it should be barley meal, wheat meal, buckwheat meal, Spratt's food, and any of the ordinary cereals. For the first month, the birds will be unable to eat whole grain, and cracked buckwheat is the best to be given, but after that time they will be able to take all the smaller sized grains. Chickens should be fed every two hours the first week, every three hours for the next month, and after that time four times a day until they are full grown. They should never be fed to repletion, but always given just as much as they will eat readily. Food should not be left standing, as it soon sours, and sour food is fatal to chickens. Sweet milk may be given to young birds, but not too much of it, as it is a rich food.

MR. A. C. HAWKINS' POULTRY FARM.

In this issue we present our readers with a fine engraving of Mr. A. C. HAWKINS' Poultry Farm situated at Lancaster, Mass. The following notes we clip from the *New England Fancier*.

The first building we entered was 60 ft. long, having small apartments 10 ft. by 4 ft. on either side, with an alleyway through the centre. In these small pens are kept, through the fall, the fowls that he has prepared for exhibition and also for stock sale. The