

ducing the splendid poultry of France; but it is difficult to procure in England, and very expensive. (1) Such little delicacies as a spoonful of sugar in the rice, a lump of fat, some coarse treacle, will hold their proper position in the poultry dietary when procurable. I never give any drink to fattening fowls, finding it disorders the stomach, and rather impedes digestion. The meal should be mixed rather slack, and all food given luke-warm. Wheat-meal, now so cheap, is an excellent food if mixed with twice its own bulk of maize-meal.

A bird which is fattening well will lie down a great deal, and the comb will enlarge rapidly. Ridges of white fat will appear under the skin below the wings, and along each side of the breast bone. When the period of fattening is complete, the fowl should be fasted for twelve hours before being killed.

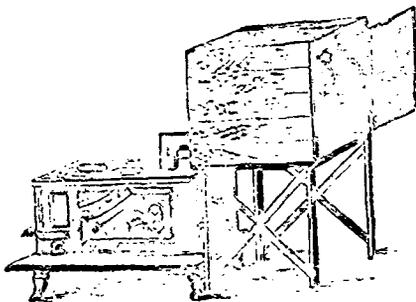
The skin of a fat bird is very tender, and the utmost care must be taken during the operation of plucking. This should be done while the fowl is warm, and it must then be trussed, and wrapped in a fine linen cloth, soaked in pure cold water till it is "set." Fowls should be wrapped in clean paper, not old newspaper, and packed in fresh crushed straw, with plenty of padding between each bird, to prevent bruising. The practice of smashing in the breast-bone is very bad, and renders carving a difficult operation. The breast-bone may be depressed by a weight placed on it upon a folded cloth. The head should be folded close to the side, and the legs, after being well-washed, left intact.

Feathers should be sorted as far as possible, the white ones being kept separate. After being washed with plenty of soap and water, picked and cut they should be dried in a cool oven. The washing is, of course, performed by enclosing the feathers in a large loosely woven canvas bag, which is plunged bodily into a tub of soap suds.

I have found this plan very superior to the lime-water process, the method of simply drying them in bags. The washing renders them perfectly sweet and adds considerably to their elasticity. — *Live Stock Journal Almanac*, 1885.

A "Smoke-House," or Smoke-Box.

An easily extemporized "smoke-house" is shown in the engraving. An old box-stove is placed in the back yard, with a dry good's box mounted on a frame close at its rear. The stove and box are connected by an elbow of stove-pipe. Place hooks in the top of the box upon which to hang the hams,



AN EXTEMPOORIZED SMOKE-HOUSE.

&c. One end of the box serves as a door. The fire in the stove is easily governed by a draft-slide in front. An opening in the rear of the box over the door, allows the smoke to pass out when necessary; otherwise it is closed by a slide. When a smoke-house of this kind is once used, we are sure no one

will thereafter willingly resort to old barrels or hogsheads, which frequently are set on fire, injuring the meat that is being smoked within.

CORRESPONDENCE.

In your January number you kindly gave us one of Sir J. B. Lawes tables, which tells us that oxen, sheep and pigs void about 95 $\frac{1}{10}$ of the food they consume. That I take to be the maximum and only to be obtained when the greatest care is exercised so that not the smallest portion of either the solid and liquid is allowed to go to waste.

The manure from a pregnant animal or a milch cow will not yield such a high percentage as a portion of the food will be taken up by the foetus or turned into milk as the case may be. Waring, in his book of the farm, tells us that: "Except when peat, sand, &c., are used, stable manure contains nothing but what has already formed a part of plants and it contains every ingredient that plants require for their growth. This however states but one half of the question. The other half and a very important one it is—is as follows—a given quantity of farmyard manure does not contain all that is needed to produce the same quantity of vegetable matter that constituted the food and litter of the animals by which it was produced."

I take it for granted that Waring is supposing that the manure has been properly taken care of and every portion saved.

Now look at the way most—I won't say all—of our farmers treat their manure. They simply throw the solid excrement and what little of the liquid that may be retained in the litter in a heap in their yards to be leached by the sun and rain till such time as they are ready to use it on their land. They then spend both time and labor in spreading this, what they call good manure, over their fields and are surprised they do not get heavy crops. The truth is they have allowed the most valuable part to be taken away by the sun and rain and do not know it.

As it is a well proved fact that a ton of hay or other farm crop turned into manure will not produce a like quantity of vegetable matter, is it not time that our farmers considered this subject well before their farms cease to produce paying crops and look for some method by which they can prevent further deterioration? Neither rotation nor "meliorating" crops will do it. To those who sell hay, grain, &c., I would suggest that they take better care of what manure they make and supplement it with some good commercial fertilizer. To those who sell cattle or horses, or fatten beef for amusement—as I question if there is any profit in it in this province—to buy cotton-seed meal or linseed meal, good bran and such other feed as they may require, and then take care of their manure. Not long ago I was talking with a breeder of thoroughbred cattle who told me that he had found he could not raise roots successfully without the use of concentrated manures, even if they cost him \$50 a ton. I think most of our farmers will find the use of commercial fertilizers preferable to increasing their present stock of cattle and buying feed for the purpose of making more manure, is it will require no extra capital and although it may seem expensive a small quantity goes a long way. It is more easily applied to the land than farmyard manure and being in a soluble condition is available as plant food just at the time a young plant wants nourishment. Don't for a moment suppose I am not a strong advocate for farm-yard manure when it is properly handled. But for root crops and corn that owing to our short season require to be forced ahead I think a good concentrated manure is best or at any rate a little can be used profitably in conjunction with manure so as to insure a quick start. Before closing I would like to advise your readers that

(1) This grain in England is only grown for game. In Norfolk I have seen large fields of turnips with every twelfth drill sown with buckwheat.
A. R. J. F.