

in looking after their best birds, to have them looking their best. Plenty of good, wholesome food, clean apartments and strict attendance will bring the red ticket. It seems scarcely a year has passed since the same subject was before us; but our poultry journals are already on the alert and telling how to feed and how to show in order to win. But because every one cannot win the red tickets, some are prevented from exhibiting from lack of confidence in themselves or in their fowls. However, do not let us neglect to visit the fairs, whether we show or not.

A Model Hennyery.

Correspondents frequently inquire for a plan of a good chicken house to accommodate several varieties of fowls. We therefore give the following:—

This building is nearly seventy-five feet long, thirteen feet high and twelve feet wide. It is built of wood, the roof shingled. To the highest pitch of the roof it is thirteen feet. The elevation or height from the ground or foundation in front is four feet, which cuts a twelve-foot board into three pieces; the length or pitch of the roof in front is twelve feet—just the length of a board, saving a few inches of a ragged end; the pitch of the rear roof is six feet, and the height of the building from the ground to the base of the roof is just six feet, which cuts a twelve-foot board into two pieces. The ground plan and frame work are planned on the same principles of economy of timber. By this plan no timber is wasted, as it all cuts out clean; there is also a great saving of labor. The foundation of the building rests on cedar posts set four feet into the ground.

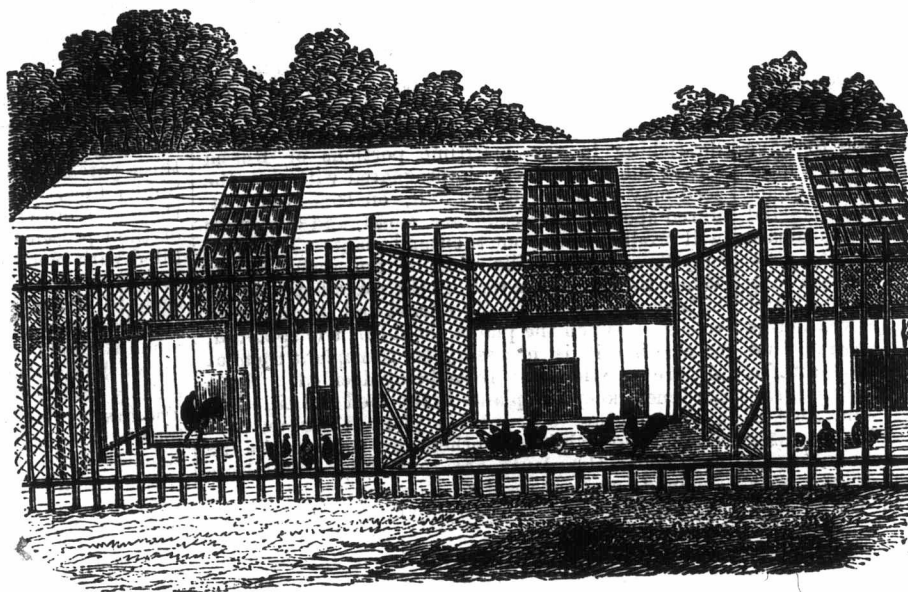
This house contains eight pens, each one of which will accommodate from twenty-five to thirty fowls; each pen is nine feet long and eight feet wide. All the pens are divided off by wire partitions of one inch mesh. Each pen has a glass window on the southern front of the house, extending from the gutter to within one foot of the apex of the roof, fixed in permanently with glass lapping over each other, after the fashion of hot-bed sashes; they are about eleven by three feet. Each pen is entered by wire door six feet high, from the hallway, which is three feet wide; and these doors are carefully fastened with a brass padlock.

The house is put together with matched boards, and the grooves of the boards are filled in with white lead and then driven together, so as to make the joints impervious to cold or wet. On the rear side of the house there are four scuttles or ventilators, 2x2 feet, placed equidistant from each other, and to these are attached iron rods which fit into a slide with a screw, so that they can be raised to any height. These are raised, according to the weather, every morning, to let off the foul air. Each pen has a ventilator besides the trap door at the bottom, same size, which communicates with the pens and runs. These lower ventilators are used only in very hot weather, to allow a free circulation through the building, and in summer each pen is shaded from the extreme rays of the sun by thick shades fastened up on the inside, so that the inside of the house is cooler than the outside.

The dropping boards extend the whole width of the pen, and are about two feet wide and sixteen inches from the floor; the roosts are about seven inches above and over this board. They are three inches wide and crescent-shaped on top, so that the fowls can rest a considerable portion of their bodies on the perches. Under these dropping boards are the nest boxes, where the fowls lay, and are shaded and secluded. The feeding and drinking troughs are made of galvanized iron, and hung with hooks on eyes, so that they can be easily removed when they require cleaning. One can stand at one end of this long house and see all the chickens on their roosts. By seeing each other in this way the fowls are made

companionable, and are saved many a ferocious fight; at the same time each kind is kept separated from the other. Each pen has a run 33x12 and 15 feet; these runs are separated by wire fences twelve feet high, with meshes of two inches.

The house is surrounded with a drain which carries off all the water and moisture, and prevents dampness. Inside, the house is cemented all through, and these cemented floors are covered with gravel about two inches deep. The house is heated in the cold weather just enough to keep water from freezing. The plan of this hennyery is remarkable for its simplicity and hygienic arrangement.



ELEVATION.

Breeding Table Fowls.

The production of cross-bred fowls for table purposes is now attracting considerable attention. Many persons who have not had much or any experience in the matter are asking for information regarding the best and most profitable crosses, and others are making suggestions as to the breeds that should be employed. Mere random suggestions are, however, of very slight value, and the crossing of breeds for the mere sake of crossing, without any definite aim, is not at all calculated to be a profitable proceeding.

Before matching up different birds to produce crosses, we should ask ourselves the question as to

muscles, and in the breeds that do not fly they become lessened in bulk—hence it is impossible to obtain a plump-breasted Cochin or Brahma.

The Game fowl, flying strongly and having small bone and good quality of flesh, offers an advantageous cross with the Dorking, giving hardy chickens, with early maturity and every quality that could be desired, except that they have not white shanks. To produce this cross to perfection, it is necessary that the hens should be good sized, game, and mated with a short-legged Dorking cock; the converse cross does not yield so good a result.

Crosses with Asiatic breeds, as with Cochins and Brahmas, give large size and good family fowls,

possessing great hardihood and early maturity, but there is much offal, and they are coarse-boned, and, though there is much meat on the legs, they are deficient on the breast.

If persons are desirous of trying a Cochin or a Brahma cross, an infusion of Game offers the best chance, as correcting many of the deficiencies of Asiatic breeds; or, failing Game, a good black or spangled Hamburg may be used. Birds of the Spanish type, viz: Leghorns, Andalusians and Anconas, are generally too leggy, though some short-legged large Minorcas may be regarded as exempt from such a charge.

The French breeds—Creves, Houdans, and La Fleche—are all so good tablefowls that they can scarcely be improved upon by crossing, except that increased hardiness may be given. Although I have not found even the last named, the La Fleche, as delicate as they are represented, I am this

year running some large Game hens with La Fleche cocks, as last year I found that the cross-bred chickens were very plump, hardy, and matured early.

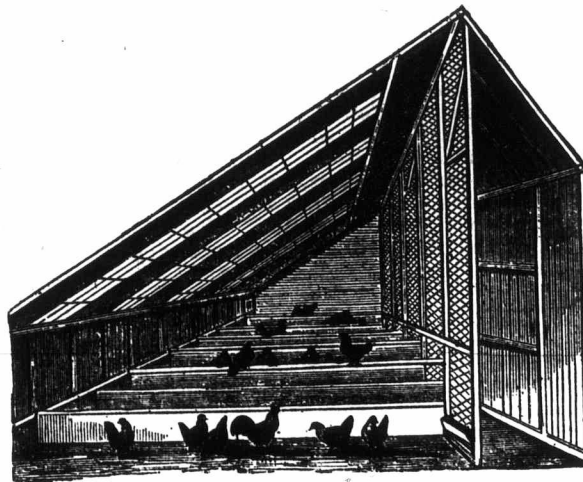
The number and variety of even first crosses that can be made is almost indefinite, but the great majority offer no prospect of advantage. What good could possibly result from crossing Spanish and Dorking? There would be loss of the great laying powers of the former, and the full breast and good table qualities of the latter. The Spanish is generally a bad bird to cross with; its most striking property (I am now speaking of the old fashioned stock, not weedy show birds), is the great production of large eggs. This property is

lost by crossing, and no good gained in return. Another point of some importance is the fact that the breeding from cross-birds, even when they are mated with birds of pure breed, has rarely been found to be attended with satisfactory results. I certainly have succeeded in rearing chickens from cross breeds as good as the parent birds. Possibly the same care may not be taken in the selection of the parents or of the chickens, but whatever the cause, the fact remains, and I believe that I am not singular in my experience.—[The Field.]

Green Food for Winter Use.

The time is approaching when every breeder should see that his fowls are provided with green food for winter use. Fowls, as well as other animals, require a certain amount of coarse and refuse matter to keep them free from constipation, indigestion and other kindred complaints. Before winter sets in, store away cabbage, turnips, rowen, onions and potatoes for the fowls.

Cabbage is undoubtedly the very best and cheapest green food that can be had. It is not necessary or economical to purchase prime heads for their use, as the soft heads which are not marketable are just as good, and they cost one-half less. The same with turnips and potatoes; they can be had cheap by purchasing from farmers the small or refuse part of the crop. These articles can be stored in a dry cellar, and will be found very useful during the four or five months of winter, when the fowls require good, artificial feeding.



INTERIOR

the qualities we require. If we want first-class fowls for the table, irrespective of other considerations, we must proceed in a different manner from that which would be necessary to produce great size, or great hardihood, or egg producing qualities.

For first-class table fowls, the qualifications are plumpness of breast, fineness of quality and whiteness of skin and fat, smallness of bone and absence of useless parts, which may be regarded as offal. To obtain plumpness of breast, we must have fowls that can fly; the wings are moved by the breast