

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Thankful for the patronage already awarded us, we would respectfully request its renewal for the coming year, Subscribers by at once forwarding us their subscriptions render us substantial aid, and greatly assist us in our undertaking. The commencement of a new volume offers a favorable opportunity to those desirous of becoming subscribers; and we hopefully anticipate, not only a continuance of past support, but a large increase to our present subscription list during the year. There are still a few who have not paid us for the present year; to such we would say—you had our paper, and in justice to us you should send us your subscription; pray do so. All remittances and communications to be addressed to THOMAS McLEAN, Box 25, P. O., Toronto, Canada.

INSECT FOOD FOR POULTRY.

POULTRY, when kept in confined space, require to be supplied with a substitute for the food, which, if allowed a free range, they would pick up for themselves. The fancier who does not do so, studies neither their wants, their habits, or their comforts. Insects of various kinds are freely devoured by fowls having free range, and form the principal dish in the bill of fare; green food is the other staple commodity; with these two moderately supplied, the quantity of grain given need not be large.

The number of insects picked up during the day by each fowl must be large, as will be seen by any one who takes the trouble to observe closely the movements of one fowl for even an hour in the day. Fowls are active workers; from early dawn till late in the evening they are to be found wandering about, seeking that which nature demands for the sustenance of life. Insects indeed are the natural food of poultry—on them they live and thrive, and no animal food

supplied is so well adapted to their wants. Could we then by artificial means, and at small expense, produce and supply to poultry kept in confined space, this their natural food, would it not greatly tend to lessen the difficulties in keeping them, promote their laying qualities, and largely add to their health and comfort? We think so. And if in grown fowls, how much more so in chickens. It requires no argument on our part to prove this. Every breeder knows of what advantage insect food is to chickens, especially those of the larger breeds.

On page 88, a correspondent gives a receipt for the production of insects for poultry food. The fly used is a variety of the common house fly, and which we understand has been extensively adopted by keepers of poultry yards in Germany. It is a simple and inexpensive arrangement, and is well worth a trial by those who keep poultry in small yards. The receipt says:—"Make nine holes or pits, eight by four, and three deep. The holes to be tight, built either of brick or wood. On bottom place in layers, one inch of barley straw, ditto then chicken, pig, pigeon or other dung, one inch and a half of brewers' grains, one inch of bog earth, and so continue until the receiver is full. In this compost the flies lay their eggs, and in nine days the maggots are fit for use. The *verminiere* has to be kept sheltered. Feed three times a day. This kind of food may be prepared for winter use as the maggots will turn into crystals, when they will keep as good as wheat. The above receipt is calculated to feed about three thousand chickens."

Last season we experimented on insect raising, but not in the manner above described; indeed we had done so previous to our correspondent's letter, and therefore in ignorance of his receipt. Our mode was this: we procured some of the refuse from a slaughter house,