

the sun of their yards when the weather is fine, but be sure that they are comfortable and well provided for in the house, so they will feel contented indoors during heavy wind, rain or snow-storms.

Keep a good lookout on the condition of the stock at this season.

If you have erred in feeding, there may be overfat or liver troubles, indigestion, or looseness of the bowels that must be remedied at once. Very often by making the fowls do more exercising, and changing the food to such kinds as will suit their conditions, sickness, so common in the early spring, will be avoided. Hens that have been backward in laying during the winter, and have been generously fed, are almost sure, as a rule, to be in too fat a condition. They will begin the laying season with soft thin shells, and often double yolked eggs. Pullets too will have the same trouble, and one cannot be too particular in properly growing up the stock for breeding purposes. When pullets are too fat they have great trouble to produce their first eggs. Use the limbs of trees which you have trimmed from orchard or garden, cut into short lengths for charring, and burn slowly in the old wood stove and make into charcoal enough to last you for a year; in fact it will pay you to sift out the charcoal from your wood ashes made in all the stoves in the house, and keep it in small boxes in the hen house where the birds can get it at any time of the year. It can be saved in granulated size or pulverized and mixed with the morning mash. It should be kept in covered tin cans, and is a valuable thing to use in the food for both fowls and chicks. It acts as a corrective in preventing diarrhæa and bowel complaints, keeping the contents of the crop sweet and free from acidity. Let February be a month of cleaning up and preparing for springwork. What can be done now will be considerable labor saved at a season when there is so much to do.

S. J. ANDRES.

#### **BUTTER AND EGGS CO-OPERATION IN FRANCE.**

A movement is on foot in France to attach an "Egg department" to their system of co-operative dairies. The plan is simple and works well. Each member of the Dairy Association undertakes to send not less than 200 eggs per week on two fixed days; a distinction is to be made between

eggs for consumption and those intended for hatching. Members can only send the product of their own hens and at their own expense to the creamery office. To secure that the eggs be in a fit and proper condition the members will bind themselves to remove the eggs daily from the nest, and leave as the nest-egg one of porcelain. There is a heavy penalty for sending old or spoiled eggs. The creameries undertake the sale of the eggs and secure the best market price. Associated with the egg industry that of poultry will be added later on.

This is extending the co-operative system in a practical way. If it were practicable to do the same work in connection with our co-operative cheese factories and creameries it would go a long way towards solving the problem of how to collect the eggs from the farmers in a perfectly fresh condition. Cold-storage facilities could be provided at the factories, where the eggs could be kept in a fresh condition and packed ready for shipment to the large cities or direct to Great Britain.

#### **THE PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL**

*Interview with the originator, Mr. John Corbett, Impney, Droitwich, England.*

Mr. John Corbett has attracted attention throughout all classes interested in the national industry by his munificent offer to found a School of Agriculture, and there is a natural and keen desire to obtain further information about the important scheme, and to learn as much as possible respecting the personality of the donor. On the first point, I had the privilege of paying a visit to Impney the other day, and am able to reproduce what Mr. Corbett himself says about it; while, as to the second, I can only repeat what I heard from other source.

Mr. Corbett has, however, long been known in Worcestershire, not only as one of the best of landlords, but also as one of the most successful of business men. He has the power, as well as the will, to be philanthropic, because of his energy, perseverance, and discernment, which, at the age of 82, are still quite unimpaired. Indeed, he much regrets that he is not now, as formerly, the proprietor of the Stoke Prior Salt Works, which, under his administration, eminently prospered for about 40 years. In 1852, when he courageously took over the works, after nine individual pro-