

together and put them carefully in one place. Place some rails or poles on the ground for them to rest upon and you will keep them off the ground and thus prevent their rotting. It will not be very long until next year rolls around, when you will need them. It is a very expensive business to make new coops every year, and the man who does it is still wondering there are no profits in the chicken business. This is one of the leaks that must be stopped, and that as soon as possible.—*Ohio Poultry Journal*.

It will not conduce to winter laying if the hens are closely confined during the winter, and fed on grain principally. Now that the season when eggs will be high is approaching, the hens should be given a variety, and nothing will serve the poultryman better than clover hay as a portion of the winter diet. The poultryman must keep in view that the nitrogenous element is the most important, for it is the nitrogenous (albuminoids) matter that is the most difficult to obtain. Excess of grain allows a larger proportion of the carbonaceous matter than is sufficient, and, unless they are so situated as to permit of plenty of exercise, the hens will not lay a fair proportion of eggs. The "balanced ration" is the ration for hens as well as for cows, and it is the cheapest. Any ration that contains an excess of any particular food, will be fed at a loss. The safest plan is to feed a variety, for then fewer mistakes in feeding will be made, and the hens will be better supplied.—*Farm and Fireside*.

When fowls are afflicted with scaly leg the best way to effect a cure is to insert a feather in the spout of a coal oil can so that too large a stream will not run out. Have some one hold the fowl by the wings, then take hold of a toe of one foot at a time and pour a fine stream from the edge of the

feathers entirely down the leg to end of toes, taking care that all parts of the foot and leg are thoroughly saturated with the oil. Usually one application will be enough; if not, repeat it; a second time will surely effect a cure. The scaly appearance is caused by an insect which the oil kills and leaves the legs clean and smooth. This cure will often answer when the legs get to twice their usual size, which is often the case when neglected.—*Orange Judd Farmer*.

It is a good plan to have two poultry yards, or a large one divided, and use each part in alternate years for poultry and garden vegetables. The poultry droppings help to enrich the land so that little or no extra fertilizer will be required, when the summer tillage and croppings will sweeten the ground and keep it in healthful condition for poultry.—*Indiana Farmer*.

As the season for poultry exhibitions is approaching, and as many persons are contemplating exhibiting, perhaps for the first time, they should know that their stock will come in competition with that belonging to old hands at the business, and should therefore be placed on an equal footing with them so far as possible. While the following is no great secret, it should be fully understood, viz:

Exhibition birds designed for the coming shows should be separated, males from females, placed in commodious quarters, and the floors of their apartments covered with fine straw at least six inches deep. For a morning feed, cooked corn meal, two pints; wheat, bran or shorts, one pint; into this mix a very little linseed or oil-cake; add, now and then, boiled potatoes, turnips or other vegetables. At noon throw clean wheat into the straw, and at sundown plenty of corn in the kernel should be placed in the feed troughs. At nine in the evening,

if one is willing to take the trouble an additional feed may be given them of toasted bread, well-buttered, and baked potatoes buttered, and if fed for only a week before the show it will add greatly to the lustre of the plumage. If fed by "candlelight" place the food on a dark cloth, or other dark foundation, so they can readily see it, set them off the perches and on returning them to the perch if any show weakness in the wings, see to it that they are properly folded and placed snugly against their sides, as this will assist in strengthening them. A little finely chopped fresh meat about twice a week will improve them. Keep water or sour milk by them at all times. Their shanks and feet should be washed with soap and water each week, using a brush to take out all the dirt. Wipe them dry and annoint them with a mixture of sweet oil 3 parts, sulphur one part, and then wipe off the grease to prevent soiling the plumage. The day previous to sending them to the show weigh them carefully and examine the Standard on that point, you may be disappointed if you do not; if disqualified on weight leave them at home. We would suggest, if there is time for the new feathers to grow out before the show, say six or eight weeks, in Asiatics, pull out clean all stubs of feathers on the shanks and toes, so that they may be replaced by new ones.—*Fanciers' Gazette*.

A few geese were once kept near the town of M—, and as they were very much teased the gander got rather savage. The parish minister, who wears very ample surtout coats, passed that way, and Mr. Gander, either thinking the surtout too long, or enraged at its flying tails, fastened on it. The minister having the advantage of weight in this novel tug of war made some headway, then something gave way, but the unfinished combat never was completed. Rather insulting treatment to a dignitary of the "auld kirk o' Scotland," but perhaps that gander was a disestablisher.