

of the hives, as I have seen some do; usually three or four puffs from the smoker are enough.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

#### EXPERIMENTS WITH BEES.

During the past six years I have been experimenting with five different strains of bees. They were the light-colored Italians, the imported Italians, the German or black bees, and a cross between the German brown bee and the imported Italians, I tried them both separately and side by side; and for both extracted and comb honey, I prefer the cross. I have five reasons for my preference, viz.:

1. When I put on the sections, I know I shall find the bees at work there the next time I look at them.

2. They are not half so apt to swarm until after storing a fair crop of surplus honey.

3. When I take off the sections, they are always capped over, if there has been any reasonable flow of honey.

4. They make whiter combs than the pure Italians.

5. They are better honey gatherers; at least, to me, they have proven so. In every respect they are just as easy to manage as any race of bees.

My best colony of bees, this season, was from a Heddon queen; she was from the cross to which I have already referred. I introduced her into a fair-sized colony of blacks, and set them by the side of my best dark Italians, and worked them for comb honey.

When I took off the sections at the close of the season, I had 40 pounds more of comb honey from her colony than from the dark ones. I also reared two nice queens besides; and then had 2 strong colonies in good condition for wintering, besides the old one which had the body of the hive full of capped honey on which to winter. The hive, in size, is the same as the 8-frame Langstroth.

Bees have done very well, considering the shortness of the season. I averaged about 100 pounds of comb honey to the colony; and one more than doubled from spring count. All went into winter quarters with the hives full of comb honey, well capped.—*G. L. Pray in American Bee Journal.*

#### LET TURKEYS RUN OUT.

Turkeys do not require as warm quarters in winter as do other fowls. However cold the weather, they should be allowed to run out of doors every day, except, perhaps, in very stormy weather. If confined in warm quarters and not allowed to run out of doors, they usually show signs of indisposition, lose their appetite, become dumpish and inactive, and not unfrequently die. They are very hardy birds and easily wintered. About all they require is a place to roost at night where they will be out of the wind, plenty to eat and drink and their liberty during the day.

Introduce new blood into your stock every year or two, by either buying a good cock or a setting of eggs of the same variety from some reliable breeder.

Bee culture is woman's work, and thousands of the gentler sex who now waste their time in the fabrication of "crazy quilts" or some other useless article of "fancy work" might easily make enough money to clothe themselves with, and contribute delicious honey to the family table, by looking after a few hives of bees. The quick observation and gentle handling, so requisite in the business, belong peculiarly to women, and there is no part which is so laborious that it may not be appropriately performed by them.

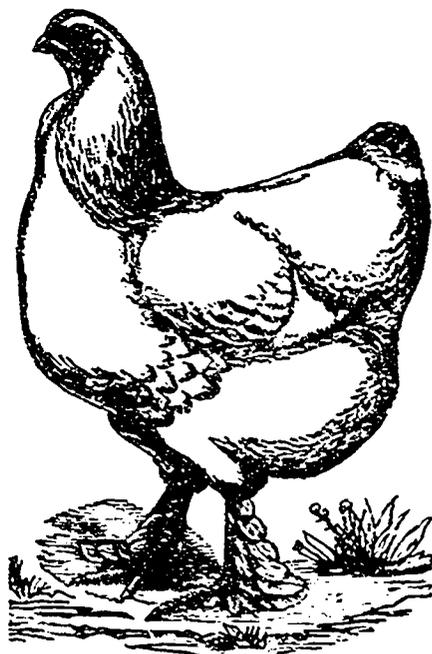
#### POULTRY—BREEDS FOR LAYING.

The best breeds of fowls for laying are those that suit the climate in which they are kept. It is an off-repeated inquiry as to which breed is most suitable by those who contemplate poultry keeping. Such inquiry can only be answered by those who have experimented with different varieties in different localities. There is no doubt that the Leghorns are equal to any other breed for egg production; but it does not follow that they are the most profitable fowl under all



LIGHT BRAHMAS.

circumstances. They are divided into two classes—the single, and rosecombs—and there is a further subdivision, according to color. The single-combed varieties of fowls are subject to frozen combs in very cold weather; but when properly managed they escape harm. The difficulty may be overcome by "dubbing" them, as is done with Games; but as the principal points of the Leghorns are given to the comb, they



WHITE COCHIN HEN.

would thereby be disqualified from competition at the fairs and poultry shows. A frosted comb would not be objectionable to those who only breed fowls for profit and not for exhibition; but when the comb becomes frosted, the hen ceases to lay until the injured member is completely healed. As the comb may be frozen several times during the cold season, the loss of time from egg production, owing to the effect of the temperature, would be quite an important item. The double-comb varieties, though exposing quite a large surface to the action of cold, have their combs closer to the head.

In thus noticing so small a matter as the comb, the object is to present one of the difficulties in the way of keeping a breed that never sets, but lays well. While the breed may not find favor in cold climates, there is no reason why it should not be popular in other sections. As the Leg-

horns have their virtues and faults, so do other breeds of fowls. In raising fowls for market, many object to the Brahmas and Cochins on account of their slow growth; and this objection may be a strong one, if the fowls are to be sent to market as chicks, as they do not feather until well advanced. If matured fowls are intended for shipment, the largest carcasses, with fine appearance, may be obtained from such breeds. The Plymouth Rocks, which grow fast and are uniform in appearance when young, also make good market fowls, when grown; but while they are excellent layers, they are liable to become excessively fat when highly fed, especially when they are confined, which is a hindrance to egg-production. This may also be an objection to the Brahmas and Cochins. The best results are derived from Plymouth Rocks when they have full range. All breeds do best with freedom; but the larger ones are more contented under restriction. It is best, therefore, in selecting a breed for laying, to take into consideration its hardiness, fitness for market, time of maturity, adaptability to climate, and disposition. By selecting these breeds which possess qualities adapting them to the conditions of the particular section of country, the best breeds for laying as well as for other purposes will be secured.—*P. H. Jacobs, in American Agriculturist.*

A GREAT many poultry raisers recommend the ashes theory about chicken yards. Nothing will be lost by allowing your fowls free access to the ash dump.

GIVE the hens the run of your orchard, especially if it is kept under cultivation, and you will be rewarded with an increased quantity and improved quality of fruit.

It is not all mixed swarms, nor yet a quarter part of them, that I would imprison in a pit for three days, covering them up hive and all. This is a method to be resorted to when hostile feelings break out among the tangled mess. When such a state of things ensues, they will be pretty sure to leave, unless deprived of the power to do so.

Two things make honey sell rapidly. First, putting up and keeping it in attractive shape and place; and second, reducing the price. Between the two I believe that the first is the best card for the producer, and is far less expensive. Let all honey producers do this as far as possible. Let him also be in no great haste to market the crop. Honey sells best in cool weather, and is by no means a perishable article, and even grows of better quality if properly kept.—*American Bee Journal.*

My poultry-yards, says a correspondent, are double, so that one can be used for two or three weeks or longer, while the other is ploughed up and seeded with oats, wheat, rye, turnips, or some other green crop. By this method fifty fowls can be kept on two quarter-acre lots all the summer or until they can be let out for a range. The droppings are ploughed in and covered up, fresh soil is turned up, and there is some useful green food provided for them. By thus alternating the yards, the ground is economized four-fold, at least. A poultry-yard should have some shade by all means. One of my yards has a double row of Norway spruces on the north side, and the other has some plum trees in it. The spruces make a pleasant shade and a dry place in which the fowls lie and dust themselves in the warm weather, and the fowls pay for the comfort of it and I get a good crop of plums.