

There is nothing better for laying hens in the spring than milk after the cream has been taken off, the *American Agriculturist* thinks. "We have tried it several seasons with complete success. With the milk given fresh from the dairy-room every day, the fowls will need no other drink, and it will supply everything required in the way of animal food. The pullets fed with milk and corn, and a mixture of corn meal and milk, through the cold weather have given an abundant supply of eggs. Wheat bran is also a good article to mix with the milk. It is better to give the mixture a boiling and to feed it in the warm state, but this is not necessary. We have also found the milk one of the best kinds of diet for young chickens soon after they come from the nest to promote their health and rapid growth. Indian meal ground coarse and scalded with milk, is perfect food for them. As they grow older, grass, cabbage or onions may be chopped fine and added to the daily rations. A portion of the milk on dairy farms usually going to the pig-trough may be diverted to the chicken-coop with great advantage. Eggs are worth 25 cents a dozen, and poultry 20 cents a pound, when pork brings but 10 cents a pound in the market."

Keep the runs well plowed or spaded. Never let them get foul; keep the houses clean of filth, it is easy to keep down lice, mites and diseases.

A correspondent of the *New Hampshire Mirror* claims that the droppings of a hen are worth 40 cents for one year. The droppings should be mixed with an equal bulk of loam or muck and spread evenly. Hen manure contains of organic matter, 255 parts; lime, 24; nitrogen, 16; potash, 8; and phosphoric acid, 150. Average stable manure contains of organic matter, 192 parts; nitrogen, 5; potash, 6; phosphoric acid, 2½; and lime, 7.

While Guinea fowls are esteemed for their beauty they are not very common on the farm. They are great birds to fly, and are very severe on young chickens, and often make it unpleasant for older fowls. They are great foragers, and delight in stealing their nests, where they can rear their broods unmolested. In rearing these fowls it is best to procure eggs and put them under a common hen, since the Guinea hen is a great rover and will expose her brood to the wet grass or its prowling enemies.

A good condition powder for poultry, which may be made cheaply, is composed of the following ingredients: One pound ground bones, one pound chalk, two pounds ground dried meat, one pound charcoal, one pound linseed meal, one pound fennyruk, and an ounce each of salt, sulphur, ground ginger, and copperas. Mix intimately, and feed a tablespoonful to six hens, once a day in the soft food.

Salt and Cayenne pepper are two substances that are both useful and grateful in small quantities, stirred in the soft food for poultry. The salt is appetizing, the red pepper tonical and warming to the system. The cayenne may be given in their drink, also, in cool weather, to good advantage.

There are plenty of people in this world who are three-handed—right hand, left hand and behind hand.

MEDICINES AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION TO POULTRY, PIGEONS AND PET STOCK.

BY PROF. WESLEY MILLS, M.D.

[An address to the Montreal Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association, at the monthly meeting in May.]

Naturally the study of the symptoms and treatment of the diseases of man will always have more interest than the maladies of the lower animals; but in

proportion as these creatures are understood and their resemblances both in health and disease to the "lord of creation" are recognized, will their ailments seem worthy of consideration on purely humane principles.

Veterinary medicine is making great progress, and the diseases of dogs are fairly well understood.

After consulting a large number of works on poultry, pigeons and pet stock, I find that the whole subject of the diseases of these birds is in a very crude state. The maladies are often not understood in their essential nature, and as a consequence the treatment is unsatisfactory. The remedy for this state of things lies in two directions:—

1. A better understanding on the part of fanciers of the nature of the animal body, and especially of the peculiarities of birds.

2. Ventilation of the subject of disease: its causation, prevention and treatment in the same way as the breeding and management of fowls (in health) are now discussed in the journals and societies.

I notice with pleasure that the *CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW*, and *Pigeons and Pets* have both done something to encourage this under the enterprising and enlightened management of Mr. H. B. Donovan, their editor.

I should say that it ought to be the aim and ambition of fanciers and breeders of all kinds of birds to bring their stock to a level with that of other kinds of animals as to pedigrees, quality, and care in health and disease.

The subject I have to treat this evening is a very large one, and only a few suggestions as to the principles which should regulate our practice can be dealt with on this occasion.

Medicines may be administered in the form of liquids, powders, pills, tablets, granules, crystals, &c. In the case of liquids there are difficulties