

The crossing of distinct breeds, making what farmers value as the barn-yard fowl, more hardy and better layers than some of the pure breeds, may operate in this way. It is a common remark with those who sell eggs and get their profit from them more than from selling chickens, that they get more eggs from mixture of breeds.

It may be well for poultry breeders to attend to this more than they do.—*Practical Farmer.*

Food for Fattening Fowls.

The best food for fattening poultry is sweet, fresh oatmeal or barley meal, mixed either with scalding milk or water. Cooped fowls should be supplied with fresh food three times a day, namely, at daybreak or as soon after as possible; at mid-day, and again at roosting time; as much as they can eat should be given to the fowls on each occasion, but no more than can be devoured by the next meal; should any be left, it should be removed and given to the other fowls, as, if kept, it is apt to become sour, when the birds will not eat it freely. The troughs for the soft meal should be scalded out daily, which can be done conveniently by having a supply of spare ones.

In addition to soft food, a supply of fresh clean water must be constantly present, and a little gravel must be given daily—otherwise the grinding action of the gizzard, which is necessary to the due digestion of food, does not go on satisfactorily; the supply of a little green food will be found very advantageous to health, a little sliced cabbage or some turnip tops, or green turf to pick at occasionally, being all that is required.

A variation in the diet will be found very conducive to an increased appetite, and therefore the occasional substitution of a feed of boiled barley for the slaked oatmeal is desirable. Some feeders have divisions in their troughs, or, still better, a small extra trough, which always contains some grains for the fowls to peck at.

Should the birds be required to be very fat, some mutton suet or trimmings of the loins may be chopped up and scalded with the meal, or they may be boiled in the milk and water preparatory to its being poured over the food, and the fat of fowls so fattened will be found exceedingly firm.

In the course of about a fortnight to three weeks, at the utmost, a fowl will have attained, under this system of feeding, the highest degree of fatness of which it is capable, and it must then be killed, for if the attempt be made to keep it any longer in that state, it becomes diseased from an inflammatory action being established, which renders the flesh hard and even unwholesome.

When the fowls have arrived at a state fit for killing, they should be kept for twelve or fifteen hours without food or water, in order that the intestines may be as empty as possi-

ble, otherwise the bird turns green and useless in a short time.

In situations where good sweet Indian corn meal can be obtained at a low rate, it will be found to answer quite as well as oatmeal; it contains a very large amount of oil, and is invariably used in the States of America as a food for all animals put up to fatten. Wheat meal is too expensive, but some small fall wheat is far superior to barley to place in the trough as whole grain for the fowls to peck at.—*The Field.*

"All Eggs Laid will be Destroyed."

To the Editor.

SIR,—This is one of the rules of the Ontario Poultry Society, and of most others in England; from which they are only altered to suit local circumstances. Now, I should be glad to have the opinion of exhibitors generally as to the meaning of this rule. As I framed the first rules for the Society, I will explain my idea of its meaning, which is generally understood in all exhibitions in the old country to be—to prevent persons getting possession unfairly of any particular strain of fowls. It is, therefore, usual to crack the egg or run a pin into it; after either process it is useless for incubation. I do not think the literal meaning can be strained so far as to prevent an exhibitor having his own birds' eggs unbroken if he wishes. No society, of course, could take the trouble to collect the eggs for absent exhibitors; but if the exhibitor be present, and an egg is laid in any pen which he may own, I hold that on pointing out the same to the secretary, or other official, it may be given by those in authority to the owner of the fowls. This was done at most of our shows, and has given offence. It seems, in some quarters, but on what ground I cannot comprehend. The rule simply is a guarantee to absent exhibitors that the eggs their fowls lay shall not fall into the possession of others; but if the owner is present, and thinks the eggs of his stock of sufficient importance to be preserved, and takes the trouble so to do, through a proper official, I really can not see in what way the spirit and intent of the rule is violated. In two instances at an exhibition, I gave the owners of imported birds (at their request) the eggs laid. I took care to give them into their own possession, and not through a third party, and I cannot see, as some cavillers would have it, that the rule was broken.

F. C. MASSARD.

Ex-Secretary, O. P. S.

Feeding Chickens.

To the Editor.

SIR,—The oft-told tale must be repeated, and some of the most obvious rules reiterated, in order to keep poultry fanciers to the mark. Surely enough has been said on fowl and chicken feeding, and it should not require any repetition. Blair, Tegetmeier, Wright, and others, give all necessary direc-

tions. Why are they not attended to? Having constituted myself a sort of inspector—I suppose I might say spy—I get a look when I can, at this season, into my neighbours' yards. The view is not encouraging. I find chickens of six months old and upwards, no bigger than bantams, and the birds in general by no means satisfactory. I enquire the cause; I cannot get a reply; I then have to go into cross-examination, and find lack of food the chief cause in many cases, and especially the want of soft food. Keepers say they give every other thing *ad infinitum*, but lack this essential. Chickens will not thrive as they ought on hard grain. They must be kept growing from the moment they can run. In the long nights of the early spring, if required for summer shows, they must be fed at night. But say they are not intended for anything but market, the sooner you get them there the better they pay; and if not fed in their earlier stages they never make good fowls afterwards. You never can put on in shape, constitution and frame, what you spoil by not feeding the fowls early. Chickens should be fed very often, and all birds should have a ration of soft food at least once in twenty-four hours. The noon-day meal is the best time.

It is a well acknowledged fact that feeding is the secret of the great weights—a little and often, varied as much as possible, is the way to ensure success.

Now, if exhibitions served no other end, they are of great use by causing comparison in this way, for I am certain that had a show of chickens been held this fall, some of our best exhibitors would have seen how lamentably deficient in size their birds of this year would have been, compared with many others better attended to and of younger growth.

F. C. H.

NORTH WESTERN POULTRY SHOW.—The *Western Rural* gives the following account of the Poultry Show recently held in Chicago.

"The third exhibition of the Northwestern Poultry Association was held in Library Hall, Chicago, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, November 10, 11, and 12, and was in all respects a gratifying success. The entries comprised between 300 and 400 coops and cages, containing in the aggregate probably not less than 1,500 birds. It was by far the largest show of poultry ever held in the West, and nearly all the known breeds of poultry were represented. There were entries also of turkeys, geese, ducks, pea fowls, pigeons, rabbits, etc. The interest in breeding improved and approved kinds of poultry is evidently on the increase. The exhibitions of the Association have steadily increased in interest and magnitude, and we notice that the same state of things exists at the East. There is an increasing demand for pure-bred birds. The coops were arranged judiciously along the Hall, on long tables, and the birds disposed together according to class; the show was certainly exceedingly fine in quantity and quality."