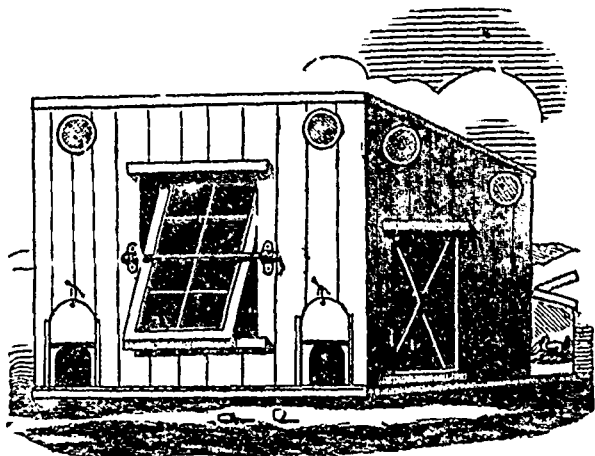


POULTRY.

A desirable Poultry House.

We give to the readers of our journal a cut of a movable poultry house which can be built cheaply. Size about 6 by 8 feet, height in front 6 feet, at back 5 feet 6 inches, roof covered



Poultry House.

with tarred paper or battened to make it tight. The window 3 x 5 feet, revolving on a bar. The runways are kept open during the day, having sliding doors to close at night to keep out cats, foxes or other midnight prowlers; the nests are placed outside the building, they are covered to protect them from rain, preventing the necessity of going into the house to get the eggs. Perches may be placed opposite the door, in notches prepared for them, so that they may be removed to clean them. Ventilation is well secured by the round holes at the top; during midsummer the window can be removed, and the opening covered with wire netting or laths. The house should be placed upon high, dry ground to prevent it becoming muddy in wet weather, and moved as often as may be necessary to keep vermin from collecting, and the ground from becoming filthy from the droppings of the birds.

Our artist has shown the opening, to remove the eggs, at the top. It should be on the side, so as to make the top rain-proof.

Hints for the Season.

In years past, almost a universal idea has been that poultry could not be kept with profit except on large farms, and even then, only when raised in large numbers. This is a great mistake, as a few well chosen birds, when properly cared for, yield as much in proportion, if not more profit, as when kept in large numbers. There is scarcely a family who have a few common or barn yard fowls but have found them profitable. As a general thing, the management of poultry is considered of too little importance, and is left pretty much to chance; but, of late years, the Poultry Exhibitions throughout the country have inculcated a taste for poultry breeding which, we are glad to see, is increasing.

Among all domesticated animals, none are more profitable than poultry when their products are properly disposed of.

There is no good reason why, at all seasons of the year, eggs should not become as much the food of the poor as they are a delicacy for the rich.

Poultry breeding is carried on largely by fanciers who deal in fine feathered and full blooded stock, bred strictly to colour and shape of feather and body, which they sell in pairs

or trios at good round prices. But there is money in raising poultry for flesh and eggs alone.

If you cannot afford to buy high priced birds or eggs for hatching, and you have the common barn yard fowl, select your best layers, and flesh producers. Mate properly for that purpose, using only your best stock every season to breed from. Though you may not succeed in getting particularly fine points in plumage, you will in a short time succeed in making great improvement in your stock, for flesh and eggs.

Hens are not profitable to keep after the third year as egg producers. If they are of a valuable breed they may be kept, for the sake of breeding to keep up the stock.

When eggs are the only object, the Polands, Black Spanish, Leghorns, Crèvecoeurs and La Fleche are the best. The game are also very good, but it is difficult to keep many together, because of their quarrelsome dispositions. The Spanish and Leghorns are best, the first laying large white eggs and most in weight of any in the year, the Leghorns most in number and not large. For flesh, the Brahma, or Plymouth Rock,—the latter being essentially the farmers' fowl,—maturing early, and forming flesh quickly at the least expense.

Now, as the season is coming when you can let your fowls out, from their winter shelter, to run in the grass, you must not forget to care for them, if you expect to make any profit from them. It may be that you are obliged to confine your birds in small yards, in spring as well as winter, preventing them from getting to the garden or planted fields. Therefore it is needful to provide them with food such as will take the place of that which they would pick up when running at large.

Pure fresh water, and plenty of it, daily change of food, cooked and raw, greens, such stuff as cabbage, turnips; once a week chopped onions, gravel, oyster-shells broken up, old mortar, scraps; in fact any thing left from the table may be cooked and given to them rather than be thrown away.

Provide dust baths in the sun where they will be dry, made of good road dust or sand, well mixed with a little flour of sulphur.

Keep a record of your work. Do not burden your minds with trying to remember either your success or failure. If you make an experiment, record it, so that you can trace it up for reference if it is a success; if a failure, you can protect yourself against it, another time.

If you buy eggs for hatching, be sure of the reputation of the man you buy of, know what the merits of his stock are, note how they are packed, if sent by Express; if badly done make complaint at once.

Do not allow the bones from the table to be thrown into the dust heap, or lie around the yard; throw them into the fire, burn them a little, crush and give them to your fowls. If bread is burned, or anything else that is cooked in the house, do not throw it away, but use it as charcoal for your birds.

If they have been obliged to run in the orchard or meadow to pick up their living as they can and feeding on what they could get, their eggs and flesh are likely to taste;—feeding charcoal in any shape will remedy the evil.

If you can spare a piece of land from garden or field, plant sunflower seeds. Mammoth Russian is best—the seeds will prove useful for your poultry next fall.

Prepare now for the winter's supply of green food for your poultry.

Provide onions, cabbage, turnips, and beets. Cut grass when about six inches long and cure it well;—it will save you