

a board, as it admits of only one position for the fowl. Chicks should be led up to roost as soon as they can cling well. Thus they are kept more cleanly, and there is less danger from vermin. But the age depends much on breed, some being feathered earlier than others.

Chicks that roost in coops have little regard to position, frequently when in deep repose lying with outstretched limbs. When in coops they have to be guarded from outside depredators. For this reason it is well to lead them to roost as early as they can endure it. They thrive better in secure coop if it is cleaned out every day or two, and fresh litter scattered over the bottom to catch the droppings. The chicks are better contented until the promptings of nature teaches them to seek high roosts. I prefer low perches, all on a level. When one perch is above another, it is the strife of each bird to get at the top. The fowls when alighting from lofty perches strike on the soles of the feet, which in the case of heavy birds is the occasion of "bumble foot."

In the arrangement of perches, there should be some care taken to place them in the darkest and most comfortable portion of the building, as the fowls suffer most from colds when in repose. When accustomed to it, fowls are just as well satisfied with a low perch as a high one, so long as there is not one above them. Young chicks should not be put to roost with old, quarrelsome fowls, but have a place devoted to their sole occupation, where the older fowls cannot gain admittance.

C. B.

*Dutchess County, N. Y.*

#### Keeping Fowls Confined.

EDS COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Your regular contributor, C. B., concludes an article on page 213, with the following sound remarks: "I am an advocate of the confinement of fowls at all seasons of the year. They are more comfortable, less trouble and more profitable. All varieties will accommodate themselves to it, and may be made profitable or not, according to the expenditure of care and feeding."

It is with the hen much as it is with the cow; care and kind treatment, with comfortable quarters, favor contentment, without which hens will not be profitable. Domesticity is to be encouraged. With sufficient good food (which means less corn than is usually fed, and more of other grains, particularly wheat), and the proper variety, such as vegetables and scraps from the table, which a fowl loves and thrives upon, a small number of hens will afford as many eggs as twice and sometimes thrice the number usually kept. A hen loves a quiet life, and is opposed to disturbance of all kinds. She wants to feel safe and at home. Such a condition disposes to laying. Less space is required with such treatment, and with the necessary care in guarding against vermin the same quarters may be continuously occupied both winter and summer. A range attached, with grass and fresh air in summer, has more effect upon the imagination of the projector than upon the laying disposition of the fowl; not that a fowl will not do well under such circumstances, proper attention otherwise being given, but if ignorant of them, and satisfied with its snug, comfortable quarters—the only ones it knows, and which are its home—it will do equally well, or, as C. B. has it, "much better."

It is the cheapest and easiest way to keep fowls, and realizes the most profit on the outlay. Hence it is adapted to families who require only a few hens, as is very common in the outskirts of the village here, and invariably with success where the proper attention is given, and is invariably unsuccessful when the fowls are neglected, however much they may be fed. For a small family, ten or a dozen hens are usually kept. In one instance 6 hens furnished all the eggs needed

—and they were freely used—during the year by a family of two. But the fowls received intelligent treatment, and were accustomed to their quarters from chickenhood up, making it a home for them, which was not allowed to be disturbed, the fowls being attended to by the mistress of the house. F. G.

*Fort Plain, N. Y.*

#### Drinking Fountain for Chickens.

As my plan of supplying water for little chickens may be new to many of your readers, I give it for all to try who may like. Take a tight can (an empty 5-gallon kerosene can is just the thing), punch half a dozen holes near the bottom on one side of it and have a tinker solder on to the bottom a strip, say five inches wide and the length of one side of the can, turn up two inches of the outer edge and the same on each end (which should be left much longer). Solder the corner, and it will make a vessel  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 2 inches high on one side of the can, which will always keep full of water so long as there is any left in the can.

To fill the can with water, turn it part<sup>y</sup> on one side and pour into the trough at the bottom; or, better still, if you have a tub or trough full of water, hold your can under till it fills. Then set it up and there will enough run out to fill the vessel at the bottom above the holes in the can. It will always keep so full as long as there is any water left in the can, which must be air tight.

D. D. G.

*Richland, Cal.*

#### Summer Care of Fowls.

Too little attention is, in a majority of cases, given the summer care of fowls. Farmers, as a rule, turn them loose in the spring, and permit them to roam at large over the farm. They are not housed and fed until winter sets in, and even then usually in a very imperfect manner. Little can be expected from fowls thus treated.

We propose, in this article, to give a few hints concerning the summer treatment of poultry and, at the outset, would say that no other season of the year is so trying to fowls confined within limited space. Shade and good water are two very important requisites. The birds should be protected from the burning summer's sun, and this may be accomplished in various ways. Perhaps the best plan is to plant grapevines so that they will trail over a portion of the yard, thus combining two profits—the increased health and lying capacity of the fowls, and the grapes, which (being nourished by their droppings) will grow and produce better than if planted elsewhere. But it takes some time for grapevines to become large enough to afford very much shade, and so it would be a good idea to plant something that grows rapidly, like the pumpkin or squash, the first year, in connection with the grapes.

It is of the utmost importance to have plenty of pure running water for the fowls to drink and bathe in. Nothing contributes more to the health and vigor of the birds than good, pure water, and nothing relating to their care and management is, perhaps, more neglected. If a stream is not accessible, then fresh water should be supplied in shallow tanks, replenished at least three times daily. The principal cause of cholera and many other diseases is stagnant water coupled with unclean quarters.

Much care should be exercised in the summer feeding of fowls. They should not be stuffed all the time, but lightly fed at regular intervals, and it would be well to give them a variety of food every day—say corn in the morning, Indian meal boiled with or without potatoes at noon, and oats or