

BEES AND POULTRY.**SUCCESSFUL POULTRY RAISING.**

In raising poultry or stock of any kind, it should be the aim of every one to keep it healthy and improve it. You can do it very easily by adopting some systematic rules. These may be summed up in brief, as follows:

1. Construct your house good and warm, so as to avoid damp floors and afford a flood of sunlight. Sunshine is better than medicine.

2. Provide a dusting and scratching place where you can bury wheat and corn, and thus induce the fowls to take needful exercise.

3. Provide yourself with some good healthy chickens, none to be over three or four years old, giving one cock to every twelve hens.

4. Give plenty of fresh air at all times of the year, especially in summer.

5. Give plenty of fresh water daily, and never allow the fowls to go thirsty.

6. Feed them systematically two or three times a day, and scatter the food so they can't eat too fast or without proper exercise. Do not feed more than they will eat up clean, or they will get tired of that kind of feed.

7. Give them a variety of both dry and cooked food; a mixture of cooked meal and vegetables is an excellent thing for their morning meal.

8. Give soft feed in the morning, and the whole grain at night, except a little wheat or cracked corn placed in the scratching place to give them exercise during the day.

9. Above all things keep the hen-house clean and well ventilated.

10. Do not crowd too many in one house. If you do, look out for disease.

11. Use carbolic powder in the dusting bins occasionally to destroy lice.

12. Wash your roosts and bottom of laying nests, and whitewash once a week in summer, and once a month in winter.

13. Let the old and young have as large a range as possible—the larger the better.

14. Don't breed too many kinds of fowls at the same time, unless you are going into the business. Three or four will keep your hands full.

15. Introduce new blood into your stock every year or so, by either buying a cockerel or sittings of eggs from some reliable breeder.

16. In buying birds or eggs, go to some reliable breeder, who has his reputation at stake. You may have to pay a little more for birds, but you can depend on what you get. Culls are not cheap at any price.

17. Save the best birds for next year's breeding, and send the others to market. In shipping fancy poultry to market, send it dressed.—*From Circular of Chas. Lyman.*

A BEE'S ADVENTURE.

A certain restaurant in this city, apparently to proclaim the unlimited resources of its cuisine, has in its show-window a huge tank wherein glittering gold-fish, sullen horned pouts, dignified bull-frogs and sprawling turtles dwell together in a greater or less degree of amity. The other day a bee fell into the water and was solemnly gobbled by a goggle-eyed fish. Hardly had the bee been engulfed, however, when the fish was seen to be strangely excited. He leaped into the air, drew in

great volumes of water and blew them out again, and acted so insanely that the turtles scuttled away in hot haste, and the frogs tumbled off the rocks to right and left in sheer consternation. Meanwhile the bee reappeared and crawled out of the tank in safety, evidently congratulating itself, as it dried its wings, upon its possession of a sting, and the presence of mind necessary to use it to advantage in an emergency.—*Boston Journal.*

WATER FOR ROWL IN HOUSES.

Fanny Field writes to the *Prairie Farmer*: "At last I have found something that suits me, viz, a drop faucet. It is only a few minutes' work to fit the faucet to the cask or water reservoir. Set the cask on something that will raise it a few feet from the floor, set a flower-pot saucer and a block under the faucet, adjust the stem until the water drops just about as fast as the fowls drink it up and no faster. We fill the cask with hot water every morning, wrap old blankets around the cask, and the water keeps warm during the greater part of the day. This hot water constantly dropping into the cooler water in the saucer keeps my fowls supplied with fresh water that is just right—neither too hot nor too cold. In summer we fill the cask with cold water, wrap wet blankets around it, place it in the shade, and the drop faucet supplies the fowls with plenty of cool, fresh water. The cask and drop faucet arrangement is a much cheaper way of supplying warm water than the lamp and bucket fixture, for a faucet can be obtained for twenty-five cents, and one will last forever almost."

THE BEST BREED FOR WINTER LAYING.

Taking all things into consideration, I have never found anything that could beat the Partridge Cochins as winter layers, and if my sole object in keeping fowls were to produce eggs in winter, I should discard all other varieties and stock up with the best laying strain of Partridge Cochins. My second choice would be Plymouth Rocks, Dark Brahmas, Light Brahmas, and Black Cochins, in the order named. Leghorns, Hamburgs, Houdans, or any of the small, active, non-setting breeds, I wouldn't keep for winter layers unless I lived where the winters were mild and I could give my fowls room enough to scratch in. Room enough for an active, well-brought-up Leghorn or Hamburg hen to scratch in means just as much of creation as she can travel over between sunrise and sunset, and I assure you that if she attends strictly to business the afore-mentioned hen can travel over a mighty big piece in a day. If you have any doubts about the matter, just turn one Leghorn hen, only one, and you needn't pick out the most industrious hen that you have either, into your garden next spring, and she will give you a lesson in object teaching that will convince you that I speak the "words of wisdom and truth."

Sometimes we hear of a flock of Leghorns, or Houdans, as the case may be, that have proved extra winter layers, but in every case of the kind that I have taken pains to investigate—and I have looked into a good many of them—I have found that the owners of

the aforesaid flocks, with but few exceptions, lived where the winters were comparatively mild. The "exceptions" lived in the New England and the Middle Atlantic States, depended upon late hatched pullets, kept but few fowls in a flock, had extra comfortable houses, and big barn cellars. You see all the smaller breeds are naturally active; it is in their nature to wander around and scratch, and when they are deprived of the chance to take exercise in the way they like best, they worry and chafe, and spend the greater part of their time in trying to get out of their close quarters. A contented hen is generally a laying hen, but a hen who considers that unlimited scratching ground is necessary to her happiness will not be contented when confined in limited space with nothing under the sun to occupy her mind, and she will not lay, and I don't blame her a bit either.

The large breeds of fowls are naturally more inclined to be lazy than the smaller breeds, consequently they do better in confinement. Give a Brahma or Cochin pullet enough to eat, a comfortable place to roost in, and she don't care how low the mercury goes, or how much snow there is outside of her dwelling-place, she will swallow her food, lay her egg, and spend the rest of the day in meditating upon the foolishness of her Leghorn neighbours, who are out of doors trying to find a place where they can scratch.—*Fanny Field, in Prairie Farmer.*

CHARCOAL FOR FOWLS.

The benefit which fowls derive from eating charcoal is acknowledged. The method of putting it before them is, however, not well understood. Pounded charcoal is not in the shape in which they find their food, and consequently is not very enticing to them. Corn burnt on the cob, and the refuse—which consists almost entirely of the grains reduced to charcoal, and still retaining their perfect shape—placed before them, is greedily eaten by them, with a marked improvement in their health, as is shown by the brighter colour of their combs, and their sooner producing a greater average of eggs to the flock than before.

EVERY rural family that has a home should have a few hives of bees. Nothing of so little cost will yield so large a profit.

ITALIAN queens vary in price from \$1 to \$5. One dollar queens are not guaranteed pure. Pure imported Italian queens are from \$3 to \$5, according to quality. Cheap trash is dear at any price. If we wish to maintain the superiority of our bees and also improve them we must always breed them from the best. The best time to move bees is in the spring, after it becomes warm enough for them to fly out. Moving in winter will often start disease, but if they could get a warm day to have a purifying flight, it would not injure them much. Now, if circumstances force you to move them before spring, place them in a dark cellar with a temperature of about forty-five degrees, and when the first warm day comes set them out for a purifying flight, returning them in the evening to the cellar, and repeat the operation until warm weather in spring.—*D. A. Jones.*