

ever most detrimental to all poultry. The chief points for a poultry keeper now to look to are good shelter and good food.

Under the heading of shelter various points require consideration. To begin, birds must not be in draughts at roost. We are great advocates of ventilation—indeed, we often let birds of our own roost in trees all the winter, or in sheds entirely open on one side, but then they are out of cold currents of air whistling through cracks. Perches should be low, and the ventilation arranged well above the heads of the birds. Then in their yards they much enjoy a sunny corner. A very little paling, or even a high turf bank, will give them a place where they can enjoy hours of sunshine at a time of year when in an exposed wind-swept run they would only be moping with ruffled plumes. A low perch, too, of fir wood, such as they can grasp, is a great luxury in a yard; it enables the birds to escape from the chill of frost bound ground. We have often observed poultry taking refuge on low boughs of laurels in winter time, and where natural perches are absent substitutes can easily be supplied thus:—As soon as snow has fallen a way should be swept from house to the most sheltered corner of the run, and here the birds should be fed. Snow brings on violent dysentery if eaten, and care should be taken not to throw the food among it, and to supply plenty of water. Iron troughs are the best drinking vessels in winter, being less liable to crack, but whatever vessels are used they should all be emptied at sunset and refilled in the morning.

Food must be liberal and nourishing. When the ground is hard and usual animal food not procurable, they must therefore have some substitute for it. A little minced liver daily does them much good, and, averse though we usually are to stimulating foods, we now mix some Spratt's food in the first meal. It is not a bad plan to pour some boiling water overnight on a pan of this food, leaving it in soak all night, and then the first thing in the morning to mix in barley meal with it till it is of the proper consistency to make crumbly balls, such as we have often described. The last evening feed should be of wheat or maize; grain long continues to give warmth to the system.—C. in *Journal of Horticulture*.

Poultry on the Farm.

(Continued.)

Editor Review,

With your permission I shall have another friendly confab with my farming friend concerning his poultry, and assuming that your permission is granted, shall therefore commence without any further preliminaries.

Now, friend farmer, let us consider whether it is advisable for you to provide a house for your poultry exclusively; and as your strongest objection to keeping an improved variety is that the keeping of them necessitates the building of a house for their use exclusively, therefore, if we conclude no matter what variety is kept it is to your advantage to provide them with comfortable winter quarters, we overcome the objection on the ground of additional expense. Now, sir, do you think it pays you to house your sheep, pigs, and cows in winter, and, if so, why? You are willing to admit that animals thus cared for require less food, and that those which are exposed and receive this extra allowance do not thrive as well. Science lays down some very simple reasons. We are aware that an inhabitant of the Arctic regions will consume as much food in the twenty-four hours as you and I both would in double the time, and their food is of the strongest kind, and still they are a stunted race of people. Now, to quote from Dr. Wilson on this subject, we have the teachings of science upon it. In his writings on "Human Caloric," which we speak of as animal heat in connection with the beast: "We are living stoves; and when our human fires begin to flag from undue expenditure of heat, the appetite speaks out sharply, and compels the owner to look round for fuel, and if this is not supplied, the garnered fat is thrown into the grate to keep the furnace in play." And, sir, may we not safely conclude that caloric, which is thus produced in the system by the union of the oxygen of our breath with carbon of our body and food, is a necessary stimulant by which the different organs are warmed into action, and enabled to perform their functions perfectly, and that imperfect work and imperfect development are the results of exposure to cold. Compare the African with the Laplander, the Indian of Canada with the native of the far north, and cows which are exposed in a barn-yard to those which have been comfortably housed—an instance of which has come under my own notice, in which three well kept cows produced as much butter as eleven which had been kept round a straw-stack. And will not this apply to your poultry? Do you not suppose that a fowl is just as unfit, after a winter of exposure, to produce eggs as a cow to produce milk, besides requiring at least just as

On the 9th and 10th of December a poultry fair was held in the town of Perth, and was a great success. It rained heavily most of the second day or the sales would have footed up much higher. During the two days over thirty-two tons of poultry were bought and sold. Competition was keen, and prices at one time reached 14 cents. The lowest price reached—for inferior lots—was 7 cents; average price, about 10 cents per pound.