

Poultry on the Farm.

WHY is it that you will not raise all the fowls and eggs that you can use and sell enough to pay a larger per cent on the amount of capital invested than any other stock you have on the farm? I'll tell you—because you have been led to believe that chicken raising is beneath your calling, and that you must be a mule dealer or a cotton planter and chickens properly belong to the women and children, and that you will be laughed at by your neighbors. It is one of those Southern falacies, or false prides that have been inculcated in you and you need a little of the Yankee progressiveness worked into you, to make you take up diversified farming and raise a little of everything that non-producers would buy, and every month in the year have something to sell. If every farmer in this country were to raise poultry and eggs for sale, we could not supply the demand. If you are disposed to think this too small a business for you, investigate for yourself and you will find by the statistics that the poultry and egg product of the United States exceed any crop. More than the entire cotton and corn crop—or the dairy and wheat crop. You are ready to say—how shall I go about it. Well! buy you Light Brahma cocks and White Leghorn hens and cross them for a general purpose fowl. The Brahma will give the size and flesh producing qualities, and the Leghorn the eggs, then build you good warm houses that can be ventilated in the warmer months, but bore no air holes, or lattice work to produce colds, roup, and all the diseases that fowls are heir to, but have them as tight and warm as possible; these houses need not necessarily be expensive. With cull lumber five dollars will build a house that will accommodate twenty chickens, and by keeping them out of the rain, snow and all bad weathers, and have a rye patch for them to run on in fall, winter and spring, they will shell out the eggs at a surprisingly rapid rate. Keep the houses scrupulously clean, give them red pepper, onions and other condiments, together with fresh, pure water, slightly warmed in cold weather, and success is yours. You need never have cholera if you will dissolve one pound of copperas in two gallons of warm water and add one ounce of sulphuric acid to it, and about two or three times a week give them a teaspoonful to each quart of water. This is what is known by chicken fanciers as "Douglas Mixture," and is a sure preventive. A few days since a gentleman came to me and asked me what was the matter with the chickens. He said they had

swollen heads, eyes closed, and a rattling in their throats. I told him of course they had roup. He immediately asked me the cause. I told him his chicken house must have a crack in it or too much ventilation. Why, said he, they roost in the trees. I told him the first prescription I would recommend was to open his heart and build the poor things a comfortable abode, and after that consult me again and I would talk with him. Now the idea of a man with the slightest degree of humanity keeping fowls, expecting them to thrive, produce flesh and eggs, after such treatment as this. Why his soul is smaller than the little end of nothing whittled down to a point.

Now as to feed. In the early morning at daylight, if possible, make a hot mush of coarse corn meal one part, of wheat bran two parts, nicely seasoned with a little salt and pepper, feed on a clean board or trough; give them barley, oats or wheat at twelve o'clock and corn at night. If you want to gratify your fancy and indulge in pure-breed fowls, all right, go to your nearest poultry fancier of known integrity and get what you want. If your fancy is for a large fowl get the Light Brahma, as they will produce more flesh in a given length of time than any breed; but if eggs alone are desired, take the brown, white or black Leghorns, but if you want one that rather combines both, none will fill the place better than the Plymouth Rocks. Now, ladies, farmers' wives, if your husbands will not take this matter in hand, you go at it, and my word for it next Christmas you will thank me for these suggestions and have considerable pin-money besides.

—JOSH. G. BAILEY Columbia, Tenn. 17 Am. Farmer.

Special Announcement.

WE have made arrangements with Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., publishers of "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases," which will enable all our subscribers to obtain a copy of that valuable work FREE by sending their address (enclosing a two-cent stamp for mailing same) to Dr. B. J. KENDALL CO., ENOSBURGH FALLS, VT. This book is now recognized as standard authority upon all diseases of the horse, as its phenomenal sale attests, over four million copies having been sold in the past ten years, a sale never before reached by any publication in the same period of time. We feel confident that our patrons will appreciate the work, and be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of obtaining a valuable book.

It is necessary that you mention this paper in sending for the "Treatise." This offer will remain open for only a short time.—T. F.