

number of eggs is almost certain. Then, in the winter, nothing warms fowls better than a bran mash. But it is impossible in a lecture to go into a multiplicity of details, especially about feeding.

There is one other point, however, which requires special notice, as English and Irish farmers' wives generally pay too little attention to it, and that is the trussing of poultry for the market and the table. I trust that another year we shall see prizes offered at this exhibition for fat poultry trussed ready for cooking by the farmer's wife who has reared, fed, and exhibited the specimens sent for competition. Women all realize the advantage of looking attractive themselves, and the same appearance imparted to their poultry will thoroughly well repay them for any additional trouble it may entail.

Examples.—Madame Millet-Robinet has given an account of the duties of a farmer's wife, or her deputy, as regards the poultry-yard, and the following extracts seem to me worthy of attention:—"The same person should always feed the poultry, collect the eggs, clean the fowl-house, put the hens to sit, and take care of both hens and chickens. She ought to distribute the food at regular hours, with extreme punctuality. The poultry soon become acquainted with her, and run to meet her as soon as she is seen. She is thus enabled to make sure that none are ailing. If any are missing they can be sought for at once. The fowls can thus be frequently counted. For this purpose the poultry keeper should place herself close to the small opening of the fowl-house every morning, and raise the door only enough to allow one fowl at a time to pass out, and that with difficulty. They can thus be easily counted as they go out, and the same proceeding must be gone through in the evening when they return. Fowls that have acquired the habit of roosting in trees should be seized in the night and returned to the fowl-house. The selection of the hens to be fattened off must also be left to her judgment of their ages and laying capacities. I may add that in this, as in all other descriptions of live stock, there should be a constant effort to improve both by selection and the importation of new blood. Never sell your best, but keep it to produce its like, or, if possible, better daughters than their mothers. Then as to new blood—this is an absolute necessity. There is an old story of a French general who insisted upon his soldiers changing their shirts. He was told that they had but one each. 'Then,' said he, 'Let them change among themselves.' On a similar principle, if you cannot afford to buy cockerels of improved strains, make the best exchange you can with your neighbours."

The Lecture was concluded by illustrative instances of Single Ladies who had made a living and made money by Poultry Raising, Bee Keeping, and other Fringe Industries of the farm.

We are not without true Farmers' Wives in Nova Scotia. Witness the Butter Exhibits at Yarmouth and Sydney, the Ornamental Plants and Home Manufactures at Truro and Wolfville, and the Annapolis Lady Prize-taker in Devon and Sheep at St. John.

AN ALPHABET OF APPELDOM.

What is an apple in the idealistic philology? It is *Abala* in the abstract, a little ball, and therefore, in the practical, an apple is a round fruit. In Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, and Dutch it is *Appel*, in German it is *Apfel*, and may apply to a fruit or to the eye-ball, which is the "apple of the eye." The Teutonic *ap* or *ab* for fruit becomes *av* in Celtic. Skeat mentions a connection between Apples and floods, the explanation of which may be found in the fact that Apples are more often found in watered valleys than on starving mountains. Let it suffice that an Apple is a round fruit, and from *ab* to *av*, and thence to *mala*, the transitions are such as philologists look for because accustomed to them, as in this light the Latin is a modern language. The appearance of the Apple in the story of the Fall is a poetic license; it does not appear in the Mosaic record, but as Milton had to sing of

The fruit
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,"

he must needs pass from the subjective of Genesis iii., 6, and in the way of a dramatist present a visible Apple. It is in book ix., 575, that it appears as such, in the address of the serpent to the "Empress of the World, resplendent Eve":—

"On a day, roving the field, I climbed
A goodly tree far distant to behold,
Loaden with fruit of fairest colours mixed,
Ruddy and gold. I nearer drew to gaze,
When from the boughs a savoury odour blown,
Grateful to appetite, more pleased my sense
Than smell of sweetest fennel, or the teats
Of ewe or goat dropping with milk at even,
Unucked of lamb or kid, that tend their play.
To satisfy the sharp desire I had
Of tasting those fair Apples, I resolved
Not to defer; hunger and thirst at once—
Powerful persuaders—quicken'd at the scent
Of that alluring fruit, urged me so keen."

What is a Beefing? Whether we adopt the English or the French spelling (*beuf*) the meaning is the same. The Apple should resemble beef in some way or other. The Norfolk Beefing is well named, for when in high colour it resembles lean beef that has been cut a few hours, and in which the original vivid red has acquired a purplish hue. *Mère Ménage* might be called a Beefing with propriety, but as the name stands alone without generic significance it would be a folly to alter it. The dried Apples called "Biffins" are proper Beefings, but Biffin may remain as the name of a dried Apple, and will pay its way by its usefulness. The change from Biffin to Pippin is of a kind common enough, and has a touch of unintended humour in it. Languages are made by the vagaries of the human tongue much more than by the laws of reason or the demands of sheer necessity.

What is a Calville? It is a golden Apple or Guldolig. A Calville should have prominent ribs running up to the crown, and there forming knobs, and when cut transversely the cavity at the core should be distinctly five-angled (see Lindley's *Guide to the Orchard*, p. 9.) A conical form is proper to a Calville, but the ribs and the knobs are the leading features, to which may be added large size and high quality. In Lory's *Dictionnaire de Pomologie*, iii., 175, the history of Calville Blanc is given at length. It is described as an ancient fruit, formerly known as the Taponnelle, but taking its modern name from the commune of Calville, in the Department de l'Eure.

What is a Codlin? In Anglo-Saxon a *Cod appel* is a Quince. Probably a Codlin or Codling is the diminutive of cod, meaning, perhaps, a ball in a bag, or something enclosed, as Peas are enclosed in a Peas-cod, and an Apple is clothed with its skin. All this is indeterminate, and again the question is asked, What is a Codlin? Harken to Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, i., 5, 164:—"Mal. Not yet old enough for a man, nor young enough for a boy: as a Squash is before 'tis a Peascod, or a Codling when 'tis almost an Apple; 'tis with him," &c. Now harken to Lord Bacon: "Of gardens," first section, the fruits of July, "earley Peares, and Plummes, Ginnittings, Quadlins." In September he speaks of Apples, Peaches, &c. In Ford's *Sun's Darling*, iii., 3, occurs this passage:—"If I be not deceived I ha' seen summer go up and down with hot Codlings." It is clear from these allusions that Codlings were unripe Apples that needed coddling or cooking to render them eatable. A Codlin, therefore, must be an Apple suitable for use while yet unripe; it must be a culinary fruit, and it should be somewhat of the make and quality of English Codlin and Carlisle Codlin, more or less conical, angular, ribbed, and useful to the cook, while yet of the smallest size.

What is a Costard? It is an old fruit, by name at least, for Evelyn in the *Kalendarium Hortense*, in the second edition of *Sylva*, 1670, names it in a list of Apples in use in October, thus:—"Belle-et-Bonne, William, Costard, Lording, Parsely-Apple, Pearmain, Pear Apple, Honey-meal, Apis, &c." A Costard must be an Apple, but a "coster" is possibly not necessarily a dealer in Apples. However Skeat, in a capital gloss, says definitely that a Costard-monger or coster-monger is an itinerant dealer in Apples. In Drant's *Horace*, B. 2, sub. 3:—

"The prodigall, by Whittworde, hath ten
talents: in his heate,
He biddes the costerd-mongers and th'
apothecaries waste."