

POULTRY.

Feeding Chickens.

Just before hatching the chicken has absorbed the whole of the yolk of the egg. This is nature's provision in the way of sustenance for the first twenty-four or thirty hours of its existence, and during that period it needs no other food whatever. To try and cram a newly-hatched chick, say when five or six hours old, with food, is simply to court mischance. Let it gain all the warmth and strength available without any disturbance when nestling under the hen for the first twenty-four hours, and then try it with some food. Even at the end of this time many chicks will hardly take a peck at the food. When the bird is hungry it will eat; nature will force it to do so; but the yolk of the egg already absorbed will, in many cases, not be quite digested for about thirty-six hours after hatching.

Many people are still wedded to the practice of giving their chicks hard-boiled eggs and stale bread-crumbs for the first three or four days of their existence. Such a practice is wholly unnecessary, unless, perhaps, in the case of young turkeys and delicate stock. A little Scotch oatmeal, moistened sometimes with water and sometimes with milk, is a first-rate diet for them from the very first. Too much egg-food finds up the bowels, and, besides, the birds do not care to leave it after they have acquired the taste for it.

Coarsely-ground oatmeal is, undoubtedly, the very best food on which young chickens can be reared. It supplies all their requirements as far as growth is concerned, although after the birds are a few weeks old it is better to replace it to some extent with other ground grains.

Changes of food must be given in order to sustain a healthy appetite. A little barley meal or corn meal may be given sometimes, and if insects are scarce a little animal food should sometimes be included. After a time some of the smaller grains and seeds should be given, particularly for the last feed at night.

When first hatched, chickens require food every two hours during the daytime. The last feed should be by the aid of a lighted candle or lamp, and the first feed early in the morning. The great thing is to keep the birds eating and digesting what they eat, and there is no fear of them not turning out well. Gradually, as the birds grow older, the number of meals per day should be lessened, until at the age of three months they are getting four meals a day. As they draw nearer maturity, these, again, should be reduced to three, and at maturity two is quite sufficient.

APIARY.

Reports from Beekeepers.

In order to make the "Farmer's Advocate" increasingly useful to beekeepers, we have decided to inaugurate a series of enquiries on apiary conditions and honey prospects. In the past beekeepers have been at considerable disadvantage in conducting their operations, particularly in marketing, by not having available reports of the amount of old honey in the country, the condition of the bees in spring, the prospects of honey-bearing crops, and an approximate estimate of the amount of honey harvested. It is our intention this season to collect sufficient data under these different heads to indicate to the beekeepers something that will assist them in the management of their apiaries. With this object in view, we have prepared the following questions, which we should like to be answered by every beekeeper to whose notice they come. From these answers will be compiled concise and practical reports of the industry in different parts of the country, and of the whole industry at large:

1. Give your name and address.
2. How many colonies of bees did you put away for winter in the fall of 1903, (a) in cellar; (b) outdoors? How many in 1902, (c) in cellar; (d) outdoors?
3. How many colonies had you on April 1st, 1904, (e) from cellar; (f) outdoors? How many in 1903, (g) from cellar; (h) outdoors?
4. Were they weak, average, or strong, (i) April 1st, 1903; (j) April 1st, 1904?
5. About how much honey have you on hand?
6. In what condition are aliske and white clover in your section?

We request beekeepers to forward concise replies to the foregoing to the Editor of our Apiary Department, Mr. Morley Pettit, of Belmont, Ont., the well-known and successful apiarist, who will carefully compile the reports for publication in these columns. By furnishing him promptly with accurate information he will be able to promote the best interests of beekeepers during the approaching season.

Combs.

Beehive furniture, so far as the bees are concerned, is built of one material—wax. True, the superior animal who rules over beedom has introduced many fixtures for his own convenience; the bees also use gum gathered from outside sources for varnish, putty and glue, but the essential interior furnishings are of wax.

They are all of one kind, with variations. We call it comb—a delicate structure of hexagonal cells facing both ways from a wax partition, and separated by thin cell walls of the same material. These cells are used as store tanks for honey, or cradles for the young bees.

The latter, like all other insects, pass through three stages from the egg—larva, chrysalis, and full fledged bee. The larva, when going into the chrysalis stage, spins its cocoon as usual, and, hatching, leaves it as a thin fibrous lining to the cell. Generations of young bees hatched from the same cells leave the comb dark and tough, until one would scarcely believe that the original wax partitions are still between the brown cocoons coverings. But they are.

Commercially, beeswax is a valuable article. It has many uses outside of beekeeping, and while we do not keep bees in Ontario for the wax, it is a by-product well worth considering. At all seasons, combs and bits of comb are going to the scrap heap. The successful beekeeper is looking after these scraps. They should be broken up fine, and thoroughly soaked and washed with cold water. Then they can be melted and put through a wax press to remove the wax from the mass of cocoons, which, of course, do not melt. The wax cannot be got out without a press of some sort, and manufacturers of these machines would do well to advertise in the "Farmer's Advocate."

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Power Spraying Adopted.

Secretary-Treasurer W. D. A. Ross, of the Chatham Fruit-growers' Association, writes that his Association has purchased a power-spraying outfit for the use of the members, and asks that Mr. J. C. Harris, who had charge of the Government sprayer used in the illustration work in the Ingersoll district last year, be sent to start their machine. Mr. Harris recently gave the Chatham growers a talk on spraying, with which they were very much pleased. A good many of the members were only giving the power-spraying project half-hearted support previous to his visit, but now they are all anxious to go ahead with the scheme according to the most improved methods. The Association is also talking of putting up a packing-house and evaporator, but are hesitating on account of the prevalence of San Jose scale, which, though confined to a limited area, is gradually spreading in the district.

San Jose Scale Washes.

With more thorough acquaintance with San Jose scale and the remedies for it, the pest, while serious enough in all truth, has ceased to be feared as threatening ruin to the fruit interest of New York State. It can be controlled by any one of several methods, the main question now being which one to use; for hydrocyanic acid gas, crude petroleum, kerosene emulsion, kerosene-water mixture, lime-sulphur-salt wash, lime-sulphur-soda wash, and other applications, will kill the scale if properly applied, and several of them can be used with safety. According to Bulletin No. 247, of the Experiment Station at Geneva, N.Y., the lime-sulphur-caustic soda wash, which was extensively tested by the Station in 1903, is nearly as effective as the lime-sulphur-salt wash (and much easier to make), is of considerable value in repressing early spring leaf-eating caterpillars, is quite effective in controlling peach-leaf curl, and probably is a partial preventive of apple scab and some other fungous troubles. It will not, however, replace the Bordeaux-arsenical combination in preventing wormy apples.

Better Nursery Stock.

At an orchard meeting held at Queenston, under the auspices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the following resolution was enthusiastically and unanimously passed:

"Moved by Wm. Armstrong, and seconded by H. C. Bradley, that in the opinion of this meeting a persistent, united effort should now be made on the part of all fruit-growers' associations to check the annual serious loss sustained by planters on account of the careless root-cutting of nursery stock; also to secure Dominion legislation that will compel nurserymen to guarantee stock sold to be true to name."

Not in it with the "Farmer's Advocate."

W. T. Sine, Hastings Co., Ont., says: I have been a reader and subscriber of the "Farmer's Advocate" for over ten years, and I find it the best farmers' paper that I can get, and I have tried a number of them, but they are not in it with the "Farmer's Advocate."

A Fruit Marks Bill in New York.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Canada may well take it as a compliment that Senator Hill has lately introduced in the Senate of the State of New York a bill very much like the Dominion Fruit Marks Act. There is an additional clause in the New York bill, requiring packages to be marked with the name of the place where the fruit was grown, but this clause is strongly opposed by the trade, who maintain that a large operator who repacks fruit brought into his storehouse by the carload, and coming from forty or fifty different shippers, could not possibly comply with such stipulations. In regard to the bill, the New York Fruitman's Guide says: "It conflicts with the Interstate Commerce Law, that forbids the passage of an act that hinders commerce between various States. Why Canada's law is a success is because it is a national law, but until such a law is passed in the United States, the merchants in such States in which such a law obtains are at a disadvantage with the merchants of other States." W. A. CLEMONS.

EVENTS OF THE WORLD.

The Koreans have formally announced that the Port of Yongampho is to be opened to the trade of the world.

Twenty thousand people attended an indignation meeting in Hyde Park, London, to protest against the employment of Chinese in the Transvaal.

The British Admiralty is arranging for the construction of flat-bottomed gunboats, which are to be put on Chinese rivers for the greater protection of British trade.

Baron Curzon, of Kedleston, Viceroy of India, has been appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, in succession to the late Marquis of Salisbury. The office is a sinecure, and is not dependent upon his presence in England.

Bubonic plague is spreading in the vicinity of Johannesburg, South Africa; 55 whites and 50 natives have already died from the disease. Several cases are also reported from Peru, South America.

Lord Delamere, England, has purchased 100,000 acres of fine farming land in Nairobi, East Africa, for the purpose of forming a settlement. He offers 640 acres free to fifty suitable settlers, and 10,000 acres to be leased at one halfpenny per acre yearly.

Turkey's preparations for war have extended to Syria, where troops are concentrating at the town of Beyrout. The destination of these troops is not known, but it is suspected that the mobilization is taking place in preparation for the expected outbreak in the Balkans.

The Governor of the Cameroons, South-west Africa, has telegraphed that the revolt has spread into Nigeria, which is British territory. A British customs house has been attacked. The rebels have been again repulsed by the Germans, with a loss of 10 men killed. The Germans lost two killed and two wounded.

Sir Edwin Arnold is dead. He was chiefly known as the author of the "Light of Asia," a poem of great merit, which sets forth the doctrines of the Buddhists. Sir Edwin spent many years in India and Japan. His third and last wife was a Japanese girl, the "O Yoshi San" of one of his poems.

In Edinburgh, recently, there was held an auction sale of most interesting to relic hunters. Owing to the death of J. N. Durrant-Stuart, twelfth and last laird of Dalguise, the entire family collection of Stuart and Jacobite heirlooms was disposed of. A harp which once belonged to Mary Queen of Scots was sold for nearly \$5,000, while a lock of "Bonnie Prince Charlie's" hair, and one of his wife's, sold for \$170. His sword went for \$390.

A recent despatch says that the march of the British in Thibet towards Gyangste has begun. When that point is reached, an attempt will again be made to enter into peaceful negotiations with the Thibetans. The country through which the force is passing is said to be barren and desolate, and subject to sudden and extreme changes of temperature, the nights being exceedingly cold, while during the day there is constant danger of suffering from sunstroke.

A despatch received by the London Times from Thuna, states that there has been severe fighting between the British expedition under General MacDonald and the Thibetans. The Thibetans lost very heavily, their leaders being among the slain.