

You may not believe they assimilate it, but we do. We believe in giving the birds the feed they crave for in reason. We don't theorize about it because common sense tells us we don't know as well what a hen requires as the hen itself. Look how some hens pick out oats, some wheat others corn, or some only care for soft feed. What do they act that way for?

For the Poultry Weekly

### FEEDING HENS.

**A** GREAT many beginners are at a loss to know how to feed hens properly, so as to make them lay; and many a one has given up the business in disgust, condemned the hens and vowed fowls only an expensive luxury, simply because they didn't properly feed them. They, in all probability, fed corn constantly, and then wondered why the hens didn't lay. This is entirely wrong. Corn is very fattening, and when a fowl is burdened with fat it will not lay. The feed depends much upon the time of the year whether confined or not, the object to be object to be obtained, and the variety of fowls. To keep them healthy they should have plenty of green food; give them a grass run in summer. If this cannot be done greater care and attention must be given to supply this loss. Plant plenty of lettuce in every little corner of your lot, or if you have a farm plant a bed every week, for about four weeks, and as you are feeding from one bed the other is growing. This will take the place of grass for the summer. In the winter give them some cabbage, beets, turnips, carrots or onions, chopped fine, a pumpkin cut in two for them to pick at, or a whole cabbage stuck in a board or hanging from the wall by a string. Too much onions will cause the eggs to taste of them, so feed sparingly of this, although for breeding fowls and growing chickens it is excellent. Indian corn is the best staple food, plenty in winter but very little in summer. Corn is very heating and fattening, feed in form of meal with bran or wheat middlings, scalded, in the morning, and in the kernel at night. Wheat, oats or buckwheat make the best summer feed. Give to the larger breeds, such as Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans, less corn in proportion than to the smaller breeds. The morning meal should consist of ground feed, scalded and wet, quite thick and crumbly, with a little salt, about a teaspoonful to two or three quarts of feed. Salt prevents feather eating; the end of the feather is salty, and if salt is not supplied to them in their feed they will get it in this way.

Beginners will never be bothered by this mean habit if salt is mixed in their soft food. At noon give a light-feeding of grain and at night all they will pick up clean. Do not overfeed but give enough. Give cooked potatoes (baked or boiled) once a week, but they make a very poor feed for winter; too cold. Give a variety. Fowls want meat and it should be given to them in some shape especially when laying for want of it they often get the habit of egg eating. Give it in regular quantities. Get a calf's pluck, boil it, and chop it up fine and mix with their soft feed, or give raw meat, scatter well in clean places so all can get some.

Whenever hens get fat and lazy and won't lay, although well provided for laying, it does good to warm them up a little with cayenne pepper. Give it in their warm feed, one tea-spoonful to two or three quarts of feed. Oyster shell is a very good egg food; plenty of it should be kept by them at all times. It is the best shell former. Ground bone is good. Take old broken crockery and glassware and break it up fine. They need this for grit in grinding their food. This is for fowls that are confined, of course those that run at large and have a large range do not need this. For laying hens in winter they should be healthy and well provided with good rich food and clean drink. A warm breakfast and dinner of meal and wheat middlings or buckwheat middlings (this should be scalded) with cayenne pepper or egg food, a tea-spoonful to three quarts, well stirred, will help. A mixture of whole grain, corn, oats, buckwheat, etc., at night. With these they should have fresh meat in moderate quantities, and green food, cabbage, potatoes, etc., chopped; gravel, sand, oyster shells and broken crockery. If warmly housed, clean and healthy fowls will lay well under this treatment.

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### A Visit to a Fancier.

**B**EING a lover of the noble old Dorking fowl it had long been my intention to visit the Norfolk poultry yards, owned by Mr. Thomas Barrett, at Angus. But the wish was only fulfilled a few days ago. I found, as I expected from the name of the yards, that Mr. Barrett is an Englishman, jovial and hospitable too, a true fancier, and one who favors progression in all poultry matters. I was not prepared to see such a magnificent flock of early birds, mostly Dorkings, and I was informed these were all hatched in an incubator by his friend and neighbor Mr. Peter. They are truly a grand result of the triumph of