

it will then keep much longer from getting sour. Give the chickens plenty of milk to drink: they like it, and thrive on it better than on water.

Next to good feeding comes good care. Much of the good or ill success in rearing depends on adapting them to the varying circumstances of weather day by day. The direction of a keen wind, for instance, should always be noted, and the coop carefully placed so that the chicks may be sheltered. After several days' trying weather there may be a tendency to looseness, and in such a case some rice or chopped egg will be of great service. When the sun is hot, shade must be carefully provided, for heat is nearly as bad as cold.

Artificial mothers are very essential to the rearing of early chickens. At this season many hens do not brood the chickens enough for warmth, and consequently they get chilled and die: the use of an artificial mother would prevent this. They are very simple, consisting only of a sheepskin mat, 18 inches square, tacked round the edges to the inside of the top of a shallow box, no bottom nor front. It is amusing to see how the chickens will creep in for "a warm," even while with the hen; and, when used to it, they may be taken away from her almost at any time, which is often a convenience. The box should be about seven inches deep, and can be bedded into the loose dry earth of a shed deeply enough to take the smallest chicks when needful. By throwing food under it they readily learn to go in.

In wet or cold weather it is always well to add to the drinking water a little sulphate of iron: it is a great preventive of sickness.

CHICKEN CHOLERA.—A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says chicken cholera may be cured by giving as much calomel as will stay on the point of a small pen-knife blade.

VULTURE HOCKS.

Before the introduction of Cochins and Brahmas, no large breeds of fowls having feathered legs and covered hocks were known. These two characteristic points distinguish them from all others. Feathering on the middle toe is a later but welcome addition. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the introduction of a class of fowls so peculiarly distinctive in these points, and of a size much beyond the ordinary breeds, should have, as it did, created quite a sensation among poultry fanciers.

Vulture Hocks in these breeds has ever been acknowledged an unsightly blemish. To breed birds with well feathered legs and toes has always been an object of ambition with fanciers. By some, vulture hocks are deemed hereditary, and therefore, they contend, all stock-birds showing any tendency in this direction, should be carefully discarded from the breeding pen; by others it is looked upon as a necessity to the production of profusely-feathered shanks, and to produce which, should be occasionally introduced into the breeding pen. A well-known English writer, Mr. L. Wright, in alluding to the deterioration in leg-feathering in Brahmas, recently advocated the introduction of vulture hocks, and broadly asserted that unless this course be pursued, scanty feathering on the legs and toes, now so frequently to be seen, will become still more general. This statement is somewhat at variance with the already expressed and promulgated opinion of this gentleman, and which, with the further suggestion of first trimming the hock-feathers of the cock before placing him in the breeding pen has been rather sharply criticised by English writers. We confess to great respect for Mr. Wright's opinion in poultry matters, but, in this case, fail to see in what respect trimming the hock feathers could affect the progeny, un-