

can eat up clean.

Ground oats will make the cheapest and best soft food ; to this may be added barley meal and boiled potatoes, well mashed, If skim-milk can be procured it should be used for mixing instead of water, especially with laying hens. The mixing of this food is important. It should be mixed as dry as possible, for if too wet and sloppy it may produce diarrhoea. It should be so mixed that while none of the meal be left dry, the whole should be so firm and short that a mass of it will break and crumble if thrown on the ground. Food so mixed is more wholesome and will be better enjoyed.

With regard to grain, use wheat, barley or buckwheat for a midday meal, and corn at night. When the fowls are confined they need exercise, and to secure it the floor of shed should be covered with cut straw or leaves on which all grain should be scattered so that the fowls will have to scratch for every kernel they get. It is a "do or die" policy, but it works admirably. I find that buckwheat is the cheapest and best of all grain for laying hens. Fowls become fond of it as soon as they get to recognize its strange color ; by cooking it until it cracks open like rice you will find it will be eagerly sought after, and can be given once a day with good results. In France, where they produce such immense quantities of eggs for the English markets, they use this grain almost exclusively, both for fattening and for egg production. To keep fowls in health and good condition they do not require animal food but if a regular supply of eggs be desired it is quite necessary. A bullock's liver chopped fine after being boiled and seasoned with pepper and salt will be the cheapest mode of providing animal food, and given two or three times a week will make considerable difference in the quantity of eggs in the winter time. Another requisite in the shape of diet is a regular supply of green food to fowls that are penned up daily. If fowls cannot have a grass run during the summer months grass should be cut or pulled, and made fine with shears or machine and thrown into feeding trough or it may be mixed with soft food when the birds must eat their regular portion ; the more given the better so long as it is given regularly. In the winter season, cabbage should be supplied them, and also beets cut in pieces will be relished, Fowls thus fed will not require so much water. All refuse should be regularly cleared away ; as sanitary laws should be strictly observed with fowls as with human beings, if we expect to have them healthy and profitable. Water should be provided and kept

clean. If proper vessels or fountains are used they need only be changed every two days, excepting during very warm weather when they should be changed as often as possible and kept in the shade. Stale or sun-warmed water may lead to cholera and other diseases. Fowls should be kept supplied with gravel and lime ; old mortar will answer if crushed fine.

THE POULTRY HOUSE.—Every poultry house should be provided with a dust bath, composed of sifted coal ashes and road dust, and some sulphur should be mixed with it to prevent vermin. If this is attended to, and the house kept clean, there will be little trouble from lice, which are a great annoyance to both attendant and fowl. Avoid all permanent or box-made nests as they become harbors for vermin, they should be kept clean ; roosts should be made moveable and thoroughly cleaned several times in the year and saturated with coal oil to which may be added a little carbolic acid. By paying strict attention to cleanliness in your poultry houses you will not be troubled with red or spider lice, as is often found in the cracks of the wall or on the roosts. They sap the blood from the fowl which become sallow in face and head. Working at night they are not noticed, and many fowls have lost their lives by these night marauders, and fowls thus troubled will not be profitable.

In conclusion I would say that poultry kept judiciously and systematically looked after will yield a good return. we do not advise the laying out of whole farms in poultry runs, and building houses especially for that purpose, but do believe that poultry should have their proper place and be managed with the same care as other stock and by so doing this important branch of farm product will increase, and will not only supply home consumption but will also bring a large revenue to the country.

THE BACHE FUND.

OUR friend and brother fancier C. R. Bache, died on the 15th inst., aged 35 years. He was sick about eight months and underwent an operation at Grace Hospital for cancer. Most of the fanciers in Ontario knew him as he was one of the attendants in the Poultry Department at the Industrial Exhibition. He is gone and we shall miss him.

I wish to make an appeal on behalf of his wife and four little ones who are left totally unprovided for. The Toronto Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association very generously