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HOME AND FARM.

A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* has the following remarks on salt:—Farmers differ in their ideas regarding the feeding of salt to animals as they do in feeding other things. Some keep salt constantly by them, while others give a little at a time once a week or when they happen to think of it. Others put salt in the food every day and perhaps compel their animals to eat more than they otherwise would. Cattle kept far inland appear to require more salt than do those which are kept in pastures near the seashore, where the salt spray is deposited upon vegetation. Some milk producers feed salt in excess hoping to cause their cows to drink more water and yield more milk. My own practice has been to give cattle a little salt occasionally as they appear to want it, but I have found a great difference in cattle in this regard, some being exceedingly fond of it while others would scarcely take more than a taste. I have never been able to see any marked difference in the quantity or quality of milk produced on account of feeding or withholding salt. I think animals may acquire a taste for it that may approach a mere habit.

Business men are quick to conform to the demands of the hour, but farmers are slow to change. They keep the old scrub stock, feed in the old way, fritter away their energies on a number of branches of farming instead of concentrating them on one or two, and so get behindhand, discontented and sick of farming.

Use the currycomb lightly. When used roughly it is a source of great pain; brushing and rubbing are the proper means to secure a glossy coat.

HINTS FROM OUR EXCHANGES.—Clear out thoroughly the nests which have been used by sitters. Ventilate and whitewash them, and sprinkle them with carbolated insect powder before using them the second time.

Always set your hens in the evening rather than by daylight. They will be more sure to stick to the nest afterwards. And for two or three days, at first, be careful that they are kept undisturbed.—*New England Farmer*.

Vermin are the greatest foes of poultry, and a thorough fumigation will do the fowl-house good. Be sure the fowls are all shut out until the smoking is over and the house well ventilated.—*American Poultry Part*.

If you find your chicks droopy, look out for lice. You may not think you have them, but you will find, by carefully looking, the large head-louse. Grease the head sparingly with an ointment composed of two-thirds lard and one-third coal oil.—*California Cackler*.

Where do the lice come from? Even the old and experienced ask it, and well they may, when a house that has seemed to be vermin, free becomes in a single night, as it were, alive with them. But the fact is they were there some time before, but in such minute form the unassisted eye could not find them. Little, but oh my the annoyance they were.

It is not known how it comes about, nor why, but it is beyond question that the conditions of the congregating of a quantity more or less of poultry in one enclosure are such that a form of parasitic life peculiar to the situation is developed. It being a natural sequence the fight should be in preventing rather than to wait for development and then exterminate, since with development the difficulties are so immeasurably increased as to be almost insurmountable.—*Fanciers Journal*.

SULPHUR, LARD AND KEROSENE.—Sulphur is advocated as a lice destroyer. It is recommended to use the flowers of sulphur to dust the hens with or put into their dust bath, claiming that the heat from the body generates a gas which kills the lice. It is accepted by nearly everybody that this is a fact, yet it is an erroneous idea. The fact of the heat from the body generating gas is absurd, and for killing lice it is folly. If you wish to use sulphur in any form give it in dry weather internally, and only externally for scurvy-leg. To kill lice effectually, (I speak of the large grey body lice) several remedies may be resorted to. Lard, to which is added about one-third kerosene oil well mixed together and applied lightly under the wings, behind the comb, and around the vent, will usually dissipate vermin. Insect powder is very good and sure, but costly. Kerosene oil is sure death to lice, but in its raw state would be too irritating to the flesh of the hen, and I conceived the idea of using it in the following manner with gratifying results: Take a five cent bar of soap, (I use the Ivory soap,) shave it fine, dissolve it in enough boiling water to make it thick, stir in a pint of kerosene oil and add boiling water slowly, stirring quickly so the oil will not float on top. Let it cool down to blood heat. Now take your fowl and hold it in the mixture, head out, with your hand rub it well into the feathers, rub them down and keep them confined in a warm place. Do this on a dry, warm day, and it won't hurt them as much as being out in the rain all day. I am as afraid of lice as rump, canker, swelled head or cholera. The other pest is the small red lice which will reduce a flock about as quick as disease if they get the upper hand, but are more easily disposed of. Completely cover the roost poles with pure kerosene oil and they will never trouble you any more.—*Orange County Farmer*.

THE GARDEN.—There is, generally speaking, no good reason why the farmer's garden should not be in as high a state of cultivation as that of his contemporary of the town or village. The garden should, to say the least, be the best cultivated spot a man has, whether he be of the city or country, for from it come nearly if not fully half of the luxuries of life as found on the table. Not until the garden is cultivated up to this standard will it be fully appreciated as a factor of life. Formulate your plans for a good garden now and plan to have it such that you will not only know what a first class garden is, but from your experience realize what it may be in its attendant blessings. Let us be all ready for nature when she is ready with her forces.

A. P. REED, in *Country Gentleman*.

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