

pared by adding a pinch of alum to a quart of milk slightly warmed.

By this feeding, the little chicks will get well through their first great danger—the tendency to diarrhoea already alluded to, and the cost of the egg will be repaid by the extra number reared.

The second peril to be guarded against is cold and damp; a wetting is absolutely fatal. The chicks should be kept entirely under the shed, on a board floor kept scrupulously clean, and nicely sanded, except during settled, sunny weather, when they may be allowed a little liberty on the grass, after the dew is quite dry; but in cold or windy weather, however fine, they must be kept in the shed, and well screened from the wind. If there be a one-story building, their best place will be on the top floor, the bottom being devoted to the sitting hens, and other adult stock. Their water, also, must be so supplied that they cannot wet themselves, by any possibility; and these precautions must be continued till they are nine or ten weeks old, when they will begin to "put on the red," as it is called, or to develop the singular red excrescences on the neck, so characteristic of the turkey breed. This process will last some little time, and when completed, the birds will be pretty fully fledged. They are now hardy, but must not be too suddenly exposed to rain or cold winds. Take some reasonable care of them for a while longer, and very soon they will have become the hardiest birds in the poultry-yard, braving with impunity the fiercest storms, and even preferring, if permitted, to roost on high trees, through the depth of winter. In fact, turkeys will rarely roost in a fowl-house, and a very high, open shed should therefore be provided—the higher the better—the perches being placed as high as possible. They might be left to their natural inclination with perfect safety, so far as their general health is concerned; but in very severe weather, their feet, if roosting on exposed trees, are apt to become frost-bitten.—*Practical Poultry Keeper.*

How to Fatten Chickens.

We make the following extracts from an article on this subject in the *London Cottage Gardener*:

"It is hopeless to attempt to fatten them while they are at liberty. They must be put in a proper coop; and this, like most other poultry appurtenances, need not be expensive. To fatten twelve fowls, a coop may be three feet long, eighteen inches high and eighteen inches deep, made entirely of bars. No paraboloid—neither top sides nor bottom. Discretion must be used according to the size of the chickens put up. They do not want room: indeed the closer they are, the better—provided they can all stand up at the same time. Care must be taken to put up such as have been accustomed to be together. If one is quarrel-

some, it is better to remove it at once; as like other bad examples, it soon finds imitators. A diseased chicken should not be put up.

The food should be ground oats; and may either be put up in a trough, or on a flat board running along the front of the coop. It may be mixed with water or milk; the latter is the better. It should be well soaked, forming a pulp as loose as can be, provided it does not run off the board. They must be well fed three or four times per day—the first time as soon after daybreak as may be possible or convenient, and then at intervals of four hours. Each meal should be as much and no more than they can eat up clean. When they have done feeding, the board should be wiped and some gravel may be spread. It causes them to feed and thrive.

After a fortnight of this treatment you will have good fat fowls. If, however, there are but five or six to be fatted, they must not have as much room as though there were twelve. Nothing is easier than to allot them the proper space; as it is only necessary to have two or three pieces of wood to pass between the bars and form a partition. This may also serve when fowls are up at different degrees of fatness. This requires attention, or fowls will not keep fat and healthy.

As soon as the fowl is sufficiently fattened it must be killed; otherwise it will still get fat, but will lose flesh. If fowls are intended for the market, of course they are, or may be, all fattened at once; but if for home consumption, it is better to put them up at such intervals as will suit the time when they will be required for the table.

When the time arrives for killing, whether they are meant for market or otherwise, they should be fasted without food or water for twelve or fifteen hours. This enables them to be kept for some time after being killed, even in hot weather."

CHOICE POULTRY.—Those who are wishing to procure well-bred fowls will see by Mr. Acres' advertisement in the present issue, that he has for sale a number of Houdans, Orpingtons, Light Brahmas and Grey Dorkings.

CROSS BETWEEN BRAHMA AND GAME FOWL.—A writer recommends a cross between Game Fowl and Brahmas. Referring to his own experience with the breed, he says:—

I succeeded admirably. The chickens hatched in March were as heavy the first of July as the pure Brahmas were in August. They were round and plump, while the Brahmas were long and lank. The cross has proved to be valuable, vigorous, healthy and good natured; the hens are excellent layers, equal to any; good sitters and mothers—better sitters than the Brahmas, on account of being less clumsy, but not quite so persistent. I don't think they would sit in a refrigerator—I believe a Brahma would. The hens are generally of a dark colored plumage, on the body, with white pencilled neck feathers: occasionally they are white with black neck feathers; but the black predominates.

Entomology.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SPECIMENS may be sent for identification or for information respecting history and habits, to the office of the CANADA FARMER, or direct to the Entomological Editor, Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Credit, Ontario. The postage should be prepaid. The specimens should be sent in a pasteboard or other box, not loose, but packed with cotton wool, or some similar material. The name and address of the sender should also accompany the package, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith, and that we may know where to apply for further information if required.

The Grain Aphis.

Mr. Thomas Fraser, of Galt, informed us last week, that some small insect was infesting his oats in vast numbers, and asked for information respecting it; we wrote to him at once for specimens, without seeing which, it is hardly possible for us to say anything definite about an insect, and received a supply yesterday, (July 27). It turns out to be the Grain Aphis, or Plant-louse, (*Aphis avenae*, Fab.).

Like many of our worst insect enemies this species has been introduced into America from Europe, where it has been known for ages. Very little notice of it was taken on this side the Atlantic till the year 1861, when it appeared in enormous numbers on grain crops of all kinds, both throughout Canada and the neighbouring States. Much alarm was excited by it, and the press teemed with notices of its ravages and numbers, and of remedies for its destruction. The next year it appeared again, but with much diminished ranks, and without creating the same alarm or excitement; since then, though observed here and there every year, it has remained in unnoticed obscurity, so far as the public in general are concerned. As it is the nature of this insect, like other species of plant-lice, to appear suddenly in countless myriads in places where its existence even was quite unsuspected, and as we may at any time have a renewal of the visitation of 1861, a brief account of its natural history will, probably, not be without interest and value.

Plant-lice are, or at any rate ought to be, perfectly familiar objects to every one who cultivates a foot of land, or even grows a single house-plant in a pot, for they are to be found at one time or another on. We think we can safely say, every kind of ordinary plant that exists. The good wife who tends with anxious care her geranium or fuchsia in the cottage window, knows full well how mysteriously the little green pests come back on her plants, in spite of frequent washings with soap-suds, or smokings with the old man's pipe; the gardener knows how the same minute creatures suck the juices of the majority of his vegetables and plants; and