

gained in flesh all winter. The Brahmas "went back," both on eggs, and in flesh. The reason was that the first had the strippings from the cornstalks to help in the assimilation of their food, which the latter did not have. This proved, to my satisfaction, that some such coarse food must be provided if we would have the fowls thrive, and I may say here, that well cured green cornstalks, and young, tender grass and clover, should be provided for poultry as regularly as hay for other stock.

PRUNING THE GRAPE.

Our Country Home.

Pruning is in order from the time the leaves fall until the buds begin to swell in the spring; but early pruning is to be advised for several reasons. To the novice there is a great mystery about the science of pruning the grapevine; but if the growth and habits of the vine are fully understood, pruning by any system becomes very simple.

Whatever the system employed, the practice must be based upon the following facts:—

1. To obtain large bunches of grapes, but a limited number of clusters of fruit must be allowed to remain on each vine.

2. Large bunches are borne only upon strong, vigorous canes.

3. In order to obtain this strong growth, at the fall pruning all the last season's growth of wood must be removed, except a very few canes and spurs—and only a few canes be allowed to grow from these the following season.

4. In order to keep the vines under control, and at the same time accomplish the above ends, great extension of the vine must be prevented by pinching the ends of such shoots as are not needed in summer. All the systems of pruning practised by various growers may be reduced to two, viz., the spur system, in which the cane that is to bear fruit the coming year is cut away except the last two or three buds, which send out strong, vigorous canes that bear the fruit; and the cane system in which the entire cane is left and the fruit is borne on the shoots from its lateral buds.

By the first system the cane that produces fruit is at the end of the season cut back to two buds, which will again produce new fruiting shoots the next season. By the second system the fruiting cane is cut away entirely, and a new cane, grown at the same time as the fruit, is brought to take its place.

In adopting a system of pruning, each grower must decide for himself what one of the many is suited to his many needs and ability; but under all circumstances he must cultivate in such a way as to produce strong, healthy canes that will ripen thoroughly before winter weather, and not let the vines become weakened by overbearing.

In pruning a vine that has been neglected or unpruned for several years, it must be pruned so as to get it down in the first place in the desired space. This will be generally at the expense of the fruit for one year, although if there are any new canes in a proper position, some fruit may be obtained. After severe cutting back, only those canes desired for fixing permanently upon the trellis or support should be allowed to grow, and the others nipped off.

POULTRY RAISING

Upon the subject of poultry-raising a writer in the *Farmer and Dairyman* has this to say:—

"To make poultry-raising a success, on a large or small scale, requires no small degree of study and carefulness. It requires the same

manner of feeding and attending to a dozen that it does five times that number. All kinds of fowls, especially chickens, are liable to a great many different diseases, as well as their greatest pest, lice and the ravages of wild animals and the birds of prey; therefore to make a success of the business you will have to be on your guard all the time.

"The diseases most liable to chickens are the gapes and chicken cholera; but there are a great many more that they are liable to, and if you do not attend to them at once the disease may be the means of losing the larger part of your fowls. To keep your fowls in a healthy condition requires a great deal of care; this is the most essential part of poultry-raising. To have good healthy fowls requires good warm hen houses and convenient roosts, all kept clean and washed with lime every month or as often as required; also, good clean water, especially in the warm summer months, and regularity of feeding.

"There is a great deal of difference in the kind of fowls: some people prefer the Brown Leghorn and others the Plymouth Rocks, and others the White Leghorn, but for good layers my choice is the latter named kind; they are hardy, of good size, and are good layers. There are a great many good breeds, but I will not attempt to point out the characteristics of each kind, but let all have their own choice. To make your hens lay profitably requires a plenty of feed, not too much, but all they will eat and not waste. Give them plenty of burnt bones, old crockery and dishes broken up fine, lime and ashes, and you will have a good many eggs more than if you did not feed any of the last named articles. There is a profit in poultry as I know myself from experience, but if you let your chickens or other fowls roost in the trees, give them gravel, lime, or ashes, and feed them irregularly, and have six to eight breeds all together, you cannot expect to reap much reward."

RECIPE FOR SCAB.

The following recipe for scab has been found effective:—

To 40 gallons of water add 1 gallon of spirits of tar, 5 lbs. of tobacco-paper (infused), 5 lbs. of soft-soap, and 5 lbs. of soda, for 50 sheep. Spirits of tar has been used for this purpose for more than thirty years by Messrs. Archibald. Should the attack be mild, one bath will be quite sufficient a second bath will completely cure the most virulent form. It is only fair that we should state the circumstances that created a necessity for its use, as we know of nothing of which a careful and intelligent sheep-farmer is more ashamed than this pest. For many years it was their custom to buy in a good number of widders, in the open market, for fattening purposes, and in this way were continually having it brought amongst them. After trying almost every advertised nostrum with exceedingly indifferent success, at last the mixture we have given was used, and it has never failed to make a complete cure. Should any one be much troubled with foot-rot (and but few escape who have sheep on low ground), an almost, if not altogether infallible remedy, is to make a long trough, say 14 or 16 feet long, 12 inches wide, and 6 or 7 inches deep. Prepare a mixture of 1 lb. of arsenic and 1 lb. of soda to 7 gallons of water; of course the arsenic and soda are boiled until thoroughly dissolved in water. Let this quantity be put into the trough, and walk the sheep gently through the mixture, whether lame or not. The result will be that, if the sheep are put through regularly, scarcely a single case of lameness will ever occur. The mixture should be of

sufficient depth to cover the whole foot, but not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. A water-tight cover should be made for this trough and locked up. We know of some who have had square courts formed, having a concrete floor, and drive the sheep in, allowing them to stand a while in a weak mixture. Some makers of patent dips give proportions of their mixtures for the cure of foot-rot, and say that the sheep should stand in it for fifteen minutes.

INDUCING HENS TO LAY.

Kentucky Live Stock Record.

There is such a thing as inducing the hens to lay by giving them the material with which to do so. Instinct naturally teaches the hens to lay and bring forth their young under the most favorable conditions only, and hence, like all of the feathered tribe, spring is the most appropriate and proper season, for then the body is more easily kept warm, and the young more carefully nursed. As the hens are always inclined to lay on the approach of warm weather they may be induced to lay by giving them advantages favorable to those of spring. In the first place they must be sheltered from the cold winds and driving storms. The hen that has to hide away in some retired nook in order to keep warm cannot lay because nature refuses to admit of reproduction under adverse circumstances. Artificial warmth is as highly appreciated by her as natural heat, and she obeys the inclination induced by the conditions afforded, and, being in an atmosphere favorable to the purpose, lays her clutch of eggs and attempts to hatch out a brood. The warmth which is so essential consists of that which is created within her body by the food allowed. She is literally a stove, consuming fuel, and creating heat by consumption. When the heat is created the essential requirement is to retain it. To do this she must have a warm and comfortable place both day and night, and the food must consist of all the elements necessary to form an egg, as it is secured by her in the spring. Hence, corn, wheat, oats, a proportion of meat, ground bone, ground oyster shells, and green food, such as cabbage, boiled roots, chopped onions, etc., must be given in order to afford a variety. When the hens are thus provided for and allowed a dust bath, plenty of fresh water, and a place for exercise, there is no reason why they should not be induced to lay during this season, for to them spring does not consist in a change from winter to moderate weather, but a period during which they can best promote egg production, due to better and more favorable conditions.

SILAGE STACKS.

A correspondent writing to the *Farm and Home* (English) makes some practical remarks respecting silage stacks as a substitute for silos. He says:—

"Silos are few, expensive, and not readily built, according to a neighbor's account, who has two, not altogether satisfactory. Will silage stacks answer the purpose? I tried it last year on a small scale. In June, 1884, I put the mowing machine to work the first thing in the morning, and carts to pick it up immediately. I made a rick of grass ten feet square, having four people on the rick—myself one of them, to see it properly spread and trodden down, which was very effectually done—and by the middle of the day it was eleven feet high. Upon this I laid planks a few inches apart. On these I put about three tons of logs, next straw on them, and thatched immediately. The weight was put on the same afternoon, and thatched next day. It sunk