

becoming caked, besides causing her to suffer severely. She must have a mild dose of salts, say half an ounce, repeated after the third day. When the weather is fine, the young pups should be turned out of doors to run about. Knock out the head of a barrel, in which put a little straw, so that they may retire to sleep when they feel disposed. Feed them three times a day, and encourage them to run about as much as possible. Nothing produces crooked legs more than confinement; nothing ill-grown needs more than starvation; so that air, liberty, exercise, and plenty of food are all equally essential to the successful rearing of fine, handsome dogs. Above all things, never frighten, or take undue notice of one over the rest. Accustom them to yourself and strangers. This gives them courage and confidence. Remember, if you ever should have to select a pup in this early stage, to get them all together, fondle them a little; the one that does not skulk will be the highest-couraged dog, the rest much in the same proportion as they display fear or not. This, I have invariably noticed, is the case; and on this I invariably act when I have to select a pup, provided always he is not mis-formed. We have now brought our pups on till they can take care of themselves; and while they grow and prosper, and get over the distemper, we will hark back a little, and say why we object to fall puppies; simply because they are generally stunted by the cold, unless they are house-reared. They come in better, certainly, for breaking; but it is not so good to have them after September, at the latest, unless it be down South, where, I fancy, the order of things would, or should, be reversed.

Our Letter Box.

HOUDANS HATCHING.—(*E. H. H., Penna*) writes: "I have over a thousand chickens in full health and vigor, of all ages, from one week up to three months, and some coming out nearly every day.—What strikes me as singular is, that over half of my Houdans are hatching this year, (last year not one), and they are as broody and touchy as any game hens I ever saw. They are in their third year."

Houdans will occasionally hatch, so will Hamburgs and others of the non-sitting classes, but it is the exception, not the rule.

Such wholesale sitting as that alluded to by our correspondent is unusual if not unprecedented. Something must therefore be wrong. Does it not indicate impurity of blood, developed only as age increases; we think so—would our correspondent enlighten us on this subject?

EGGS WITH A MUSTY TASTE.—(*A Subscriber*) writes us: "I keep Brahma hens of the dark variety, and for some time past their eggs have been tainted with a strong musty taste in the yolk. How can I remedy it? The hens are two and three years old, I feed them principally on Indian corn—they are not confined, but have an open yard in which to run, with a grass field in front in which they have a run at pleasure. What appears most strange is, that all of the eggs are not tainted, only a portion of them.—Can you inform me what is the cause, and suggest a remedy?"

We suggest a change of food, although Indian corn does not usually taint eggs. We have frequently used it ourselves without any such results. Your corn may have been injured, however, and its saccharine properties destroyed. Does it not occur to you that there may be some kind of weed growing in the field to which the fowls have access which some of them eat, and hence the musty taste and smell: a portion of the eggs only being tainted, strengthens this idea.

DUCKS EGGS NOT HATCHING.—(*J. L.*) The eggs of ducks, when set under a hen, should be watered daily with tepid water, that is, the water should be warm enough to communicate warmth through the shells. The reason why the ducklings were unable to break the shell is evident—as you did not water the eggs, the inner lining membrane hardened from being kept too dry, and the birds lacked strength to get through it. When ducks sit on their own eggs and are allowed access to water, there is no need of wetting the eggs; when she leaves her nest to feed, she enjoys a swim before she returns. Her breast is thoroughly wet, and in that state she sits on her eggs.

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