

### Guinea Fowls.

At a late meeting of the American Institute Farmers' Club, a talk was had regarding the Guinea fowl.

J. S. Scoville, Hardley, Saratoga Co., New York, sent word to the club how to get rid of the potato-bug. He said, let every farmer keep Guinea hens. They will destroy all of the bugs. They eat them as fast as hens eat corn, and furthermore, will keep all bugs and insects off every kind of garden vines. Mr. Scoville estimated that one hen to the acre will protect the potatoes. He also argued in favor of these fowls, that they will not scratch like other kinds, or harm the most delicate plant. Their eggs are valuable, and they lay oftener than the common hen; and lastly, they are valuable as a weather indicator, for just before a storm, they set up a terrible screeching, which is kept up till the storm is upon them.

President Ely corroborated what had been said about the guinea fowl, so far as their not harming the garden is concerned, and added that many farmers prized them because their screechings kept hawks away from the poultry-yard.

Dr. Heath concluded the evidence regarding these fowls' harmlessness to plants, etc., by calling attention to the fact that large flocks of them are kept in Central Park. He thought if it is indeed true that they will dispose of potato-bugs, the statement should be promulgated throughout the country. He said that the bugs had made their appearance in large numbers on Long Island, and that many of the farmers are apprehending unpleasant circumstances. He hoped farmers having any information on this subject would send in further testimony.—*Volman's Rural*.

Many of the readers of the REVIEW keep Guinea fowls, and, no doubt, have had their potato patch patronized by the bug also. Give us your experience in the matter. If one fowl, or more, will clear the bug from an acre of potatoes, then, we say, they are exactly the fowl for the Canadian farmer.

◆◆◆◆◆  
**TO DRIVE AWAY RATS.**—James M. Lambing, in the *American Poultry Journal*, gives the following:—Catch two or three large ones, and with a piece of wire, fasten a little sleigh bell about the neck of each and turn them loose. In less than a week there will not be a rat on the farm. I have known this to be tried and have tried it myself, and it always proves effective. Evidently the jingling of the bell frightens the rats, and in the "bell-rat's" efforts to get into the company of his friends he so frightens them all away. Where rats are very plentiful, or there are several farms or poultry houses, it will take several bells to drive them all away. Let those who think this is nonsense test it for themselves as I have.

### Lice.

Believing that nearly one-half the mortality among fowls, both old and young, is caused by these pests, we shall lay before the readers of the REVIEW, from time to time, such remedies as come under our notice that seem likely to prove effectual for their extermination.

Having read that considerable doubt is entertained by many as to the efficacy of carbolic acid, we are making experiments with it for our own satisfaction, and will lay the result before our readers in the May number.

For the small parasites that infest the poultry house, a writer in the *American Poultry Yard* gives the following:

I have used a remedy for several years for killing lice in henneries, which I have never seen in print. I had used White Hellebore for currant bushes, and thought I would try it on chicken lice. At that time I used round poles for roosts. I removed a loose piece of the bark and found it thickly peopled. I just sprinkled a little hellebore on them and they gave up the ghost immediately.—My method of applying it is to dissolve it in water and to sprinkle pretty thoroughly with a little broom. Thirty cents worth would be sufficient for one time.

The *Scientific American* gives the following for sitting hens:

Put a table spoonful of sulphur in the nest as soon as hens or turkeys are set. The heat of the fowls causes the fumes of the sulphur to penetrate every part of their bodies, every louse is killed, and, as all nits are hatched within ten days, when the mother leaves the nest with her brood, she is perfectly free from nits or lice.

A writer in the *American Poultry Yard* gives the following simple mode of removing lice from the mother hen and chicks:

After having tried various remedies to remove vermin from young chicks, I found the following to be the quickest and most effective way of disposing of the pests. Take a sponge, dip it in kerosene and squeeze dry, then mop the feathers and fluff of the mother hen in the evening, and next morning you will be satisfied with the result. An occasional application will keep young chicks entirely free from vermin. Care must be taken to squeeze the sponge dry, as it is the odor that removes the critters.

◆◆◆◆◆  
 "Don't set on me!" exclaimed a testy old fellow, when, by the lurching of the car, a rough looking customer was deposited in his lap. "Eggscuse me, Hen-ry," returned the man, "you've run a-fowl o' the wrong chicken, I cackle-ate. But I'll not brood over your mistake, or lay around this coop a minute longer." He scratched out.—*Chicago Tribune*.