

four cages 8 by 3, which can be used for male birds, so troublesome when allowed to run together, and in spring for setting hens.

But I am getting away from my subject of odds and ends. The next job was to give everything inside a good coat of whitewash, which is not only healthy but makes the place look more cheerful. Then sand was put on floors to the depth of three inches, and a reserve supply secured. I used road dust last winter, but don't like it, as it soils white plumage, and settles on windows, &c., and makes no end of mess, so am trying coarse, white sand this season. And last but not least, I am persuaded, I am spading up into small mountain ranges one half of each yard, so as to give the frost a fair chance to pulverise the soil. Early in spring I shall level down and plant sunflowers, which will supply the shade so necessary and so grateful to chickens in hot weather, and besides utilize the droppings of the previous year, which would otherwise remain a nuisance upon the surface. Of course my yards are large or I could not do this.

I may say, in conclusion, to the beginner, that after five years experience, three with half a dozen varieties and two with the light Brahma alone, that during the last two I have never been dissatisfied for a moment, and if there is anything in poultry which fills the bill more completely than does the light Brahma, then I have not seen it, and I have had the P. Rock as good as money could purchase.

I am Yours Fraternally,

GALLINÆ.

Lefroy, Nov. 4th, 1881.

Winter Feeding.

Nearly all old fanciers have their pet systems of winter feeding, many of them differing greatly, but nearly all agree that three meals a day are necessary, and that they should be given regularly. Cooked food in winter for first meal is generally recommended, as it warms the bird and digests much more rapidly than whole grain. This we believe to be correct so far as it goes, but our experience has taught us that a full meal of cooked food is not nearly so good for the fowls as half a meal, and after this is eaten, the other half of grain. Cooked food will rapidly fatten fowls confined in small coops where it is impossible for them to take exercise, but birds kept as fanciers generally keep them can be kept in better growing and laying condition if never given a full meal of cooked food.

When cooked food is given too freely, feather-eating, egg-eating, tearing each others combs and wattles and other vices are most prevalent, and eggs are generally nearly as scarce as hens' teeth.

The same treatment will not answer for growing and adult fowls. The growing chicks require all

they will eat and a considerable amount of exercise. It is then advisable to keep them separate, as the treatment necessary to promote growth and thrift in the young would cause obesity in the mature birds, and destroy their usefulness. Chicks may be given a liberal supply of corn, but the old birds should receive it sparingly. Wheat and barley are good for both, and may be liberally supplied, by scattering among the chaff or leaves covering the floors. Buckwheat in large quantities is too fattening for old birds in confinement. Vegetables and roots, such as cabbages, turnips, carrots and potatoes—the three latter cooked—are greatly relished by fowls in confinement, and should be given regularly. Clean sharp gravel and old mortar are almost as necessary as food, and the careful fancier will have his winter's supply on hand now. These articles should be in such a position that they cannot be fouled by the droppings. Povidion should be made to supply fresh water twice a day, in vessels that are easily cleaned and not liable to be broken by frost. A small quantity of tincture of iron added to the water about twice a week will keep the fowls toned up and in good appetite. A dust-bath of clean fine sand will be greatly relished by the fowls if placed in a sunny spot, and will assist to keep the plumage clean, and conduce to health and thrift.

To feed successfully the young birds must be kept fully supplied with nutritious food till mature, and the mature birds in good condition without fat. This latter can best be done by keeping them actively employed in scratching for their food; never by allowing them to gorge themselves with cocked food and then mope in a corner until again hungry.

Preparing for Exhibition

is not as some seem to think the work of a week or so preceding the show, but requires months to do properly. By months of care we do not mean that the birds should be put into cages and fed up to make them fat, slick and shiny, but that attention should be given them right along to bring them up to their best condition. It is a great mistake, and many fall into it, to suppose that the birds can be neglected up to within a couple of weeks of the show, and then brought into good showing condition by stuffing with stimulating and oily food. They can be much better prepared without caging at all. Litter their coops with chaff, straw or leaves to keep them clean, give good wholesome food, clean fresh water, some hemp or sunflower seed now and then, and if this is kept up from the present until the winter shows commence, your birds will not be cut on the score of "condition."