

How to Clean a Poultry-House.

This vexatious job is dreaded by all, but everything depends upon the arrangement of the interior. As there are different methods of constructing the floors, so are there many modes of cleaning the houses. A house so arranged as to permit the droppings to accumulate under the roosts, with earth as an absorbent, soon becomes filled up to a certain depth with the manure, which at all times gives off disagreeable odors. Constant sprinkling with disinfectants may prove serviceable, but nothing that may cause dampness should be done in a poultry-house. The better plan is to have a hard floor, either of boards or cement, and sprinkle dry dirt under the roosts, which not only serves as a disinfectant, but when swept away with a broom, permits of the easy removal of the droppings without fouling the floor. If the house be thus swept out daily, while the fowls are partaking of their morning meal, the time consumed in so doing will be but a minute or two, and the fresh application of the dirt will cause the interior to be inviting to the hens, as well as permitting of the collection of eggs without coming in contact with filth. The method is also an excellent preventative of lice, as the dirt may be freely dusted against the walls, in the nests, and on the roosts, to which the hens will not object.—[Farm and Garden.

PRESERVATION OF EGGS.—At the London Dairy and at the Birmingham Fat-Stock Show during the last two years, prizes have been offered for the best-preserved eggs. These, as well as many private tests, have shown that the lime-water system is, all things considered, the best. A pound of lime should be stirred with a gallon of water, and the eggs, perfectly fresh, immersed therein in barrels or jars. This excludes air and any germs that might cause mildew or mould, and prevents evaporation, so that the contents of the egg are not reduced in bulk. It is important to have a considerable excess of lime to replace any that may become carbonated. The vessels containing the eggs should be kept in a cool, well-ventilated place. A very successful variation in the process consists in embedding new-laid eggs, warm from the nest, in a thick paste of lime and water. Eggs thus preserved for six months could hardly be distinguished from those newly laid. The contents of eggs evaporate rather rapidly through the shell; and the object of the preserver must be to prevent this evaporation, and at the same time to allow for the expansion and contraction of the natural air-space in the egg due to changes of temperature. The plan of coating the shells with wax or melted paraffine fails in the latter particular. Strong brine fails because the contents of eggs preserved in it become much reduced in bulk.

Prof. Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural College, in a recent bulletin says: "For three years I carried on very careful experiments during the summer season with green food vs. dry food for cows, weighing food, growth or decline in weight of cows, weight of milk and weight of butter. With the present price and plentitude of good pasture, clover, timothy, and grains in Missouri, I very seriously doubt the propriety of handling daily, in little lots, by high priced labor, water laden, green food for our dairy or other herds."

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c. per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Voluntary correspondence containing useful and seasonable information solicited, and if suitable, will be liberally paid for. No notice taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only given the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

"How Should Farmers Spend their Evenings?"—Your fair correspondent, in her prize essay on "How should farmers spend their evenings?" says:—"It is admitted by all that, taking the annual average, farmers have more leisure than those in any other occupation." From this I am led to presume that Miss Jessie never lived on a farm. A man who has his living to get on a farm either in this or any other country, and who wishes to keep out of the hands of the sheriff, must rise with the lark, and have his wits about him during his waking hours, and when the labors of the day are past, whether it be winter or summer, he must rest his weary, aching body, preparatory to the labors of another day. Few farmers have either leisure or inclination to pour over some work of either fact or fiction, and history, mathematics, travels, chemistry, poetry, &c., have little interest for him after having spent the best years of his life in reclaiming the wilderness, and, to the best of his ability, providing for his family, whom he is training to follow in his footsteps. Many of these men, with all their shortcomings, set a worthy example to those who are too ready with their advice, which, if followed, would not be so well for him. It is too sad a fact that so many young men spend their evenings at taverns and become a very pest to the neighborhood in which they dwell. Who is to blame for this? Why are such places allowed to exist and encouraged by those in authority in spite of the law? The hard, horny hand, awkward gait and bent body are too often turned to ridicule and insult by those in more favored circumstances; but are ever ready to profit by his labors. Who has made Canada what it is to-day? Certainly not your men of letters, science or of law. I pity the farmer who has to go to any of these men for advice. Examine our jails and compare the number of farmers with the rest of the community confined therein.—G. R. Arva Ont.

[The above letter contains a great deal of sound, practical sense. We know nothing of the writer, except what he informs us in a foot-note that he has been "thirty years a farmer," and we know even less about Miss Robertson. Our readers may therefore presume that Mr. R. has never been off the farm, as well as that Miss R. has never been on; so that if both presumptions are justified by the facts, the one is in as awkward a plight as the other. In one sense Miss Jessie's essay may be liable to be misconstrued; we do not think her intention was to put every farmer, with his wife, sons and daughters, through her lengthy program of winter-evenings' instruction, but to give a variety from which each may make a choice according to his or her ability or taste. We have been many years on the farm as well as in business, and our judgment is, aided by close observation, that farmers have much more leisure time than business men, taking average circumstances as well as annual averages: our heaviest work does not usually commence until after the farmer's day's work is done. There is a larger percentage of mental slaves amongst business people than manual slaves amongst farmers, and the condition of both is to be deeply deplored. Amongst farmers, however, there is one redeeming feature; both mental and physical toil is essential to the farmer's success; while the business man, when engaged in physical occupations for the good of his health, does not promote

his enterprises, and any benefits that may be derived are indirect and remote. Mr. R. puts stress upon keeping his wits awake, but he seems to have no time to cultivate and strengthen the wit faculty. He is perfectly just however, in his assault upon his town cousins, who are always ready and willing to enjoy the products of his toil—honestly, if they conveniently can. Country manners are just as much in their place in the country as city manners in the city, and any aggression from either party would be attended with disastrous consequences. The country lad shows sound sense in not mocking the customs of his city cousins; for, although he is convinced that dandish propensities are not suited to country life, he is too modest to express an opinion as to their fitness in the places of their nativity. If Miss Robertson has blundered in not suggesting that her "Manual of Common Politeness" should be written by a farmer, will some of our readers kindly let us know?]

Holidays for Farm Laborers.—In your last you say a farm laborer is entitled to the legal holidays, unless otherwise agreed. Now suppose part of a man's work is to attend to a certain number of stock, who is to attend to them if he insists upon taking his holidays?—G. D., St. Thomas, Ont.

[There is no statutory law on all these fine points, the circumstances of each case and the local customs being the main guides. If a man is engaged to attend stock, he knows that the animals must be fed on Sundays and holidays as well as on other days, so that he cannot shirk these duties, and all who are accustomed to assist him are expected to do so. No extra work, however, can be demanded, merely the work of necessity being required to be performed by the laborer.]

Contributors Wanted.—Notes from Manitoba. I have thought many times of writing to ask if a short paragraph or so concerning agricultural matters in this part of the country would be acceptable for insertion in your very admirably conducted paper. I forward a few remarks, and if anything like them would be of any interest, I would be pleased to send a little every month. If you think them worthless I still wish you every success.—NORWESTER, No. 2 Range, S. W., Marquette, Man.

[We thank you for your excellent article, which we publish with pleasure. We want brief notes occasionally from subscribers in all parts of the Dominion, providing they are short, seasonable, and to the point. We especially desire articles from Manitoba and the North-west, as a great deal has been written to boom up the country and we depend upon our subscribers for truthful statements, and we want to see this new country, like all other enterprises, progress on its merits. Contributors will please mail their articles so that they will reach us not later than the 25th of the month. We don't desire them sooner than the 20th, as we like to see the latest news. Our correspondent being so kind as to, offer an article every month for the benefit of his fellow farmers surely other subscribers will generously offer to write once or twice a year. Our correspondent writes as follows: We have been favored with splendid weather for harvest work; some days during last month the thermometer registered 104 degrees, and the crops have mostly been gathered and threshed without a drop of rain falling upon them. Notwithstanding this, however, the future prospects of very many farmers are decidedly gloomy on account of their grain being very badly frozen. Jack Frost paid us an exceptionally early visit this year. On August 24th and several succeeding nights we had very severe frosts, which not only ruined the gardens, but damaged the wheat to such an extent that in some localities the farmers do not intend cutting it at all; it stinks as it stands in the field, while many others have countermanded their orders for binding twine and cut their wheat simply as pig feed. This coming upon several previous bad seasons will have a most depressing effect upon many of our farmers, and probably drive them from the field in despair; and on the other hand, those whose grain is not frozen will gain the advantage of better prices. No. 1 hard selling at present at 65 cents. There is a lesson in this: it shows the wisdom of speeding the fall plough, so as to get our seed in the ground at the earliest possible moment in the spring, and I think it would be better for if we delayed our threshing a little, and put all our strength in the stubbles. Beef and pork are very cheap the farmers selling at 34 cents per lb. live weight, while the butchers retail it out from 12 to 15 cents per lb., rather a large margin for profit. Other farm produce equally cheap. Butter hardly saleable at any price, and of cheese very little is made; it is an article that is altogether absent from most farmers' tables. There is one factory at Nelson which is producing a first-rate cheese, and if farmers would combine, I don't see why cheese factories and creameries should not be more common amongst us, producing good articles and conferring considerable benefit upon individual farmers.]

Relative Feeding Values of Timothy, Clover and Oat Fodder.—Would you be good enough to state in your paper what are the relative values of green oats, and timothy and clover hay for feed for milch cows, beef cattle growing cattle and horses. In times, when ap-