

few meal-worms should be given daily. Whether it was this new food I do not know, but I never before had such quantities of eggs, and the winter was so cold and severe many of my neighbours complained of having none.

This year I am going to try the same food for young pheasants as well as my young chickens.

About this time I was presented with a very fine bronze turkey cock, so I tried to get some mates for him, which I soon did through a paper, and gave 10s. each for two handsome hens, which laid extremely well, and performed the arduous duties of incubation in a very satisfactory manner. We had some trouble with the young ones at first, as three died from gapes and four from roup, but after that forty-five got on splendidly; until one day two died of some mysterious complaint, when they were getting fine strong birds. I was fortunately able to discover the cause of their death next morning, and thereby prevented any further mortality.

On coming out of the yard into the meadow I saw my horrible turkey cock stamping on every young turkey he could get near, and crushing them down into a shapeless mass of feathers. I had him instantly shut up, and condemned to death, when fat enough—not in time, however, to prevent his having killed six of his most promising children. Most of the turkeys were killed as poults, but twelve were reserved for Christmas, and were finished off with oatmeal and milk.

I found tailings, buckwheat, and barley the best and cheapest food to give turkeys, but as they also require a great deal of green food, they were given all the refuse that could be spared from the pigs; they seemed particularly fond of dandelions, and would devour them by the basketfull; and as turkeys are subject to inflammatory complaints, I encouraged them to eat as much green stuff as possible. Any heating food is very bad for them, maize the worst of all. Bran mixed with a very little barley-meal just to give it a taste, made into a crumbly paste with some warm water, suits them well, also coarse oatmeal; nettles boiled and mixed with all their food are excellent.

The old cock Turkey weighed 28 lbs. when fattened, and I kept him on, meaning him to grace our Christmas board, thinking how I could proudly point to him, and say to my landlord. See how my farm cuts out Leadenhall Market. But, two months before that season approached, I was persuaded to send him to a local show, where he took a prize, and sold for three guineas; whilst the smaller turkey that I had fattened up instead of the veteran proved, I expect, better eating, though it did not present quite such a noble appearance as the other would have done.

I wrote to the gentleman who bought the old cock, warning him to enclose him in a separate place apart from his offspring should he keep him another year; but he replied rather rudely, "That he had bred turkeys for fifteen years, and knew all about it. However, my mind was relieved, and so I did not mind.

During the autumn and winter my poultry-yard was so crowded, and my cows were doing so well, that I advertised offering to send hampers of farm produce to London. I had quantities of answers, and agreed to send three a week—one at 12s., one at 21s., and one at 30s., Had the people only been satisfied with what I could send, and not have wanted such extraordinary things, this market would have answered well, but their demands were so great that I soon grew tired of trying to supply them. Then the butter and eggs were changed by the servants, who disliked their mistresses dealing anywhere but at shops; and I was continually getting letters to say that my butter was worse than the lowest quality of salt.

I at once had a stamp cut with my initials in the centre, and the eggs marked in ink: this plan prevented cheating, but the trouble was so great I soon gave up, and contented myself with only supplying personal friends.

ELECTRO-HORTICULTURE.

A paper read by Dr. Siemens before the Royal Society, Eng., on the influence of electric-light upon vegetation: London, 1881.

The marvellous strides made by experimenters on the power of the electric force, of late years, have become already known to my Montreal readers practically, as well as from the public prints. But it will surprise many of them to hear of the wonders of which Dr. Siemens has to tell us. "My experiments," says he "go to prove that the electric light is capable of producing upon plants effects really comparable to those of solar radiation, that chlorophyll is produced by it, and that bloom and fruit rich in colour and aroma can be developed by its aid.

They also prove that plants do not require any period of rest during the twenty four hours of the day, but make increased and vigorous progress if subjected in winter time to solar light by day, and electric light by night."

The arrangement consists of a six horse-power steam engine, two dynamo-machines, Siemens D., connected, separately, with two electric lamps, each capable of emitting a light of about 4,000 candle-power. One of these lamps was placed inside a glass house of 2,318 cubic feet capacity—say 15 feet long by the same in width, and 10 feet high. The waste steam heated the house, the temperature being kept, as nearly as possible, at 60° F., and pease, beans, grain of all kinds, as well as cauliflowers, strawberries, peaches, tomatoes, vines and a variety of roses, rhododendrons, and azaleas—all of these were subjected to the influence of the electric light. The naked light appeared at first to wither the plants, so a thin sheet of clear glass was interposed between them and the electric light, and this had the double effect of discharging the chemical products of the arc, resulting from the gradual combustion of the carbon electrodes, and of acting as an effectual screen between the arc and the plants under its influence.

And what were the effects of this treatment, "Pease, sown at the end of October, produced a harvest of ripe fruit on February the 16th under the influence, bar Sunday night, of continuous light. Raspberry stalks put into the house on December the 16th produced ripe fruit on March the 1st, and strawberries planted at the same time ripened their fruit, excellent in flavour and colour, on the 14th of February, while vines, started into bud (or as a gardener would say "broken") on the 26th of December, produced grapes of more than ordinary flavor on the 10th of March.

Contrary to expectation, the pease which were gathered ripe on the 10th of February vegetated when sown a week afterwards, and showed every symptom of healthy growth. Botanists say that plants submitted to the influence of continuous light are incapable of reproduction; but in this case they are clearly in error. Dr. Gilbert, of Rothamsted, has undertaken to conduct further experiments on other grains.

A banana palm has fully developed under this new form of culture. The result was a bunch of fruit weighing 75 pounds, of unusual size, and pronounced by competent judges to be unsurpassed in flavour. Melons, also remarkable for size and aromatic flavour, were produced in the early Spring of 1880 and 1881, and Dr. Siemens is of opinion that "still better results may be realized when the best condition of temperature and of proximity to the electric light have been thoroughly investigated."

It was found that, where barley, wheat, and oats, were subjected to the influence of the electric light inside the glass-house, they grew too rapidly, and fell to the ground when they had attained the height of a foot or fifteen inches. In the open air the above grains subjected after germination, which was slow on account of frost and snow, to an external electric light matured their seed perfectly. Sown on the 6th of January the grains