

to be set. A cross between it and the Dorking makes an excellent bird for the table.

The pure Dorking chickens can be sold, at good prices to other fanciers. To the breeder they are useless, and are perhaps too valuable to be killed. The original stock will last two years, at the end of which I would recommend that the male bird be replaced by a younger one, of a different strain, and then your own pullets will come into use. A few choice birds can be kept in this way at a very small cost; only one house is required, and that of moderate dimensions.—If the fowls are confined during any part of the day, they must have a yard similar to that described. If they have absolute freedom they find many means of sustenance for themselves in open fields or surrounding shrubberies, and will be in a great measure, independent of the provision commissariat. It is impossible to lay down exact rules as to feeding; experience is the safest guide.

Poultry, if penned up, with only an occasional run, live in complete dependence on the food given, which must always be regulated by circumstances. It must be borne in mind that high feeding is conducive to laying, and the eggs will always pay for the grain consumed, if the yearly average price is taken.

I have thus attempted to show that it is possible to keep poultry, even as an amusement, without loss. It pays best either on a very large or a very small scale. In the latter case it must be viewed only as a "fancy," and if the expense can be covered by the sale of extra stock, it is all that can be expected or desired. On a larger scale, the pursuit resolves itself into a system. The market must be studied for the purchase of grain, and for the sale of your produce. To show a good balance sheet, your household must be supplied during the dearest as well as the cheapest seasons of the year. Your spring chickens must come from your own yards; your eggs, at two shillings a dozen, from your own laying houses. Thus you live in plenty—nay, in extravagance, had you to purchase all you supply yourself with—and you enjoy the blessing of independence.—*The Henwife, by Mrs. F. Blair.*

The Apiary.

WINTERING BEES.

[As the keeping of Bees is on the increase in Canada, the following observations of a practical aparian, taken from a recent number of the *Maine Farmer*, will not be devoid of interest to several of our readers. We recommend the subject of Bee-culture as well deserving the attention of farmers and others living in the country.—Eds.]

To winter bees successfully in our cold northern climate, is a question of great moment to the apiculturist. There seem to be almost many ways recommended as there are bee-keepers. Having had several years experience in this business in Northern Vermont, I have arrived at this conclusion, that bees should have their welfare in winter, a *dark, cool, dry*, place, where the temperature is even as possible and about five degrees above the freezing point or 35 degrees Fahrenheit. In this temperature the bees will remain very still and quiet, and will require but little honey to what they would if kept in a warmer place.

In the first of my experience, I was advised to put my bees into a tight dark room in the house. I did so, and the consequence was. I lost many of my bees before spring. During the warm days in the winter, the bees would become very lively and crawled out of the hives upon the floor, and if there was a ray of light, they were sure to follow it, and would there perish; if shut into the hive they would create such a heat in trying to get out that they would melt their comb and become drowned in their own sweets. This was found to be owing principally to the outside temperature being so changeable and the want of proper ventilation.

Wintering bees out of doors, as practiced by a large proportion of amateur bee-keepers, is always attended with bad results, as nearly one half the stocks are frequently lost, and those that are not, are so reduced in number, that they will not swarm the coming season, therefore being bees enough to permit it, consequently are worth but little to their owners. When they stand out of doors, every warm day during the winter or they are inclined to fly from the hives and thousands of them get chilled and sick and where there was a peck of bees in the fall in the fall, by spring there may be but a handful left. In the Middle or Southern States, they can be allowed to stand out of doors with safety. In my more recent observations and experiments, especially in the Northern States, I have found no place to winter bees in, equal to a dark and dry cellar.

If the hives are rightly arranged, and the cellar ventilated by opening either a door or window at night time, occasionally, there will be no loss of bees only what die of old age, and the comb will look nearly as white as in the fall. Bees when kept in a cellar of this kind will not make a discharge to soil the comb during the whole winter, and will consume but very few pounds of honey—say about a pound to a thousand bees; for ordinary swarms would require from ten to twenty pounds of honey. At this low temperature, the bees remain very quiet and still, and if the cellar kept perfectly dark, they will remain so during the whole winter, and will hardly know when spring approaches, which will not be the case when kept in a room above ground or out of doors. Bees frequently receive more injury