

ing the Irish Sea; for the last four or five years only very few have been caught. Only four hundred were taken on this occasion, and many a night they do not take so many as that, whereas in the good days they would take as many as the boats could carry. They have sometimes been known to take as many as one hundred mease (2 mease = five full hundreds of one hundred and twenty each). One cannot help feeling great sympathy for the fishermen in the poverty and distress which seem to threaten them at present. The hauling of the net took over an hour; then the mast of the boat was re-erected, the sails hoisted, and her bow turned towards home. We caught

a few more mackerel with the trawling-line while returning.

Breakfast was prepared on board, consisting of coffee, bread-and-butter, and a *real fresh* herring, which was most delicious. The sun rising over the Manx hills, and lighting up the sky with very varied tints, made a beautiful picture. A strong, favourable wind bore us on at a great speed, and by 8 A.M. I was back again in Port Erin Bay after a very interesting and enjoyable experience, feeling glad that I knew more of the process by which our herrings are caught, and could understand and sympathise better with our sturdy fishermen in their hard and often perilous life.

## POULTRY KEEPING.

BY THE REV. G. T. LAYCOCK, *Editor of "Fowls."*

### III.—ACQUIRING STOCK.



HAVING completed the poultry house and run our next move must be to find suitable tenants. A glance at the advertising columns of *Fowls*, which is the only weekly journal entirely devoted to poultry keeping, will reveal many tempting offers. Yet we would advise the new beginner not to be too precipitate in making a choice, but first of all fully determine what object he has in view in establishing a poultry yard. Is it simply and purely as a hobby? Is it to secure new-laid eggs for home use? Is it to breed table-poultry, and thus provide, now and again, a home-grown dinner? Or is it a love of feathered pets, stimulated by a visit to some poultry show which has fired the new beginner's enthusiasm to cultivate a few beautiful specimens such as delighted his eyes on that memorable show day? Or perhaps it may be a judicious blending of pleasure and business—an interesting hobby turned to a profitable account, or something to do when the day's ordinary work is completed.

Now, in making choice of a breed we shall do best, without a doubt, if we give these matters proper consideration, and direct our method of procedure accordingly. A bad start quickly leads to dissatisfaction, and terminates in a bad ending. To end well it is necessary to begin well. In nothing is this more true than in poultry keeping. How often we hear people say, "Oh, I mean to keep a few fowls! I don't care what sort they are. I only want some new-laid eggs and a bird now and again for the table." Consequently, they imagine their wants limited, and so they think the price should be limited, and the man who

will sell the cheapest secures their custom.

It is this—this buying of rubbish—which works incalculable harm. How often it is, after a few weeks' or a few months' experience, when the ardour of a first love has cooled, that the recently imported tenants have notice to quit, or