

## Farming.

### A PAPER FOR FARMERS AND STOCKMEN

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### Oatmeal for Young Chickens.

According to analysis oats are among the best grains to promote egg-laying in hens. But as often happens, practice contradicts the conclusions of the chemist. Probably the oat grain is all right to make eggs, but fed with the hull the mass fills the gizzard too quickly, and possibly even clogs it, so that the oats cannot be digested and the fowl becomes cropbound. At all events, we never changed from whole wheat as feed to oats without noticing a falling off in egg production. But for the youngest chicks we know no better feed than ground oats slightly moistened and fed with milk curd, squeezed until it is nearly dry. This is as good and cheaper than feeding hard-boiled eggs crumbled fine, though this last should be given occasionally for variety of ration. So soon as the chicks are a week old broken wheat is their best food. They will very quickly learn to eat whole grains of wheat, but the cracked pieces which are damaged for sale for grinding can be had more cheaply and are just as good. Whatever food the chicks have, they should have access to gravel at all times.

### Cause of Soft Shelled Eggs.

The laying of soft shelled eggs by fowls is usually due to one or other of two causes. The first is an overfat condition of the birds, and the second a lack of sufficient shell-forming material in their food. The remedy in either case is obvious. In the first instance the birds should be denied whatever food it is that is responsible for their high condition, while in the second bone meal, oyster shells, and other materials calculated to supply lime to the system should be fed to them.—*Exchange.*

### Sherbrooke Fair.

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Canada's Great Eastern Exhibition which appears in another column.

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