

usually suffer more from exposure than the compactly built, heavily feathered breeds like the Wyandottes.

A dust-box should be provided, and placed where the sun's rays will render it still more attractive to the biddies during the cold snowy days of winter. Dry earth is good dusting material, but dry road dust is better, as it is finer. If this be used, it must be collected during summer. Dry coal ashes are also excellent, as they are extremely penetrating, as every one familiar with them knows.

Arrangements must also be made for water in abundance, if the best results from eggs are expected. For this nothing is better than the stone drinking fountains now so cheaply made.

Shells and ground bone must also be provided, as well as a supply of meat. If a sufficient number of hens are kept, a green bone mill is an excellent investment, as green bones, with a large amount of meat and gristle can be purchased at a merely nominal price at almost any meat market. This is a most excellent feed, but care must be exercised not to feed too much, especially at first, as it is likely to scour the hens.

With arrangements all made for the comfort of the flock, and facilities all complete for convenient feeding and caring for them, one can view the advent of winter with complacency and with a clear conscience, the result of duties well performed.

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### THE PROTECTION OF POULTRY FROM THIEVES.

IN the excellent catering of *Fowls* for its numerous readers, a catering which, by the way, leaves its contemporaries several laps behind, if the phrase may be permitted to do duty, one of the most interesting, and it goes without saying one of the most useful features thereof is unquestionably the weekly prize essay on a given subject connected directly or indirectly with the ever-growing art of poultry culture. I don't say this, let it be understood from the fact that I occasionally contribute to that series, but solely because the wise and judicious choice of subjects undoubtedly does place before the readers of this journal an enormous amount of instructive and consequently valuable information representing very often the large and varied experience of life-long attention and practical study, not to be obtained, be it noted, from any text-book or any other of the ordinary sources of knowledge open to the beginner.

The present subject is a case in point. It is one, which, so far as I know, is not to be met with in the average text-book, and I have dipped into a few of the latest and most approved; and yet there is no gainsaying its importance, as the vast majority of poultry keepers, whether they have lost birds or not, and particularly those who have, will readily admit. Personally, I have never lost any birds in this way but I am doubtless better situated than very many others who reside in lonely out-of-the-way places which offer every inducement to those who have an inborn weakness for breaking an important commandment.

Before proceeding to the consideration of the various safeguards to be employed however, it may be well to consider the best and safest kind of poultry house to be employed for the safe keeping of our feathered pets, and I may say at once, that in my humble opinion, those constructed throughout of strong, sound matchboards, which, being well grooved and tongued into each other, are the better calculated, other reasons apart, to answer the purpose of security, as offering the fewest possible advantages to the jemmy of the enterprising burglar. For if built with ordinary floor-boards a short exposure to the weather will reveal the existence of a number of gaps or interstices between the planks which will, at least, greatly facilitate the process known as cracking the crib.

Coming now to various preventative measures, one of the best, as it is certainly the most popular, is to keep a good dog. If he be really a good watch-dog, he will be found to answer every purpose and no further trouble need be taken. But even this method is not by any means infallible, few dogs being proof against the soft seductions of a meaty bone. As a rule, I believe that bitches are generally considered to be in every way more trustworthy, and their integrity less capable of being sapped or undermined, than that of their faithless lords and masters.

More reliable and trustworthy guardians still, according to high authorities in the poultry world, and especially where space will allow of it, as in the country, are—would you believe it?—geese. Keep a few of these interesting and useful fowls, and the prospect of one's stock being diminished by the light fingered gentry is reduced to a minimum. No bird, it seems sleeps as lightly as an old goose, though whether this is in any way induced by qualms of conscience I cannot say, knowing but little of the interesting bipeds. They hear the slightest sound while "half the world's asleep," and, like war-horse in the Bible, can "scent afar off" the approach of a stranger. They conveniently possess discernment too, for if those to whom they are accustomed to in the daytime should hap pen, like the ghost in Hamlet, to be taking an