



MANAGEMENT OF FOWLS IN COLD WEATHER.

Many persons complain that hens are not profitable, as they must be fed a number of months in cold weather, without any profit, as they do not lay in the cold season. This depends very much on management. Hens are as profitable as any other stock, if managed with the same care, and we believe more profitable, as there is a more ready return. Pullets generally begin to lay when five or six months old, with good attention, and there is a quick return in eggs to pay for trouble and expense; and in raising chickens, if hatched in season, a good return will be made in a few months, as they bring a good price in July and August, though but partially grown, if they be fat and have yellow legs.

When hens do not lay in cold weather, it is generally owing to their not being kept warm and comfortable, and being well supplied with suitable food, gravel lime, water, &c., &c.

We do not intend to give a description of a hen house, but would remark that it should be dry and warm, and during warm and moderate weather, it should be ventilated; the amount of fresh air should be according to the temperature of the weather. In very cold weather the house should be kept closed, to keep it comfortable. The manure should be often removed, especially when the weather is mild, that the air may be pure. White-washing occasionally, when the weather is mild, will have a good effect, though it is not so necessary in cool, as in warm weather. It is best to have boards directly under the roost to catch the manure, that it may not fall on the ground; in this way the place may be kept much neater. When the manure is removed from the boards, which should be often when it is not frozen, some ashes or lime should be thrown on the boards to absorb the moisture and keep the air pure.

Grain of different kinds is excellent food for hens. Corn, barley, wheat, rye, oats, buckwheat, rice, are all good, and the cheapest kinds may be used. Corn and barley are about as good as cheap kinds of grain as any. It is better to have a part of the corn ground and make a dough with hot water, and use this as a part of their food; and better still to mix the meal with other articles as named below.

It is best to keep two or three kinds of grain by hens, and let them eat which they choose.

Hens will do better to have other food than grain, or grain ground and cooked. Potatoes, apples, pumpkins, squashes, turnips, parsnips, beets, &c., boiled, several kinds together, is the better way, and then while hot stir in meal and bran till sufficiently dry, and mix intimately together. Give this moderately warm, as often as once a day. It will be a very acceptable dish. Much stuff may be used up in this way that would otherwise be wasted; and fowls thus fed will lay better than if kept wholly on grain.

Besides the common food of hens they should have lime, in some state, gravel, meat, and green food. Lime is necessary in forming the egg shell. Old mortar pounded fine, pounded or ground oyster or clam shells, or bones, ground or cut or pounded fine, are good. Fresh bones should be preferred, as they contain animal matter, and will be eaten freely and abundantly. Some persons first burn the bones, but this is wrong, as it will destroy the oily part which is at least one-half the value, and this causes hens to eat bones more readily. Chalk, which is a carbonate of lime, may be pounded fine and mixed with their food. An abundance of gravel should be kept by hens at all times, as they cannot live without it. With this they grind their food in the gizzard. It is generally allowed that hens will do better to have a portion of animal food when they are confined, or in cold weather when they cannot obtain insects, of which they eat a great many when they can obtain them. In cities and large towns, cheap animal food may be obtained, such as liver, kidneys, and scraps which can be had at one or two cents a pound. Fresh fish will answer a good purpose. Some persons have succeeded well with hens without giving them animal food, but most persons consider this food necessary. Hens are very fond of it, and when they run at large they prefer this food to a large amount.

When hens run at large they eat much green food, such as grass and various kinds of herbage, and when they have been confined some time, without this food, they eat it very greedily when they get out. From this, it is evident that they should have a supply in winter. The best kind is cabbage leaves, cut up fine or fed in whole leaves. This food may be saved and fed through the winter.

As a substitute for green herbage, we have given hens turnips, cut into large slices, and potatoes and apples, and from the manner in which they disposed of them, it was evident that they were very acceptable, not-

withstanding they had grain and other food by them.

We will name an instance of the good effects of extra attention to fowls in cold weather. We had a lot which were supplied with grain, water, and gravel in the cold season. They did not lay till the latter part of February. They were cold hens. The next winter, in addition to grain, we gave them warm food of potatoes, meal, &c., and green food of raw turnips, apples, and potatoes; we gave them a fresh lot of gravel every week, and pounded bones, and oyster shells, and care was taken to keep the hen house clean. In January, the second winter, the same hens laid abundantly. The eggs were worth three times as much as the food they consumed.

A friend who is well skilled in *hen-ology*, gave us his method of managing, which we published in *The Yankee Farmer*. He had 1,900 eggs from 150 hens in the month of January. Another person gave us an account of his management, which was published in the same paper. Five pullets produced 25 dozen of eggs from the middle of October to the middle of April, which is the coldest part of the year.

When the weather is mild and there is no snow on the ground, it is best for hens to go out to the ground. If they do not run at large, they should have a yard where they can go out in suitable weather. They should have a lot of fine sand loam or ashes to dust themselves in.

The person who had so many eggs in January, lives in a colder climate than this, as it is 160 miles farther north. He gave no meat to his hens, but says it may be the better way to give them meat, though he has not tried it.

Some persons give their hens red pepper, salts, and lard, occasionally, in cold weather to make them lay. As eggs are liable to freeze in cold weather, pieces of chalk will answer for nest eggs. Fresh water should be given daily, and twice a day when it freezes.—*Farmers' Journal, Boston.*

A CATECHISM OF GEOLOGY.—By JAMES NICHOL.—This is one of the series of catechisms of elementary knowledge, published by Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh. It is a most useful little hand-book for the young scholar, and equally suited for the instruction of many children of a larger growth. The practical applications of the science of geology (as the author well observes) are, perhaps, more numerous and evident than in most other sciences; mining, agriculture, and geography, closely depend on it; the engineer in forming canals and roads, the architect and sculptor in the materials they employ, the physician and politician in estimating the health and resources of a country, are all indebted to information derived from geology. To the agriculturist, a knowledge of geology is essential to the success of his operations; the various soils depend in a great measure on the inferior rocks, and the plants best qualified to succeed on each, and even the best mode of culture may thus be ascertained. Without this knowledge all application of the experience of one country to another must be uncertain. Much evil has also been done to land from the use of magnesian and other lime-stones, containing substances hurtful to vegetation, which a knowledge of geology would have prevented.—*Selected.*

There was cut last week, in a field at Whissendine, belonging to the Earl of Harborough, a stalk which had on it 80 pods and 275 beans.—*Id.*