

three classes constitute nine-tenths of all the dairymen, while not one in five of the remainder would be willing to make their own. But it is claimed that there is no difference in price for one or the other. I ask who are these private dairymen who are getting an equal price with the factories—who but the very best cheese-makers among you, having the right number of cows to have the right sized cheese? And how much do they owe to close observation to the factory system and adopting it?

#### HOW TO BREED TABLE POULTRY.



ANY persons, says the Field, object to Dorkings on the ground of the difficulty of rearing them on wet soils or in damp seasons, though at the same time they require for table use large framed, meaty fowls. The three desiderata of hardihood, large size and first class birds for the table can be most readily combined, if exhibition fowls are not required, by rearing cross-breed varieties. For example, if the Dorking stock is found too delicate, we should recommend the introduction of two or three dark Brahma hens into the run; the chickens hatched from them will be large, hardy, rapid growers, and furnish good table fowl. Two or three of the best pullets should be saved, and next year, if running with the Dorkings, will hatch some very first-class table birds that the best judges in the world can hardly distinguish from Dorkings when on the table. If preferred, Cochins may be chosen, but the result will not be quite so satisfactory. Other crosses that we have tried with great advantage are those between the Crevecoeur and the Dorking. The chickens thus produced were of almost monstrous size, and of first-class quality as to whiteness of skin and sapidity of flesh; but they were undoubtedly very ugly as to plumage and combs. The La Flèche is also a very heavy bird, which is sufficiently hardy to be crossed with any large breed that may require fresh blood. Other crosses that may be named are Dorkings and Malays, Cochins and Crevecoeurs, &c.

The objection often taken to rearing a lot of mongrels is more apparent than real. There is no necessity of keeping the birds so reared; they are bred for the spit and the pot, and these should be their destinations. If larger, hardier, and more rapidly growing fowls can be obtained by cross-breeding, there can be no valid reason for

not employing this method. The most gigantic oxen at our prize shows, the largest and most easily ripened sheep, are constantly to be seen in the cross-bred classes; but no one would think of perpetuating the races. So with fowls, keep one stock pure, purchase a few hens of the kinds required to cross with your pure stock, and kill all the cockerels of the half-breed, and the result will be that, without deteriorating your pure stock, you will have larger, hardier, and earlier table fowls than those persons who obstinately cling to one pure variety only.

#### OIL AS A REMEDY AGAINST INSECTS.



ANY years ago we were interested in some experiments made by some medical students on the destruction of insect life by oil. The slightest drop of sweet oil, put on the bags of a hornet, beetle, bee, or similar thing, caused its instant destruction. We were told the breathing pores were closed by the oil,—and life was literally smothered out. In after life greasy water was always a favorite mode with us of destroying insects,—and we have repeatedly urged it upon the readers of this journal. Yet we are astonished to find how little the hint has been acted on. Almost every day we meet people who ask how to destroy this insect or that,—and our drawer is filled with similar inquiries; and to all the idea of grease or oil seem as new a one as if we had kept the matter a most profound secret.

Of the millions of people on this continent, how few are there who would not “give anything,” as they say, to know how to keep away the cabbage fly from their seed beds,—yet about a tablespoonful of coal oil put in a common garden water-pot of water, sprinkled over the seed-bed, when the little jumping beetle is noticed as having appeared, will instantly destroy the whole brood.

A correspondent of this journal recently gave us an article on the virtues of coal oil in killing scale insects. We have repeated the experiment on some Daphnes with entire success.

In short we have no doubt that coal oil, well diluted with water, is death to all kinds of insects, and there is no reason why it should not be in as general use as tobacco is for killing aphides—more valuable in fact because it can be applied in so many cases where smoke cannot.

One great point in favor of coal oil, is that it acts as a manure to vegetation, while dealing out death to insects. We have seen