

Keeping Fowls in Close Quarters.

Having read the REVIEW from its commencement I have found a great deal written on the proper way to keep fowls, more especially the thoroughbred kinds, and although I concur with most of the writers in the desire to secure the comfort of their pets, still until lately I did not give mine even common attention, and I write this to show what fowls will do even under the disadvantages of small and unsuitable quarters.

For over eighteen months my eight chickens were confined to a house five by six feet, and their only yard five by nine feet. The house was warm in winter, being double boarded and filled between with tan bark. The only opening for light or ventilation was that communicating between the house and yard, and this was only of sufficient size to allow the fowls to pass through comfortably. There was another and larger door, opening into the carriage house, but this was only used when feeding the fowls and collecting their eggs, and was always kept closed at other times.

During the eighteen months their house was cleaned out but twice, and the soil of the yard turned with the spade once. In wet weather the yard was a perfect quagmire, and the fowls were in danger of becoming mired in it if they ventured from their house; it being considerably sheltered it remained most of the time in a damp state. Strange to say, under these conditions, the place remained perfectly free from vermin and the fowls free from disease, and retained that glossiness of plumage and brightness of comb which is only to be seen on fowls when in thoroughly first-class condition.

Their principal food was table scraps, with an occasional feed of grain, and all the milk they could drink; their food was regularly and plentifully supplied—I believe I may say they were as well fed as possible—and to this and their freedom from vermin I attribute their good health and great egg production. They have shelled out wonderfully both winter and summer.

My fowls are thoroughbred Black Hamburgs, and so well satisfied am I with my first investment in fancy fowls that I have now fitted up for them a good house and yard, being perfectly convinced that when good stock are kept and fed liberally they will pay well for good accommodation. I would strongly recommend the Black Hamburg fowl to those who have but limited space and who desire plenty of fresh eggs at all seasons.

A. McK.

Do not let another month pass without advertising your surplus stock; this is the very best time to do it. A trial in the REVIEW will convince anyone that advertising pays.

Gapes.

Editor Canadian Poultry Review,

Your August number just arrived, and on looking it over I find a letter from "Thomas" giving his experience with the "gapes" in young chicks. Now let me give you and your readers the benefit of my experience. What causes the appearance of the little red worms I cannot say positively from my own observation, but what will cure it (or kill the worm and save the chick) I can. During the present season I have had about one hundred chickens of different breeds and three turkeys affected with the gapes, and have not lost to exceed a dozen chicks and no turkeys. My manner of proceeding is this: When I see a chick gaping I catch him, take a little *capsicum* (red pepper) in a teaspoon, put enough water in it so that it will mix up and run freely; then I pour from quarter to half a teaspoonful down the chick, according to the age of the bird, and toss him down among the brood. One application generally closes the business, but there are times when the second is necessary. I also find it helps matters where chicks are subject to this disease to occasionally put a little capsicum in their drinking water.

Yours, &c.,

S. W. KENNEDY.

Saginaw City, Mich., Aug. 20.

Hints to Beginners.

Editor of Canadian Poultry Review.

DEAR SIR:—

As you have, without doubt, among your many readers some new beginners, I send you a few hints which may be of use to them, and which will not hurt any of the old breeders that may chance to read them.

Never buy poor specimens of any variety of fancy fowls with which to commence breeding; better pay "fancy prices" for first-class stock. Do not start with more than two varieties at most. Do not expect all of your young stock to be fit for exhibition, or even good enough to fill orders with, as the best breeding pens in America will turn out some culls. Weed out your culls as soon as they will do for the pot. Never keep more young or breeding stock than you have ample room for; and I would advise keeping each variety separate summer and winter.

If you have not natural shade for your young and growing stock you must provide it in some way, or you will not likely have many good exhibition birds in the fall.

Attend every poultry show if possible. Select your best specimens and exhibit them at every opportunity. In order to be successful as an ex-