

Artificial Rearing of Domestic Fowls.

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No. V.

You must multiply the number of the chicken houses of each kind and the weaning boxes if the number of chickens you hatch require it, because making them larger, especially in point of breadth, would not be an equivalent, for the broader these boxes are the more difficult it is to preserve a warm air in them, for they are not exactly in the case of the casks, which are seldom the more difficult to be warmed, for having a larger diameter; they have a free communication with the air without, and are buried much shallower in the dung. Their breadth may, nevertheless, be made something bigger than that I have determined for the chicken houses which serve during the winter, and greater still for those that should be used only in summer time. The summer tuition frees you from using a few other precautions which the winter one requires; when the season is cold you dare not expose to the outward air chickens that have been brought up tenderly. When these are grown big enough to want a larger room than that they have in the weaning boxes, that is when they are grown bigger than blackbirds, I put them into a spacious cage, well furnished with sticks for them to roost upon, in which they are able to use their wings. It is a lodge or cottage.

It is easy to imagine what the little timber work necessary to make the body of that cage, and to support the grate work of it, can consist of, and there will be no need of describing the several pieces of it and their connection; but I must not forget to mention that its bottom is made with a few boards laid upon the dung of the hot bed that serves for the hatching of chickens, and to bring them up in their tenderest age. It may be warmed again by surrounding it with dung, which is hindered from passing through the grate work by means of an inclosure of a board on edge. The cage has at one end a door through which a man may enter. The chickens are fed there like all these which are fed in the other cages, a mother is even become needless to them; they have already taken, or are ready to take a liking to the custom of roosting, which is common to all the large poultry of their kind. The chief difference between the winter and the summer education is, that you are not obliged in summer time to keep the chicks in the place where the hot bed lies till they are grown quite as big as those which come to our tables; they may be let into the open air in fine warm days, and they seemed to me to grow much quicker for it. Those that have lived in the wean-

ing box, and the strongest of the second chicken house may be taken out of them a few hours before the sun rises when it seems to promise a fine day. They must be put one after another into a deep chicken basket and then you will carry them under a cage laid on the grass, and in the most favorable position you can possibly choose, that they may enjoy the sunshine without being too much exposed to the wind. These cages must be prisons to the little chicks only during the few first days at most; the liberty of going out must be granted them when the weather is fair. One might be afraid they should disperse for want of a hen to guide them, for the clucking of the mother and that of the capon call back to the main body of the crew those who happen to go from it, but they are fond of keeping together, and if any one chances to be too remote from the rest his squeaking betrays his uneasiness, and he listens to try whether he cannot hear his companions make an noise that he may find them again. You see them flock together under the cage at night. You then stop all the doors of it, take them back and put them to bed either in the weaning box or in the chicken house, or at least under shelter in a place shut up and under one and the same cage. When they are grown strong and the nights are not cold enough to make it necessary for them to be warmed, then the time comes when they may be put to roost along with the rest of the poultry. They will then roost all night long, and may be let out of the hen house in the morning without concern or uneasiness. An artificial mother or a small roof, contrived in the cage placed in the open air, serves to shelter the chickens from a heavy shower, and it gives you time to take them in again before they are wet. The cover may be made of thin boards or a plain frame furnished with an oil cloth. I sometimes erect upon four pillars a small roof under which the cage is put, then the chickens have nothing to fear from the rain, and being at liberty to go out of the cage they enjoy the sunshine when they please, and they are allowed to go to the places exposed to its beams.

(To be continued)

Fat Poultry at the Paris Show.

The inspection of the exhibition of dead poultry at the show that has recently closed at Paris was quite sufficient to repay the cost and trouble of a journey to the French metropolis. Nothing equal, nothing even approaching to it, was ever seen in this country.

The Grand Prix d'Honneur was taken by the birds of the La Fleche breed. It is difficult to convey to anyone who has not witnessed one of these expositions an idea of the size and quality of