

BEES AND POULTRY.**FLYING BEES INDOORS.**

A correspondent of the *American Bee Journal*, writing from Frankfort, Mich., says that he had read that when bees were released in a room they would not return to their lives, but, as some of his bees were suffering from dysentery, he determined to give it a trial. He selected a small bedroom, in the south part of the house, through which passed a stove-pipe. The room had only one window, and that looked to the south. He removed the furniture and protected the carpet and walls with newspapers. The temperature of the room ranged from 60° to 80°. Towards noon he carried a hive up, placed it upon the floor, about three feet from and fronting the window, opened the entrance and removed the covering from the frames. During the warmest part of the day the buzzing of the bees, as they flew about the room, could be heard in all parts of the house. Upon going into the room towards sunset he found the bees nearly all in the hive, and the few that remained clustered about the window were easily brushed off and returned to the hive. He afterwards discovered that if brushed from the window upon the floor they would return to the hive themselves. By this method he gave all of his bees a "fly" with results that were entirely satisfactory. I have never tried either of these plans, but if ever again I have bees attacked by dysentery, I shall try giving them a flight in the house.

Of course these flights give only a temporary relief, for, unless the producing causes are removed, another period of long confinement would bring on another attack. If the trouble arises from a poor quality of food, then the bees should be given combs of early-gathered and well-ripened honey, in exchange for their soiled and unwholesome ones; or if the beekeeper has none of these, a frame or two filled with candy, made from granulated sugar, and placed in the centre of the cluster, might help to remedy the trouble. When bees are dying almost universally, with dysentery, the reports from those that are being wintered upon stores of granulated sugar are always favourable; in fact, I have yet to hear of a colony dying of dysentery, whose food consisted entirely of a syrup made from the best granulated sugar. That bees can be kept entirely free from dysentery, by complying with the proper conditions, is proved by the fact that L. C. Root & Bro., and several others, have wintered their bees successfully for several winters, by placing them in their winter repository upon the approach or advent of cold weather, and not removing them until the soft maples blossomed in the spring.—*Country Gentleman*.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY HATCHED CHICKENS.

Whether they are intended for sale as breeders, or for marketing—if they can be successfully brought up, the advantage of the early-hatched bird is apparent. Chickens that "see the light" late in February, or during the first three weeks in March, make admirable broilers by the middle of May or first of June, if well fed and properly protected against the inclement spring weather.

The poultry raiser who wishes to reap the greatest profit from his fowl knows that spring chickens and winter-laid eggs bring the highest prices. To obtain these figures early chickens must be raised. The cocks must be marketed in June and July, at prices which ought to tempt any one into the business. The pullets are kept, and arrive at maturity in the fall in season to take the place of the hens (yearlings and two-year-

olds) which, being fat at the time, are marketed. These pullets furnish a supply of eggs in the early winter months, when the prices are greater than at any other season of the year. Do not neglect, therefore, on any account, to set as many hens as possible early in the season; for, although it is a little more trouble to care for the chicks in the early spring, it pays far better in the end than any other arrangement. In New England, New York, and all the northern States, it is considered that chickens hatched the last week in February or during the first three weeks in March are early. In New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, a month earlier in the season corresponds to the more tardy climate of New England.

The note of preparation has been observed around us for some weeks past, and the prospect is—if the eggs that were being incubated proved ordinarily fertile—that there have been a great many "early chicks" brought out by the first to the middle of March.—*Poultry World*.

MILK FOR FOWLS.

There is no doubt but on many farms and suburban places a great deal of milk could be given to the fowl stock with good results, if farmers would become more interested in the cultivation of good poultry. But as long as this class of our people entertains the erroneous idea that it is more remunerative and satisfactory to feed it to the pigs, there is little hope of seeing poultry take its place with other farm stock.

Fowls are very fond of milk, and young chickens will thrive wondrously upon it. A pound of poultry to sell will always command double the price that a pound of pork will bring. Milk fresh from the cow contains all the elements required for the maintenance and growth of animal life. The albumen of the milk is easily changed into that of the egg by the laying hen; if fed to growing chickens will aid them materially in the process of development.

Too much value cannot be placed on milk for developing chicks; as a drink or as a fluid, when scalded, with which cornmeal and bran may be mixed for their early diet, it can scarcely be over-estimated. And when it can be cheaply and handily obtained, we can recommend it in any form as a most excellent and nourishing article of food. Milk contains everything essential to promote the growth of flesh, bone, muscles, feathers, and in fact every part of the whole organism of the fowl. For whatever use chickens are grown, whether intended for marketing, for future breeders, or as fancy stock birds, milk in any form will be found especially useful and healthy.—*Poultry Monthly*.

THE STRENGTH OF INSECTS.

Insects are apparently such insignificant creatures that little folk—and big folk, too, for that matter—will be surprised to learn the results of a number of experiments conducted by a scientific Frenchman with a view to test the muscular power of insects. By harnessing some small waggons filled with tiny weights to cockchafers, and also attaching weights to certain swift-flying insects, he was led to the conclusion that the smallest of these animals were able to display the greatest effective force. He then found that a cockchafer was 21 times stronger than a horse, and a bee 30 times stronger; for, whereas a horse is unable to exert a stress beyond the 67th of his weight, a cockchafer can easily draw a load 14 times its own weight, and a bee secured to a wagon 20 times heavier than itself can put it in motion with little trouble. That is to say, a cockchafer can draw with ease 14, and a bee 20, of its like.

HELPING OUT A CHICKEN.

Picking off the shell to help the imprisoned chick is always a more or less hazardous proceeding, and should never be had recourse to unless the egg has been what is termed "billed" for a long time, in which case the chick is probably a weakly one and may need a little help, which must be given with the greatest caution, in order that the tender membranes of the skin shall not be lacerated. A little help should be given at a time, every two or three hours; but if any blood is perceived stop at once, as it is a proof that the chick is not quite ready to be liberated. If, on the contrary, the minute blood-vessels which are spread all over the interior of the shell are bloodless, then you may be sure the chick is in some way stuck to the shell by its feathers, or is too weakly to get out of its prison-house.

ANTIRRHINUMS AND BEES.

It is stated recently by naturalists that bumblebees prefer obtaining honey from Antirrhinums, in preference to any other flowers, in which they have a monopoly over other bees, by a curious provision in the tubes of the corollas. They sit on and cling to the lower lip of the blossom, which bends down by the weight of the bee and makes an opening through which the insect thrusts its head and takes possession of the honey. The honey-bee and other insects are not heavy enough to open the entrance. The bumble-bee appears to be aware of this advantage, and flies at once to the Antirrhinums, to the neglect of other flowers which other insects may have previously visited. A writer in the *Garden* says that the old flowers open more easily than young ones, and that while he had found that a weight of twenty grains was required to open the flowers, only three or four grains would bend the lower lip of some older ones.

IN THE POULTRY YARD.

The young chicks will thrive best when kept clean and dry. Those hatched this month, if of the best breeds, usually begin to lay early in the fall, and if kept warm and well fed, will give a supply of eggs through the winter. If the coops are placed in, or adjoining the garden, to allow the chicks to wander freely through it, they will do little harm, until large enough to scratch up the beds, and nibble at the plants, while they will destroy many insects. Let them have an abundance of pure water and wholesome food; these, with good housing from the wet and cold, will secure health and a profitable growth.—*American Agriculturist for May*.

A box of dry gravel should be at hand, which the birds will peck from constantly, for they need this to aid the process of digesting their food, precisely as at any other time.

A young hen lays a larger litter than the old hen. It is probable that the first and second years of a hen's life are the most productive of eggs. How unprofitable, then, to kill off the young fowls and leave the aged fowls.

JAMES BLACK, carpenter, of Aberfoyle, has a Rouen duck which laid a curious egg the other day. The egg is medium-sized, with the form of a snake coiled inside in two distinct circles, with a well-formed head on the large end of the egg, and looks as if the snake had crawled half out of the egg, then coiled itself around it. The same laid another egg which measured 8 by 8½ inches. The duck was bred by C. Quirk, of Paslinch, and the eggs may be seen at Mr. Black's residence.