

be kept within reach of the fowls so that they may help themselves at pleasure and thus they will regulate the quantity taken at one time as suits their convenience and comfort. Filling the crop is injurious at all times, and particularly so in severe weather. A large fowl, when stinted, and seeing corn but twice, and often but once in a day, will fill the crop to repletion, taking in a half pint or more at a feed. This chills the fowl, and if inclined to be tender, brings on indigestion, which is difficult to manage at that season. If fed in this manner, where there are many fowls and the quantity insufficient, the master fowls take the whole at the expense of the others.

I have found that the better way to feed fowls, in cold weather, more especially laying hens, is to keep corn by them the whole time. I put it in troughs at the side of the building. In this manner they will have an equal chance, and will fill up the crops at night. If it is not all digested by morning the fowl is not strong or in perfect health. My rule for feeding laying hens in cold weather is sometimes varied, but I generally endeavor to give a soft warm feed in the morning. I sometimes mix chopped onions with it, but as a rule give them separately. This vegetable is an excellent antidote for disease, and the fowls become extravagantly fond of it. They will eat onions at any time of year, and at large or in confinement. In making the mush I use unbolted corn meal scalded with boiling water, with sufficient grease or drippings to make the whole palatable. The greasy matter softens the meal and causes it to become digestible. The feed should not be so soft as to be mushy or sloppy, neither should it be so stiff as to choke the fowls when swallowing it, but just thick enough to stand up and keep in shape.

I am particular as to the manner and matter of the feed of my fowls at all times, and especially so in cold weather when they yield the larger profit in eggs. My aim in keeping fowls is eggs alone, therefore it becomes necessary to be careful concerning the feeding. The health depends upon it, also the profit. Regularity is important with fowls as well as all farm stock. Habits once formed are permanent, and fowls may be trained to suit the needs and ends of the keeper, if persevered with. But the keeper must be always regular, for the fowls become impatient of delay and know their regular periods. It is as easy to raise eggs in cold weather as in warm, and far more profitable, if the keeper is not afraid of trouble and constant care.

The fowls must be attended to, and it is no small matter where the flocks are large to keep a steady supply of water when the weather is so severe that it freezes in a few hours. They must also have warm shelter, comfortable roosts, and a ground floor for scratching. Laying hens are active and their activity must be promoted. As soon as the old fowls are through the annual moult, which should occur before going into winter quarters, they should be supplied with egg-producing food. The vegetables should be fed separately. I often give some at the time of giving other food, and the fowls mix as suits their appetites. Whole corn is the main reliance, and is always at hand. The other feeds are interspersed and varied from time to time, always observing the regular period with some kind of food that is palatable.

C. B. Duchess County, N. Y.

#### Marketing as Early as Possible.

The Bucks County (Pa) Intelligencer, published in a district where raising and fattening poultry is largely carried on, gives the following advice :

We do not know whether the poultry crop of Bucks county is up to the average this year or not. But whether it is or not, it is time to begin fattening and marketing the cockerels

and most of the pullets that will not lay before next spring. Many poultry-keepers make the mistake of keeping the crop too late. The birds should be about grown by this time, and as soon as the frame has attained its growth the best thing to do, where profit is considered, is to fatten and send to market. There are two or three advantages in early marketing : There is a good demand for roasters as soon as the cool weather sets in and they bring a fair price ; there is no glut until settled cold weather when poultry can be safely shipped from the interior : there is as much or more profit in marketing before Thanksgiving as after, beside the saving of the feed and risks from disease, thieves, dogs, &c ; if the surplus crop is worked off early there will be more room and a better chance for those that are to be kept over ; with nothing to bother or worry the pullets they should all be laying by or before the first of December, when eggs are valuable. The feed saved by early marketing of the surplus can be profitably applied in producing eggs, which at that time of year will be worth about double per pound what the poultry will fetch. Turkeys and geese cannot of course be advantageously marketed before Thanksgiving, but all the turkeys that are large enough should be disposed of then : to this end they should be liberally fed and thus prepared for early marketing. No poultry-keeper will make a mistake who sends his surplus stock to market early.

#### Poultry as Gleaners

Now is the time for the farmer, says a French journal, to make use of portable houses to take his poultry to the fields, as also his geese and turkeys. Fowls like the change, they enjoy roaming about ; in fact, it is their holiday, and at harvest time fowls desert themselves as if they were aware that it was time to be sent into the field. A poultry yard, dry and restricted to space, with always the same food, is replaced by the open country, tender herbage, and where they feed on *friandises*, they have a thousand varieties of insects, and grain, which is often in a state of fermentation, thereby giving it an agreeable alcoholic taste, and which is seldom met with unless in the droppings of horses. Now is the time to send out into fields the fowls and turkeys. Poultry at this time of the year are in excellent condition ; they can bear the fatigue of wandering about the fields to satisfy their appetites—a very useful proceeding for the farmer, not being required to go to his granary, but who finds a great saving by having the lost grain gleaned by his poultry. A little, active boy, vigorous and vigilant, is sufficient to take charge of a flock of turkeys, which he does with the help of a long stick, with which he threatens them in case they wander too far, but never strikes them with it. The boy must be very patient and gentle with them, and not hurry them on, so that they may not lose a single grain or insect. They ought to be allowed to eat as much as they like, always within an easy distance from home. On their leaving, as on their returning, the poultry woman ought to count them, and see they are not ailing, and to induce them to be regular in their return to the farm, a good feed of maize, barley, or buckwheat ought to be given to them.

#### THE POULTRY-YARD.

##### Careless Management.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—The careless poultry keeper is often surprised by finding, early on some cold, frosty, October morning, a brood of chicks fresh from the shell. The surprise can hardly gladden the sight of the owner, for there can be no hope of raising them in the inclement weather. If a