

THE FRUIT GARDEN.—Apple trees on hot, gravelly soil will require attention as to watering, otherwise they will suffer, and in many cases mildew will appear with the hot weather. This should by no means be allowed to become established. Sulphur dusted over the affected parts is a good remedy. Gooseberries, red currants, and black currants would be all the better for the young shoots being thinned out, leaving only sufficient to form good bushes, the best and largest fruit being always borne on the young shoots or spurs of the current year's growth: hence the importance of having these vigorous and well ripened, and this cannot be expected if all the young shoots are allowed to grow until winter pruning. All kinds of fruit trees are better for the summer shoots being well thinned out, as it not only allows the sun to ripen the wood for next year's crop, but allow the sun and air to colour and ripen the fruit. This is an important point where fruit has to be kept any length of time, more especially with apples and pears. It is well known that a thoroughly ripened apple or pear will keep much better than a green or half-ripened one. Fruit trees now require constant care and attention; the most important points are keeping the trees free from insects, the most effectual means which we know being careful syringing with clear rain water, and pinching in any misplaced shoots that may have been overlooked when disbudding the trees. Any weakly shoots that it is desirable to encourage are better left for a time—they will grow stronger if left at liberty. Cherries should be gone over again, and all wood not required should be pinched back or cut away. When the shoots are thin, a certain number of them might be pinched back to form fruit spurs for next year's fruiting. Pinch back to one eye above the fruit all vines, and stop the laterals; water with manure water when dry—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Milk as Food for Fowls.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Fowls may be kept with great profit in confinement if judiciously fed. Their diet must be varied, and changed often. When milk forms a portion of their daily rations, as well as vegetables, the fowls will always be found to be doing much better than when at large with scant food, or none at all. Skimmed milk in any form is relished, and the fowls prefer it for drink before anything else, but when it is coagulated it is food and drink at the same time, and is greatly relished. During the hot months the fowls will almost subsist and lay on it alone. Since some kind of animal food is absolutely necessary for the good of the fowls when in confinement, milk answers well, and also does well in place of green food when that cannot be given with regularity. For young growing fowls it is the very best of food, making bone and muscle.

It is not suitable for ducks to paddle in, nor should common fowls be allowed to get into it and soil it. In feeding milk to young fowls in hot weather some judgment is necessary in regard to its acidity. If too sour it causes indigestion, and does more damage than good. It does no harm to be acid, but there is a degree beyond which it is not safe to put into the stomach of fowl or human being. The milk should not be so much curdled that the whey has separated, but should come from the dairy room in that state which exactly corresponds to the consistency of a perfect custard. Then it is wholesome, and forms an excellent diet for fowls in confinement.

With milk diet the birds can dispense with their animal food, and indeed I think it is better for them than meat. It is not so forcing, but forms a steady, thriving diet for laying hens. Corn is the staple grain, and must be furnished in quantities necessary, and according to the amount of smaller grain fur-

nished. During the moulting season there is no food so good as whole wheat given once each day, in quantity that they will consume at once. Fowls should be fed regularly I give corn twice each day, morning and afternoon, and the other food between, as time and convenience permit. I do not neglect the fowls for any length of time. In that case I should surely miss the regular supply of fresh eggs, which is the main object in keeping fowls.

In no case permit the fowls to become poor, or even thin in flesh. A poor hen will not lay; neither will one that is overburdened with fat produce any eggs. With some breeds this difficulty is to be contended with, but seldom with the small ones. Only with the large, heavy Asiatics is caution necessary. They are in habit slow and indolent, prone to fatten when full grown. For egg-production, those breeds should have a cross of Leghorn blood, when they make good fowls for the use of the common poultry keeper. Where milk cannot be had, scrap-cake is found to answer a very good purpose, moistened and thickened with meal of some description. Wheat bran moistened with water, made thin but not thin enough for the milky substance to run, is also relished. Boiled potatoes, chopped and mingled with salt and grease, are good food for confined fowls. This diet may be given warm in cold weather. Chopped onions should be added twice in a week, and serve as a substitute for green food. *O. B. Duchess County, N. Y.*

How to Obtain Eggs in Winter.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—In order to get a plentiful supply of eggs in winter, we must have young hens. Pullets hatched in April or May will prove the most satisfactory. The hens must be well cared for; have a comfortable warm house, kept clean and well arranged. Provide a plentiful supply of fresh water, accessible at all times. Variety and plenty of food is absolutely necessary. Feed regularly what the hens will eat without wasting. I find wheat or screenings the best for the principal feed, corn, oats and buckwheat come in as variety. Corn meal, middlings, or something of that sort, mixed stiff and warm, should be fed first in the morning, but give no soft food after mid-day. Whole grain should be the feed after the morning's mess. Dry grain is best to fill the hen's crop with at night. Fresh meat in some form should be fed daily, lard or tallow (chandler's) scraps are good. Scraps broken up, soaked over night and mixed with meal and bran, make a good occasional feed mornings. Vegetable food is also necessary. Carrots, turnips, boiled potatoes and cabbage are all good. Oyster and clam shells, broken fine, lime or lime mortar, fine gravel, coal and ashes should be supplied to hens when confined. They need a light sprinkling of red pepper in their soft food once a week or oftener in quite cold weather. Chopped hay should be supplied to them occasionally. Have a box of sand or ashes where they can use it at pleasure. Any bones, burned or broken fine, or other warm scraps from the table, are always acceptable to the hens.

Having adopted a system of feeding pursue it steadily, or, when changing do it gradually; never make sudden radical changes, as it always unfavorably affects the supply of eggs. Keep the hens from being worried or excited through fear of boisterous boys, dogs, &c. The more quiet the hens are kept the greater the number of eggs supplied. The hens should be bred from chicks with the view of egg-production, always keeping them growing by good care till they attain mature growth. Let no one who has neglected his hens, or feeds spasmodically, expect a full supply of eggs immediately after commencing a systematic course of feeding. It often takes weeks and months to put neglected hens into condition to be good layers. *W. H. WHITE, Worcester Co., Mass.*