

amply rewarded for their trouble by the increased supply of winter eggs and early chickens they would receive.

OVER FEEDING FOWLS.—Fowls should never be over fed, when intended for stock or laying purposes, and not for the table. When fowls are too fat they will lay fewer eggs than if in ordinary condition, besides in the larger breeds they are liable to death from apoplexy; neither should food be left continually before them; feed twice a day, morning and evening, if kept in confinement; if allowed a free range, in the morning only. Never feed too much at a time, give only as much as will be picked up with a good appetite, and give it regularly.

DUBBING GAME FOWLS.—A writer in an American journal gives the following directions how to trim the heads of young game cocks or stags, (as birds under one year of age are termed by fanciers). First procure a pair of strong, sharp scissors, neither shears, knife or razor, and while the bird is held by an assistant, take hold of his head, either by his comb, or by placing your middle finger, well protected by a glove, in and across his mouth, and holding his beak firmly between your fingers, proceed to cut off his wattles and earlobes or ear burrs, either by one cut, or by carefully cutting them with the scissors points. The wattle should be pulled as little as possible, as the result is a ragged wound, if indeed the narrow strip of skin between the wattles is not entirely cut away, which should be guarded against. Then place the scissors at the back of the head, and with one firm cut take off the comb. We have found Powdered Tannin dusted on efficient, where any application to stop the blood was desirable. Light colored birds, whose plumage may be soiled, should be trimmed just before going to roost, and put to roost in a dark place. Some breeders have the comb at the back part of the head, half an inch or more in height, and sloping gradually to the front, while others cut it close to the head. Appearance is decidedly in favor of the latter mode, which shows the elegant snake-like head of the bird in its full beauty.

TURNED WINGS.—Poultry breeders, especially those who breed in confined spaces, are but too well acquainted with the deformity known as "slipped" or "turned wing," caused by the flights protruding in disorder outside of the other feathers, in the wings of many of their best young Cockereels. This if neglected often gets the whole wing into a state of hopeless confusion. There is a form of the disordered wing which is hereditary and incurable, caused by the feathers growing spiral fashion, on their axis. Whenever this occurs it should be ruthlessly "stamped out." The mere displacement can be cured in every case if taken in time. As soon as the chicken feathers are cast and the new or adult quills of the wing are grown long enough to hold a ligature, usually between eighteen and twenty weeks old, the bird should be caught, and the feathers of the wing carefully replaced in their proper position, care being taken that *each feather* is duly returned to its proper place. The wing must be bound round rather tightly, as near the shoulder as possible, with soft string, about the thickness of whip cord, bringing the knot to about the middle of the outside. The cord must then be passed from the knot, round the shoulder or web of the wing, and tied again to the middle of the ligature on the inside, which will effectually prevent the bird slipping off the unwelcome restraint, as he will endeavor to do so. Care must be taken not to make the ligature or the retaining cord too slack, or the shoulder or retaining cord too tight. If the former, the bird will slip the flights out of place, and the work must be done over again, if the latter, it will cut the web of the wing, causing the bird much pain and distress. The wing should be kept tied for three weeks at least—and in some obstinate cases as much as two months—before the cure is perfectly completed.

CHOOSING HATCHING EGGS.—Eggs for hatching should be chosen of the fair average size, usually laid by the hen they are from, any unusually large or small being rejected. Some hens lay immense large eggs, and others small ones. A fat hen