

would have to pay, and which would have to be cleared away before it could be turned to a more useful purpose. Failing in any other bid, the auctioneer started with the sum of £1,400 for the five acres of land house, buildings, and stock. On this there was no advance. He then stated that, the property not being sold, the poultry buildings, furniture, live and dead stock, would be sold in the usual manner, and the land, denuded of its poultry appliances, would be for sale.

The poultry farm under consideration is the last of the very numerous ventures of this kind which I have known "come to grief." Not a year passes but some of these speculations, usually started by persons without the least knowledge of the subject, are discontinued. And yet others are as invariably started, to be carried on for a few months or years and fail in their turn.

At the present time there are rumours of a poultry company with a capital of £100,000, which proposes dealing with chickens by the million. It is needless to say that the promoters are not men known to have any practical acquaintance with poultry breeding. Doubtless they argue that so many incubators will hatch so many chickens every three weeks, and that, as they have only to be fed, fattened, killed, and sent to market, the course is easy and the profit clear. According to the prospectuses of these ignorant enthusiasts, 25 or even 50 per cent. profit is absolutely certain.

It is useless to point out to them that all the many scores of poultry farms hitherto established have proved dreary and hopeless failures; they know better, and, in their own estimation, are bound to succeed. The losses of others will never teach some persons wisdom; they must needs buy it in the dearest of all markets—that of bitter personal experience. But the country farmers around Horsam had too good a knowledge of the working of the Warnham poultry farm to offer even the smallest sum for it when submitted to them by the auctioneer.—W. B. TEGETMEIER, in *London Field*.

Care of Fowls in Winter.

As winter is now upon us, and the cold winds howl around our buildings, look well to the poultry. See that they are well cared for *every day*. See that the fowl house is in good shape to shelter them from the storms and winds, and that the roof is water tight, so that the fowls and houses will be kept dry all the time. Furnish dust bath, plenty of fresh water and good wholesome food. Give them a good place to scratch in, and throw a little grain of some kind to induce them to scratch, as in this way only can you get them to take exercise when the ground is hard frozen and covered with snow. When they scratch out every kernel

scatter more. One of the secrets of success with fowls in winter is in keeping them busy. Have the houses well ventilated above; the ventilators may be closed on a very cold night. See that they have good perches to roost on. Clear the droppings from under them at least once a week, and store in barrels. Some know the value of hen manure as a fertilizer, and others do not; it is little less valuable than guano. Give them all the sunshine you can; there is nothing they seem to enjoy so much in winter. Do not crowd too many under one roof; crowded fowls are never thrifty. Keep the poultry free from lice; no fancier should willingly feed vermin, and this is what he is doing as long as his fowls are lousy. Furnish them with all the broken oyster shells, gravel, &c., they require, and a little green food, such as cabbage, two or three times a week, and a few meat scraps, and you have a right to expect that your hens will shell out when eggs are at their highest, that is if you have a good thoroughbred variety of poultry, as these will be found much more profitable than mongrels, and will always bring a good price if you want to sell.

H. E. SPENCER.

Centre Village, N. Y., Dec. 26, 1883.

Game Birds.

To most people game birds have no more significance than any other; but to the sportsman and naturalist game birds differ so much, as they understand them, from all other birds, that they are looked on by them as a distinct race in the feathered tribe. Every country on the earth, as far as any history I have read, amongst its feathered inhabitants were certain kinds known as game birds; Europe, Asia and Africa each have amongst the birds which belong to the eastern hemisphere those which belong to the game family. America is particularly blessed with the numbers and kinds of game birds which are indigenous to the western continent, commencing with the grandest of all game birds, the Wild Turkey.

We have seven kinds of grouse, headed by the grouse king, the cock of the plains, which is the largest of the grouse family. Then come three kinds of quail, the woodcock, snipe, and innumerable numbers and kinds of wild-fowl. All these birds are separate and distinct from our songsters and brilliantly plumaged birds; they do not belong to them at all, they bear nothing with them in common. Both belong to the feathered tribe, both are birds, but beyond this they are distinct in every way, in habits, haunts, actions, in everything they differ, just as much as is possible for birds to differ from each other. While our sweet songsters, with their gaudy colors, are beautiful and pretty, the game birds are noble,