

farms, if the portable houses must be used during the winter for the housing of the fowls, they should all be brought into the stack yard and placed under the lea of some of the buildings or stacks. In this way they will obtain a protection which is most valuable. It is only necessary in this context to mention that warm housing does not mean absence of ventilation, for that would be causing other evils which are infinitely worse than the non-production of eggs by the fowls.

It will at once be seen that the food given must greatly influence the result, and upon this very much will depend. The food is the material from which the eggs will be produced, and unless it is supplied of the right nature and in sufficient quantities, the desired end cannot be expected. I very strongly believe in the giving of a hot feed the first thing in the morning, as soon as possible after the fowls are astrir. This does not make a very heavy call upon the energy of any one, for in the winter season the daylight is not very early and the fowls do not come out until the day has well broken. Therefore, it is not at all a difficult matter to do as I have suggested. The composition of this food is a matter of very great importance. I have always used Spratt's food very freely, and believe for the rearing of chickens and for the production of eggs it has no equal. The fact of its being so perfectly cooked has very much to do with its value, and I can vouch for the purity of the ingredients, as I have seen the whole process of manufacture in England, and suppose it to be the same in America. For laying fowls this should be mixed with barley meal, to which, in very severe weather, there may be added a fifth part of maize meal. The Spratt's food contains a supply of ground oyster shells, and also both vegetable and animal substances. Later in the day there should be given two good feeds of corn or grain, the last of which should be about an hour before the fowls go to roost. They will thus be provided with a capital supply of heat for the long night. They must not, however, be fed too gross or they will become idle and fat, and in that case there will not be any eggs produced. A fat hen is always a bad layer, and they should be encouraged to take as much exercise as possible, as in that way the system is strengthened and the powers developed.

All the matters which have been mentioned are such as can be influenced now, but there is another most important point respecting which nothing can be done this year, namely, the time when the fowls are hatched. If it is desired to have eggs in winter the hens to lay them must be bred accordingly. The object should be to hatch out the chickens intended as layers so that they will commence operations about October. In that case they may be fairly expected to go right on through the winter. To do this the heavier varieties of fowls must be hatched out in March or early in April. If delayed into May or June the probabilities are that no eggs will be obtained until the following spring. It is, however, to be observed that local influences affect this result very considerably, and each individual breeder will have to be guided by these as to the time of his breeding. In some very exposed positions it is necessary to hatch earlier than March, and in very favorable places the latter end of April is not too late. As a rule, however, it will be found that the times I have named apply to the majority of places.

H—, England.

STEPHEN BEALE.

#### The Perfect Weed Killer.

What the harrow is for field use, the rake is—or might be made—for garden use, namely: the most convenient and

most effective weed killer. If proper rotation and continued planting is practiced, as it should be in any farmer's garden, this will now "show off" as well as at any other time. In the place of onions, lettuce, summer radishes, early beets, early potatoes, &c., of early summer, we now find straight rows of thrifty growing cabbages, turnips, celery, spinach, kale, winter radishes, endive and perhaps a patch of late cucumbers.

Deep cultivation is hardly needed at this time, except perhaps for cabbages; and we find, that we can keep vegetables growing nicely, and the weeds in check, by raking the whole garden over every few days—an operation which requires but little time and effort, yet leaves the garden in a most attractive shape, and in quite a striking contrast with the appearance of the farmer's garden as usually kept. The rows between all vegetables should be far enough apart for free use of the rake.

The harrow in the field; the steel rake in the garden—these, with proper rotation, are our ideal weed-killers.

*Orchard and Garden.*

### NON-OFFICIAL PART.

#### Complimentary Notice.

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For the management of vegetable gardens and practical instructions concerning the culture of flowers—for hints and information concerning all kinds of seeds, planting and cultivating all vegetables and flowers, D. M. Ferry & Co's. Seed Annual for 1888 will be found as complete as any work of a similar character ever issued. The variety and extraordinary range of the information given renders their Annual worthy the special attention of every one interested in having luscious vegetables or beautiful flowers. D. M. Ferry & Co. make the growing and sale of Onion Seed a leading specialty, and give so much information on onion culture as to make their Annual of permanent value to all onion growers and gardeners. The Annual can be had for the asking. Address D. M. FERRY & Co., Detroit, Mich.

**THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.**—The Publishers of the *American Agriculturist* announce in an advertisement elsewhere that that periodical, now nearly fifty years of age, begins the new year with a change in form, though the old staff which has been with the paper for thirty years remains. The Publishers are bringing out the first reproduction in this country of "Christ on Calvary" which, together with "Christ before Pilate," is offered to subscribers.

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To the Editor:—

Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. address.

Respectfully,

DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 37 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.