

green food in summer, and roots and clover hay or silage in winter. Hogs can subsist for months under a haystack, with a very little grain. Clover seed should be sown very early in spring, as the seed needs to be well covered up before it will germinate. The spring rains wash the seed into the soil, and a "good catch" is reasonably certain, while if the sowing is delayed till late, the crop is not half as sure.

**PREVENTION** of disease is the only method by which successful swine herds can be ensured. There will occasionally be epidemics which will destroy large numbers of the best managed herds, but, there can be no doubt that good sanitary conditions and judicious management will do more to save swine than all the remedies ever used. Give them good big pastures, pure running water, plenty of vegetable food, and only finish off with corn meal late in the fall such as are desired for pork. An ear of corn daily to each pig will keep them healthy and growing. Breed only from mature sows; in this there is more wisdom than might at first seem apparent. Hogs must not be crowded, or kept in mud and filth. No domestic animals need more exercise, and cleaner and drier places to sleep.

**STRENGTH** is not the sole requisite in farm horses, as the average farmer cannot afford to keep road horses and draft horses also in his stable. The two must be combined, and combined in such a way that the ride for business or pleasure shall not be made irksome because of dullness in the motive power, or the plow be stranded in the furrow because of lack of strength to move it. It is well worth noting that ability to do good service in drawing loads or in doing general field work, is not wholly dependent on size of body. Courage and a resolute way of taking hold of work, will often make an eleven-hundred-pounds horse worth more in a team than an easily discouraged one having a bulk several hundred pounds heavier. A farm horse should also be a quick walker, and should have good lung power, and good feet and legs. It is folly to think that unsound feet are not a serious disadvantage since their work is largely on soft and yielding footing. To do his work quickly and well, and to last as he should last on the farm, a horse must be sound in every point. Where mares are used it is especially important that there is perfect soundness so that there be no inherited weakness in the progeny.

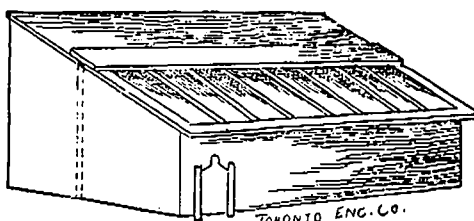
A **GREAT** part of the beef, pork, mutton, and poultry that reaches the markets is produced with little or no thought of adding to the flavor of the article by care in feeding. In fact it seems generally to be held that no matter what is fed, if the animal can convert it into flesh the result will be the same as though the choicest food was given. We have yet much to learn in regard to correct methods of feeding, but this is true, that the flesh of an animal in the matter of flavor and consistency—whether firm or flabby—depends to a large extent on how it was fed previous to slaughter. This degree of quality is also the case with milk and butter, and with eggs. A really choice article in any of these lines owes very much to the character of the food from which it was formed. Choice clover hay, sweet ensilage, sound corn and oats, with a good quality of bran and oil meal, will produce butter that is totally unlike the article that is evolved from musty, overripe hay, fed with a ration of damaged grain. Many of the successful dairymen have learned that gilt-edged butter, with its most delightful flavor, can only be had by giving great care to the matter of feeding. Hens fed upon putrid meat may lay well, but the eggs will be "off" in taste. The finest beef is from the stall fed ox which has turned golden meal, bright hay, sweet ensilage, and sound roots into future steaks and roasts. The most toothsome pork does not come from filthy pens where dirty swine dig their food out of their own filth and refuse matter, oftentimes unsound at that. It cannot be expected either that firm flesh can be formed from a diet of slops exclusively, although these may be of good material and fed in a cleanly way. To make good pork the tissues must be made plump with fattening and flesh-forming food, but not a diet wholly of one or the other. Clover, bran, oats, and milk for growth—then an addition of

corn meal for a short time before killing, will give such a flavor as the average pork eater knows nothing of. It should not be forgotten that in the production of a really fine article, it is frequently possible to make a profit out of what might otherwise be a loss.

### The Poultry Yard.

#### Model Chicken Coop.

THE coop referred to and illustrated is made after the order of what gardeners call a "cold-frame." One-half of it has a plank roof, in which part the hen is kept confined, and the other part has a sliding glazed sash made like a pit sash. In glass room I keep a continual supply of food and water, this latter in sardine boxes, with the lid cut on three sides and slightly tilted back, so the little chicks can get their heads in to drink, but cannot step in. The food consists of bread crumbs, little bits of meat, some corn meal, and any kinds of vegetables there may be left from dinner, wheat screenings, etc. After the first four or five days I pull back the narrow sliding door at the bottom part in front, and let the little chicks run in and out to suit themselves, unless it is very cold. This seems necessary for the first thing they always do is to rush to a pile of wood ashes near by and pick up bits of charcoal or bits of brick. When the



chicks are about three or four weeks old the hens are let out on sunny days, and they all have a happy time. The dimensions of the coops are about five feet long, two and a half feet wide, two feet high at the back, sloping to one foot in front. Between the division for the glass sash and the plank roof there is a space left wide enough for a slatted door which slides in and out, and keeps the hen from the feeding or glass room, but lets the chicks go back and forth freely. Shallow wooden troughs are nailed around the sides, in which is put the feed so that it need not be trampled on. Over this open space a plank is laid to keep out the rain or sun. Nails driven in at the lower side of the roof hold the plank from sliding off. A plank floor is made a little smaller than the inside of the coop, so that when the rain runs down the sides of the coop it will run on the ground, and not on the floor. When dry leaves are at hand, I change the bedding in the sleeping room whenever it needs it. This bedding of leaves keeps the chickens warm and clean. Before putting the little chicks with the mother hen I grease each little head slightly with kerosene oil, to destroy any lice that may be on them, or prevent any from coming. Since I have adopted this plan I never have gapes among the chickens. If it is quite cold, I put the hen and chicks in a box, and set this in a room where there is fire until the little things are strong enough to run well, which is generally in one or two days.—*American Agriculturist.*

**TAKE** the first sunny days of this month to rout the vermin.

**SHELTER** the chicks from the chilling winds and rain of this month.

A **LITTLE** spirits of turpentine mixed with the food is a good preventive of gapes, as are also clean white-washed premises and clean wholesome food.

**WHEN** fowls are kept confined to runs, it is an excellent plan to dig up part of the runs, thus giving them a place to scratch in, and it will also keep the runs clean by turning under the top.

**HENS** should not be fed while on the nest as they need all the exercise they are likely to get. Too constant sitting makes them of bad disposition, and difficult to manage when they come off with the brood. Eggs will stand a wide range of temperature without injury.

**EARLY** hatched chicks must not be suffered to become chilled this month, or bowel disease will be the result. Cold on the bowels is often mistaken for diarrhoea. Plenty of warmth and a little castor oil in the soft food is the best remedy should any difficulty of the kind arise.

**REMOVE** the first hen caught in the act of feather eating, as she will teach the vice to others. If the whole flock is engaged in picking each other, sell them and begin anew with other birds, as it will require a long time to cure them, the remedy being complete separation of the flock.

Eggs laid by an active, healthy hen, supplied with good, fresh food, are much superior to those laid by hens that are the common scavengers of alleys, back-yards and pig pens. The difference in color, smell and taste, is very evident to one who has given the matter a little attention.

**SELECT** a comfortable place for the hens in your hatching room, if you have one; if not, in some place where they will not be disturbed. It is better to set two, three, or more hens at the same time, if possible, and examine the eggs after ten days; the good ones may be put under less hens, and fresh eggs given to one or more of the sitters. If this be neglected, the broods may readily be put with one or two hens; those without broods ought to be cooped and well fed for a week or so, and they will soon begin to lay.

**CROSSES** with any standard breed of fowl produce good results. But these grade fowls, though often valuable for egg-producing, are utterly unreliable for breeding. Their progeny are not grades but mongrels. Changing the males in a flock is often advised; but if the new stock are mongrels there will be little advantage from this. The farm poultry of this country are largely mongrels, and this is why so many fail with poultry. Thirty or forty years ago the common dunghill fowl in this country, though originally intermixed, had become almost an established breed. Few, if any, of these old-fashioned fowls are now left anywhere. As a consequence the introduction of new blood in every flock not absolutely pure-bred is a necessity every two or three years, and in every case males of pure blood, and so far as possible of the predominant strain of the flock, should be introduced for crossing.

A **NATIONAL FAMILY PAPER.**—The Announcements of *The Youth's Companion* for 1892, which we have received, seem to touch about all healthy tastes. Its fiction embraces folklore, serial, sea, adventure and holiday stories. Frank Stockton, Clark Russell, Will Allen Dromgoole, Mary Catherine Lee are a few of the distinguished story-writers. Its general articles cover a wide range. Self-Education, Business Success, College Success, Girls Who Think They Can Write, Natural History, Railway Life, Boys and Girls at the World's Fair, Glimpses of Royalty, How to See Great Cities, Practical Advice, are some of the lines to be written on by eminent specialists. Gladstone, De Lesseps, Vasil Verestchagin, Cyrus W. Field, Andrew Carnegie, Mrs. Henry M. Stanley, are among the contributors. *The Companion* readers thus come into personal touch with the people whose greatness makes our age famous. Its 500,000 subscribers show how it is appreciated. \$1.75 a year. Address **THE YOUTH'S COMPANION**, Boston, Mass.; or you can order through us by taking advantage of special combination price of **MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED** and *The Companion* on our Clubbing List.