

and even the kennel of the Home Park, are amongst the best embellishments of the royal domain of Windsor.

The fowl-house; designed and built by Messrs. Bedborough and Jenner, of Sheet-street, Windsor, is a semi-gothic building, of simple and appropriate beauty. It consists of a central pavillion, used for inspecting the fowls—crowned on the top, by an elegant dove-cot, and on the sides, of wings capable of symmetric extension, in which are placed the model roosting-houses, and laying and breeding nests of the fowls. The ground, in front, slopes towards the park, and is enclosed and divided by light wire fences, into separate wards for the "run" or daily exercise of the birds. Inside these wards, gravel walks, bordered by grass plots, lead to the entrance of the fowl-house. In the proportions, distribution, and fittings of the apartments of this house, considerable knowledge of the habits, with a corresponding and most commendable regard to the conveniences of their graminivorous tenants, has been displayed: the chambers are spacious, airy, and of an equal and rather warm temperature, which accords with their original habits, and their nests are made, as far as possible, to resemble the dark, bramble-covered recesses of their original jungles. In this particular her Majesty has set a good example to the farmers of this country, who too often follow the false routine of their fathers, rather than consult the habits, and obey the natural instincts of the animals about them.

Her Majesty's collection of fowls is very considerable, occupying half a dozen very extensive yards, several small fields, and numerous feeding-houses, laying-sheds, winter courts, &c.

It is in the new fowl-house that the more rare and curious birds are kept—consisting of Coch-in-China, white Java bantams, some splendid bantams of Sir John Sebright's breed, a cock of which, remarkable for his martial bearing, is a great favourite with Prince Albert, with other fine bantams and some curious crosses, with grouse, and several frizzled fowl, remarkable for their silky, hair-like feathers.

The laying nests at Windsor are composed of dry twigs of heather—the *Erica tetralix* of our heaths—and small brambles of hawthorn, covered over with the lichen *raufiferinus*—the white lichen of our hedges, barn-doors, and park palings. These materials, rubbed together by the motion and pressure of the hen, emitted a light powder, the produce of the crushed leaves; and this, finding its way, between the feathers, to the skin, was found to have the immediate effect of discharging the bird of every description of parasite. The Commissioners of Woods and Forests are about to make considerable additions to this very interesting establishment.

A work on poultry would not be complete, if

a description of the most splendid poultry-house ever erected were omitted. The following is taken, on the spot, from that of

LORD PENRHYN.

The most magnificent poultry-palace, perhaps, that ever has been built, is that of Lord Penrhyn's at Winnington, in Cheshire. It consists of a handsome, regular front, extending about one hundred and forty feet, at each extremity of which is a neat pavilion, with a large arched window. These pavilions are united to the centre of the design, by a colonnade of cast-iron pillars, painted white, which supports a cornice, and a slate roof, covering a paved walk, and a variety of different conveniences for the poultry, for keeping eggs, corn, and the like. The doors into these are all of lattice-work, also painted white, and the framing green. In the middle of the front, are four handsome stone columns, and four pilasters, supporting, likewise, a cornice, a slate roof, under which, and between the columns is a beautiful mosaic iron gate; on one side of this gate is an elegant little parlour, beautifully papered and furnished; and at the other end of the colonnade a very neat kitchen, so excessively clean, and in such high order, that it is delightful to view. The front is the diameter or chord of a large semi-circular court behind, round which there is also a colonnade and a great variety of conveniences for poultry. This court is neatly paved, and a circular pond and pump are in the middle of it. The whole fronts towards a rich little paddock, in which the poultry have the liberty to walk about, between meals. At one o'clock a bell rings, and the beautiful gate in the centre is opened. The poultry being then mostly walking in the paddock, and knowing by the sound of the bell, that their repast is ready for them, they fly and run from all quarters, and rush in at the gate, every one striving which can get the first share in the scrabble. There are about 600 poultry, of different kinds, in the place; and although so large a number, the semi-circular court is kept so very neat and clean that not a speck of dung is to be seen. This poultry-palace is built of brick, except the pillars and cornices, the lintels and jambs of the doors and windows; but the brick are not seen, being all covered with a remarkable fine kind of slate, from his lordship's estate in Wales. These slates are close-joined, and fastened with screw-nails on small spars fixed in the brick: they are afterwards painted, and fine white sand thrown on, while the paint is wet, which gives the whole an appearance of the most beautiful freestone.