

Poultry.

The Fall of the Year.

By L. G. JARVIS.

The fall of the year is the best time for beginners to commence the business of fowl-raising, for the reason that they can at no other time of the year find matured young stock to operate with, without paying fancy prices. In the spring months those who have wintered a flock of young fowls prefer to keep them for laying and hatching purposes, unless they can get higher prices for their birds than at this season of the year. It is, therefore, economy to procure the birds in the fall. They can be bought at lower figures then, and the purchaser has the whole benefit of their egg product in the early spring months, when he desires to begin to hatch a few broods in succession. If he waits till spring he may readily procure eggs for a beginning; but there is the risk of delay, of transportation, of the cold weather that may chill them in transit; while with the fowls for providing eggs in your own hands you can much better procure all you require for hatching, and in this way be able to increase and multiply your stock without additional expenses.

WORK FOR THE PRESENT MONTH.

December is ordinarily one of the roughest months in the year for poultry men. Winter will fairly set in before the holidays come round again, and breeders or poultry raisers who have neglected to prepare for this inclement season will find themselves behind their competitors who have taken the necessary precautions in time to render their fowl stock quarters comfortable at this rude time of the year. The hen-house should now be cleaned and arrangements made for their thorough ventilation hereafter. The old nests should all have been emptied and washed inside with kerosene, to destroy any vestige of lurking vermin that may have accumulated this fall. The roosts must be similarly cleaned, and every part of the interior should be carefully seen to, to prevent the generating of this pest, which will cause so much annoyance to the birds when they are of necessity housed for the winter.

Do not attempt to carry over more fowls than your houses will reasonably accommodate. The young stock now well matured should be disposed of at once, if your yards are overstocked. It is better to fatten and market them now, if you have not a ready sale for them for other purposes, than to keep them till spring, especially the young surplus cockerels. Good pullets will pay you for their keeping in eggs next spring, if you do not harbor too many in limited quarters this winter. Lay in your vegetables for a full supply of green food. Bear in mind that as soon as the snow flies your fowls must be artificially fed in this respect, and however well you may feed them on grains, that they must have "green feed" as well to keep them in constant good thrift. We conceive this indulgence of paramount importance in December and January - more particularly as a prime necessity for breeding fowls. In getting ready for winter don't forget to provide dust boxes. They may be placed inside of the house and near the window where the fowls can lie in the

sun and enjoy the bath. This will help to keep them healthy and contented during their winter confinement.

If thus fed and warmly housed, almost any kind of hens will give you eggs, more or less, in cold weather. Old fowls will commence to lay in winter, when properly cared for, several weeks earlier than when they are neglected and allowed to shift for themselves comparatively. From now till April the stock should be fully fed. Poultry require more and heartier feeding in cold than in warm weather. Look out for roup and colds this month. Give your birds fresh water daily, and once or twice a week drop into the drinking vessel a little cayenne pepper. This is an excellent tonic, and it is warming to the crop in severe weather, but you must not use it too plentifully. Corn is the best evening food for fowls, especially during the cold months, as it keeps up a comfortable heat during the night. Give soft food the first thing in the morning.

Do not leave the cracks open in your poultry department; nail lath or other strips over them now. Don't leave the windows open on cold days; if you do you will most likely have to pay for it in the loss of your fowls.

POULTRY AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

A very fine collection of poultry was exhibited at the Provincial Show held at London last month. The Superintendent of the poultry department, Mr. McNeil, and his assistants, did all in their power to look after the comforts of the poultry on exhibition. The coops were well arranged, and kept very clean during the show. Owing to the inclemency of the weather on Tuesday the judges did not commence to judge until about ten o'clock the next day. There were a great many complaining outside the poultry building of not being able to gain admission to the poultry department during the entire day, and the same complaints made again on Thursday, as the judges did not complete their duties until Thursday afternoon, keeping the building closed almost two days, the best days of the exhibition. I think the judges would have got over their work much faster if they had paired off, and two of them judged the old class and two the young. This has invariably been the way the judging has heretofore been done at the Provincial Exhibition. I believe the one-man judge system gives the best satisfaction, and a show can be divided into several classes, and a show judged in one quarter of the time. This system has been adopted by all the poultry exhibitions held in Canada and the United States, and found to be the proper system of judging.

The building in which the poultry was exhibited we find very dark and very hard for the judges, especially in cloudy weather, to give entire satisfaction either to themselves or the exhibitors. The awards at this show seemed to give pretty general satisfaction. The slight mistakes that did occur may be attributed, as I mentioned before, to the building not being sufficiently lighted.

Dry salt is as good as any material that can be used for preserving eggs. Pack in boxes, turning the boxes twice a week, in order to prevent the yolks from setting to the inner sides of the shells.

Veterinary.

Foot Disease.

It may be of some interest to casually review a few of the many foot diseases, with remedies applicable in case of emergency, says a veterinary in the Horseshoer's Journal. For corns: do not leave the shoe on too long; use in shoeing a wide web and heavy shoe. Remove the bearing slightly from the quarter affected, trim the fungus parts at the seat of the corn, and at each shoeing use a caustic, and during the time the shoe is on use a foot dressing of tincture of arnica.

For thrush: remove the ragged edges, apply once a day carbolic acid one ounce, tincture of aloes two ounces, water one quart, and keep a plaquet of tow. For quarter crack: keep heavy shoe on foot, reset often and at each resetting pare all the foot will allow, if the toe is long shorten, if the heels are high lower. Apply a stimulant to the coronary band; in bad cases put a plate across the crack and fasten with small screws or one or two clinch nails, until grown down. If you happen to prick in shoeing, immediately remove the nail and apply arnica. In case of nails picked up on the road, enlarge the crifice and apply arnica two or three times a day until cured. In case of cuts from over-reaching calks, etc., on or around the coronary band, remove ragged edges with the knife, and if the wound is serious stitch it up and apply the carbolic acid solution recommended for thrush. It is well in case of injury to the foot to have the animal laid up for rest, more especially if it be in cold weather. Not unfrequently a small wound in the foot will result fatally, or leave the animal with an ugly looking blemish. In this connection I will give the treatment which resulted in the cure of weak feet very badly contracted and affected with corns; the treatment being entirely in the manner of shoeing. The horse was used on the road and over-reached, frequently pulling off the shoes. He had been shod by a number of smiths, with a view of remedying the defect, but all to no purpose, the foot growing worse until the animal was almost worthless for any purpose, the foot so weakened it would scarcely grow at all. I was consulted by the owner, who was necessarily anxious to remedy the evil. I replied that I thought a cure possible and accordingly took charge of the case. The sole of the foot was very heavy, dry and thick, the outside of the hoof very thin, brittle, dry and hard. In the first place I made a very heavy shoe, about 36 ounces, for the foot. I commenced to dress the foot, paring the sole until it would yield to strong pressure of the thumb, then put on the shoe, using No. 7 Northwestern nails, two on inside and three on outside of shoe, and the foot improved immediately, and the shoe remained in position without being pulled off. He has since been shod around and has a good foot.

I like the FARMER'S ADVOCATE well; get a great many useful hints and valuable information on agriculture and stock raising. I think it the best journal of the kind on the continent of America. C. F. SIMPSON, Cavendish, P. E.