

BEES AND POULTRY.**FATTENING FOWLS.**

What a different taste a fine, nicely and quickly fattened fowl has when served on the table, compared with one which had been forced to scratch for all its living, and to be consigned to the spit in anything but a fit condition for food! Farmers realize the importance of fattening quickly when feeding bees for the butcher, yet many do not seem to realize the fact that what holds good with that kind of meat it equally true when applied to fowls. Tenderness and juiciness are results of fattening quickly, while more ordinary flavour and want of tenderness results from letting fowls run until wanted for use on the table. To enable one to fatten fowls or chicks quickly, it is absolutely necessary to give such food as will accomplish the purpose best, and to this end we unhesitatingly recommend plenty of milk, in any state from fresh to thick. This should be fed in connection with a grain diet, for one counteracts the other. If kept in a darkened place and fed unsparingly on milk, with grain food in the proper proportions, you will soon have something very choice to set upon your table to your friends, as well as your family. When milk is fed no water is required for fattening fowls.—*Poultry Yard.*

KEEP YOUR BEST BREEDERS.

On no consideration should the fancier dispose of his best breeding stock, unless he desires fresh blood to keep up the stamina and constitutional vigour of his fowls by procuring the same kind of first-class stock, but not related, to take the place of those he has been breeding from. At this season and in the spring-time there is a brisk demand for good breeding stock, and those who need such and know their real value are willing to pay a good price for them. Breeders who are fortunate to have raised a goodly share of early-hatched birds can now supply their customers with prime young stock without lessening their breeding pens. But sometimes there is a big price offered for some of those retained as breeders that looking so tempting the owner parts with them, thinking that some of the young stock would in no way be inferior as stock getters. The possession of the best possible breeding stock is a matter of consideration and of paramount importance to every breeder of thoroughbred poultry. The best is not too good; but when one becomes the possessor of extra stock getters, reliable in the uniform products that come from them, it would be poor policy to sell them although offered a big price. If the would-be purchaser considers such fowls equivalent in value to what he offers in cash for his special use as breeders, why would not the same fowls in the hands of their owners be as valuable for the same purpose?—*Poultry Journal.*

TREATMENT OF FOWLS.

It is very necessary that fowls should have a good supply of pure, fresh water every day; and it should be put in the shade, so that the direct rays of the sun will not make it hot and impure before the fresh is supplied. One of the best things, and probably one of the simplest, is to keep a handful of old rusty nails—the more rust on them the better—in each dish from which the fowls drink. This will go far toward keeping them in good health, making them strong and vigorous, and less liable to disease. Fowls seem to require something that will act as a tonic, thus toning up the system, so that they will be in a better condition to throw off disease. Their increased vigour can readily be detected by

their vivacity and the rich colour of the comb, which is a sure indication of health. The comb of a diseased fowl always loses colour in proportion as the disease approaches its worst stages, and in some instances turning black. We would advise those who suspect disease amongst their fowls to give this subject thoughtful consideration and study, remembering that prevention is always better than cure.

BREEDING THE BEST QUEENS.

We deem it a very great mistake to suppose that the queen that can lay the greatest number of eggs in a given time is therefore a desirable queen; but if a queen bee is capable of laying 500,000 eggs in a life time, shall we have them laid in two or four years? We should prefer their being laid during the longer period. All such questions should be well studied and properly digested by the apiarist as well as giving a strict adherence to natural laws governing the bees. When we look into the laws that govern the production of animal life, we find that one law obtains from man down through all the grades of lower animal life, viz.: "The animal after his kind." While climate and surroundings have their influence, man is still man, whether barbarous or enlightened, and his domestic animals when bred with any special peculiarity or trait in view, have developed the traits desired, while there are many desirable traits in our present strain of Italian bees that should be fostered in breeding. Queen breeding is a mechanical art, and should be better understood by those who make such loud professions and furnish too many cheap and worthless queens for the unsophisticated novice, who too often meets disaster and loss for want of a better knowledge of the true principles that should govern all business connected with successful and practical apiculture. Avoid all queens reared in small nuclei or weak colonies.—*From the Granger Bulletin.*

KEEPING EGGS.

There are several ways in which they may be kept for months with more or less loss of freshness and flavour. But whatever preserving medium is used, the sooner the eggs are placed in it after being taken from the nest the better. If they are allowed to lie around exposed to the air even for a day, or if they are handled and shaken in the least, their keeping qualities will be greatly impaired. The old-fashioned method is to stand them on end in dry salt, in a keg or box, being careful that they do not touch each other, and that the salt fills all the interstices; when the keg is full head it up, and turn it over once a week. Or coat the eggs thickly with sweet lard, and pack in the same way in bran. Or pack in powdered, unslacked lime. Or dissolve quicklime in water, making the solution as strong as possible, add as much cream of tartar as the solution will take up, and put in the eggs, taking care to keep them covered all the time. A French process, much recommended, is to make a varnish by melting together beeswax and linseed oil, and thoroughly coating the eggs with it, packing them in boxes with paper pasted over the cracks to exclude the air. The object of all these processes is to exclude the air, which would otherwise find its way through the pores of the shell. It should be added that the eggs should be stored in the coolest and driest place possible.—*N. E. Farmer.*

PLANTING FOR BEE PASTURAGE.

Two of our correspondents propound the following questions in regard to planting for bee pasturage:

1. What time of year is best to sow sweet

clover, and how much per acre? 2. Can I sow it this fall with grain? 3. Is it of any use for hay? 4. Where can I get some seed of the Simpson honey plant?

1. In early fall is best, then you will get some bloom the next season. If sown in early spring, catnip, cleome, motherwort, or mignonette can be sown with it to give a honey bloom the first season, after which the sweet clover will take care of itself. If sown alone, we would prefer about 8 to 10 pounds per acre; if with something else, 4 to 6 pounds per acre. It should be sown early enough to get a good freezing, which will not hurt catnip or motherwort. Cleome must be sown in the fall.

2. Yes.

3. We have heard the question answered both affirmatively and negatively; but think if cut early it would make excellent hay, certainly equal to red clover. We know it makes good stock pasture.

4. We do not know, but suppose it will be advertised in our columns by those who may have it for sale.—*American Bee Journal.*

DO BEES INJURE GRAPES?

At the late meeting of the Northeastern Beekeepers' Association, the charge that bees injure grapes was discussed with some feeling. Two bills have been introduced in the California Legislature to forbid the keeping of bees because of the damage they are said to do the ripening grapes. The Northeastern Beekeepers were unanimous in the opinion that honey bees never puncture the skin of the grape, though they frequent the vines to suck the juices of the grapes already injured by birds or other insects. This it was claimed has been demonstrated by careful tests. Black ants are the chief mischief makers.

Mr. J. S. PEABODY, of Denver, suggests that bees are "crosser" in Colorado than at the East, possibly because "the honey is thicker, which prevents their filling themselves readily."

THERE is more money by half to be had annually in good poultry raising (considering its cost) than can be realized from the pigs or sheep on the farm, and yet the latter are fed and housed and bred by many to the neglect of fowl stock. Good fowls of any improved breed may now be had at a reasonable price, and cheap houses can be built to shelter a hundred or two birds. There is very little labour to be performed in the proper care of a few score of nice fowls during the breeding season. Farmers will do well to look into the merits of this thing.

A POULTRY-HOUSE may be very quickly and effectively cleaned out by first using an old broom and removing cobwebs, dust, etc., and cleaning the floor with a shovel. Then take half a bushel of lime and slake it in a barrel. If one of the syringe or fountain pumps used for washing windows can be procured the lime may be syringed all over the inside, forcing the lime into every crevice and cranny, and thoroughly cleansing them. The lime that falls on the floor will sweeten that. When the work is done turn out the refuse lime for the fowls to pick at.—*Poultry Nation.*

NEVER use cruel means to break a hen of sitting. After you are convinced that she has the "incubation fever," take her from the nest and confine her in a nice, dry coop; keep feed and water before her. After four or five days' "treatment" she will not return to the nest. She should be removed with the other fowls to the roost every night, otherwise she may go to sitting in the coop. In a few days she will be feeding with the other hens (instead of wasting away on the nest or contracting disease in a filthy coop), and will soon be ready for the next season of "egg-fruit."