

POULTRY YARD

HONOR AMONG POULTRY MEN—
MORE OF IT WANTED.

In all our dealings with others we depend more or less upon the integrity of whom we transact business. We can say with certainty that we are an article of the exact quality as that we pay. In many cases our decision is not to buy is based largely upon the fact that in the poultry business, perhaps, is this more so than in the poultry business. Hence, the importance on the part of the fanciers of cultivating a high standard of

poultry papers have during the past year been burdened with discussions on the subject of excellence—standards for judging outward appearance—but makes these so often abound in apparently the same country. We need some thing more outward appearance as a standard of purity. We want men of moral integrity, to fill the ranks in the army of poultry breeders now so organizing in the West. How are we

perhaps to talk on this subject who have been long in the business. Straightforward dealers know all from experience the importance of a course, while those other wise disposed to all likely to change for the better; oh as have recently embarked in the and it was our pleasure to see many of this season—a timely word of may be a benefit. Beware, not only duped by others but carefully avoid one of the questionable ways to the business. In filling orders be exact what you agree to send, fear to say you have not as good as called for, if you really think you in short, always deal in accordance following counsel—good enough for any one to live by: "Be all your own principle of right; preserve your character, and in doing this never cost." You may seem to advance at first by what some would term carefulness, but it will not be on before you will find among your those who have forsaken that class and dealers who care more for the in than for the real advancement of

them as of building up for your good reputation, join your local or distant, and in doing this aim to bring additional credit and worth before by your connection with it, as well as personally by the standing it in return.

By the above from the *Prairie* all knowing that the hints are and needed in our country. An reputation is worth more than a list prizes.

CONFINING POULTRY.

to confine our hens so as to produce and roost must necessarily more pains than when we allow them to range. To confine hens and do as well as when allowed to range must follow the following rules:

regularly at least twice a day; not just enough to satisfy their appetite.

plenty of water before them all the day.

plenty of gravel and sand before them.

for them a good warm roosting always keep it free from dirt and

at least half of their park in grass, to remain for occasional use, so as to plenty of wallowing places. Give and one remedy recommended is to mix one part of lard with one part of the following safe and effectual spoonful each of lard and powder; mix and apply to the head of the chick, and under the wings of an old fowl. One application of if careful y done, is all that is

lard-oil alone, or common clean water every purpose of the above is thus lard or oil, stopping the pores of the skin, that kills them so and the sassafras has a thin, to do ever.

ters have recommended sulphur the same purpose but the lard

alone will do the work every time, and the chicks are spared the risks of taking cold and being otherwise injuriously affected by the use of sulphur.—*Prairie Farmer*.

LATE CHICKENS.

The general and very correct opinion among breeders is that early hatched fowls are more valuable than the late ones. Hence it has become almost a second nature to some to make all their plans upon the supposition that the hatching season closes with June, at the latest, and the chicks hatched later than May cannot be much counted upon for first class birds.

Early chicks will, as a rule, grow a trifle larger than those hatched from July to September, and will, of course, be ready for the market and to lay in better season; but if you will have a care to provide good, warm quarters for your chickens when the first chilly autumn weather comes on, managing to keep them facing the south, till the sun is well up and warm, you need not lose any by the cold, nor tint their growth. Then provide for them regular supplies of flesh, in place of the worms and grasshoppers now passed away; also chopped cabbage, onion, etc., which they will eat instead of summer grass, and they will develop splendidly instead of being hatched out in time. And when spring opens, and some of your early hatched pullets have laid out one litter and are resting for a while, your August and September fowls will be laying nicely.

This is not theory, but facts, and the result of numerous experiments. The only fault of the plan is to be found in the fact that late chicks cannot be habitually neglected, but must be cared for and with proper care they will mature well and prove profitable.—*Saxon, in Northwestern Poultry Journal*.

MORTALITY IN POULTRY.

Ordinarily, six or eight per cent. of adult fowls will die of disease annually, when they were kept for profit and given a stimulating diet to make them lay as much as possible. This is not surprising when we reflect that our domestic fowls are in a high artificial condition; the production of large numbers of eggs if unnatural, being a habit induced by man, and causes a great strain on the constitution. The artificial supply of food in unlimited allowance, with no necessity for exercise on the part of the fowls, is another source of disease. In the wild state every species of bird must work for a living and produce their food a little at a time.

It may be observed, also, that during the very part of the year when food perches to be abundant, the wild fowls are kept from laziness by the necessity of feeding their young, nature having fixed the breeding time in the flesh season as regards fowls. Again the structure of fowls is so changed by ages of breeding, that the wings and legs, and whole sets of muscles connected therewith are dwarfed by disease, while other portions of the body are made relatively large, which impairs the general vigor by destroying to some extent the natural balance of the organization. For these and other reasons it is to be expected that the ordinary death rate in a poultry yard will be considerable. The fact is that fowls will die of old age any how, (in most cases)—renders it likely that a certain portion will die annually at an earlier age. In conformity with this idea, geese, which do not reach old age till twenty to one hundred years, do not drop off in the early years or mature to so great an extent as hens.

The moral of the above is that novices in poultry raising need not worry over their ill-luck, or mistrust that their management is any worse than that of their neighbors because, perchance, a few of their fowls of two, or three, or four years old die every summer. It is to be expected, unless the breed kept is unusually hardy, and all the circumstances are unusually favorable. Reduce the death rate as much as possible by hygienic measures, rather than by medicine. Give plenty of air and sunshine, feed moderately, and promote exercise, and expect some losses in spite of all precautions.—*Buffalo Live Stock Journal*.

In the affirmative I would reply, allow me to give a few facts to carry out that assertion:

March 1st, 1874, I had seventy-five pure bred hens and cocks, from which I have sold in eggs and fowls \$201 worth, have used in family one hundred dozen eggs which have been worth 25 cents, and have at present forty-eight of the old stock, and over one hundred nice young chickens. The cost since January 1st has been \$34 so that any one can see the net result. Of course a great amount of time, care and attention have been bestowed in obtaining so good a return, and all this without those nice grassy runs which so many fanciers have; what vegetable food they have had has been given, demonstrating the fact that with proper management, poultry does pay. No roup or cholera in my yards; yet I have lost two hens from causes unknown, also an im-

ported D. B. cock through paralysis; he lived thirteen days without walking, and I took sympathy and ended his career. I shall this fall dispose of two of the four varieties which I keep, believing that a less number of kinds with the same attention bestowed will be more satisfactory to the fancier, and produce a lighter type of fowls. As to the varieties I shall keep, it is a hard matter to decide. Each kind has so many redeeming features that one is lost to part with any when he sees so many good qualities and enjoys the beauties of the birds; however, I feel at present that the Light Brahma and the Partridge Cochins will be the varieties retained. Waiting to hear of better returns from any breeder with equal stock, I remain respectfully—*Dr. J. H. Bryant in National Poultry Journal*.

The Horse.

OPINIONS ON SAFETY.

Unsafety on the road generally arises from one or more of the following causes—bad action, bad formation, sluggishness, or infirmity, or all combined, if we suppose any man's sins to be so great that such an animal has got into his hands as a just retribution of them.

To begin with action. There may be a diversity of opinion as to what is pretty action, and each man may harmlessly indulge his taste in this particular; but there should be but one opinion as to what is safe action. Many persons conceive, if a horse has high action, it denotes perfect safety. There can be no great error; for high action has very little to do with safety, in fact, in many particulars it very much contributes to its reverse. The most moderate action is generally high enough to clear all the imperceptible inequalities of a road, and it is only of such we need have any fear; and so far as loose stones go, if they are large enough to warrant high action to get over, the horse would step on one side of such, not over them. It is chiefly the way in which a horse puts his foot to the ground that constitutes safety or the reverse. If he puts it down with a shove (for we can find no better expression,) he must be unsafe, as the shock he would experience from any opposing substance would very likely bring him down; and this would of course be just the same whether the action previous to putting the foot down had been high or low. If he puts it fairly on the ground, whether the foot was placed on the ascending part of a rise, on its summit, or on its declivity, (we mean such rises as we meet on ordinary roads,) it would make little difference. A horse has as much dread of falling as we have that he should do so; therefore he would avoid or lift his legs over any large or visible obstruction, however near he might go to the ground in his general action; if he met such obstacles as required lofty action to get over. It is only when his action is so very low, or his sluggishness so great, that he does not lift the foot high enough to clear the inequalities that he meets that he becomes unsafe. Quick action, and putting the foot properly on the ground, are two of the great desiderata in a roadster.

There is one thing that constitutes much greater danger than any bad action as to going too near the ground. This is what we have specified as malformation; of course we allude to the forequarters. We care not however faultless, high, or grand may be the action of a horse, if his fore-legs are not put on in their proper place, he never can be fit to ride. We mean by this, if his legs stand under him, all the high action in the world cannot save such a horse if ridden—at the slightest perpendicular, in fact overbalanced. We know of many leaning towers, some inclining more than others; still they are safe in their present state of declension; but let that declension become the whole fabric. So with the horse; he would go safely enough so long as his present inclination was sustained; but let him make a false step, so as to throw his fore-parts forward down he must come also. Such horses make as good harness-horses as any, and are generally strong horses at such work; for a harness-horse should not like the saddle-horse be on his haunches; horses that are, seldom can get along in harness with heavy weights behind them, particularly up hills. We will suppose we could balance a horse, as we can a stick, on the finger—for a saddle-horse the balance should be such as that the fore-parts have always an inclination to rise; for a harness-horse, it should be the reverse, as a horse may have magnificent action in his trot without being on his haunches. Heavy men should most unquestionably never ride horses with high action, and with heavy weight on him a horse wants to bring one leg to the support of the other as quickly as possible. High action on them, very likely when tired to hit their legs. Nothing can be more awful than such a horse with such a weight cutting by side, or indeed cutting anywhere.

Sluggishness is another great cause of unsafety, but more particular in the roadster. We hate it in any horse; we are not fond of your thorough steady goers. We never knew any of them, in horse or man, good for much. Of all horses, a buggy-horse should be at least a merry one. We often use them where there is no excitement for them, nothing to cheer them but their own spirits; these should be at least equal to proof, for they often get a good deal of diluting. Personally we would never wish for a very steady one for any purpose but a shooting pony, and as we never shoot, we never wanted one. A very hot horse in hot weather is certainly anything but pleasant; but of the two we had rather be kept in a comfortable warm perspiration by a hasty horse than in a cool one by a sluggish brute.

Of all men, heavy fellows require a cheerful light-hearted horse. Such horses are very seldom unsafe. If they make a mistake, they are all alive and right in a moment. The slug, if he does the same thing, we suppose considers it a dispensation of Providence that he is to go down, and that it would be sinful to resist it; so down he goes, carrying (on his knees) the marks of his piety through life. *Est modus in rebus* applied as well to horses as it does to things in general. We may like horses with a little more of the curry-powder in their composition than the generality of persons do; we hold it a great improvement to most dishes; so we think it to most horses; and so far as temper goes, we are quite clear the light-hearted horse is less to be feared from its volatility than the other is from his sluggishness; for the latter, being made to do that against his inclination which the other does willingly, is sure to be put out of temper; and then such a gentleman can be as alert as any of them, and is only so when he means mischief. To an infirm person, a nag that will stand at a door for half a day without being tied, stands like a post on being mounted, and go something like one after wards, may be desirable acquisition.—*Prairie Farmer*.

The Apiary.

PREPARING BEES FOR WINTER.

By A. C. Attwood Apiary Editor.

In view of the great mortality among bees every winter, keeping them for winter quarters is one of the greatest importance.

It is difficult to give advice where to winter bees, circumstances varies so much, some winter with good success in cellars, but the objection to cellars, are, that they usually are too damp, but if you will winter in a cellar keep the hive from the wall, and up from the floor and give plenty of upward ventilation, if in box hive stand them upside down on a bench, and tack wire cloth over the mouth and do not go often in with a light to disturb them. In winter we wish to retain the heat in every hive, and still allow the moisture to pass off. I advise to make as many cushions as you have hives out of old woollen stuff; make them the full size of the honey board, and six inches thick, with dry corn husks, cut straw or chaff, take off the long board and place the cushion on inside, right on the frames have it fit tight so no bees can get up, that is important, then put a little straw in your top cover, and crowd it down on top; no matter where bees are wintered this preparation is good, get every thing ready so there will be no delay when winter comes, and see in time that the good wife does not cut up all the woollen stuff about the place in carpet rags the way mine does.

If you have any place to winter in that is about frost proof, dark and dry, and quite as soon as you see that winter has fairly set in, then remove your bees to that unless you have a place that is nearly right, it is better to winter out of doors, in the old styles of bee sheds leave the fly hole open, and close up so mice cannot get in them, pack tight at the back side and top with pea straw, say a foot thick all around; leave the front of the hives exposed to the noon sun, and if the bees have plenty honey, and nothing particularly happens they will come out in the spring all right, of course they will consume more honey wintered in this way, than in a proper repository; at least they are better out as above than placed in a wood-house, drive barn, or any such cold place.

ITALIAN BEES IN BAD ODOR.

We have a report of a meeting of the German agriculturists of Odor Bees, conveying an unfavorable account of Italian bees. Herr Horr. of Mattenheim, said he had kept Italian bees since 1857, and, taking the utmost pains with them, he became possessed of many fine colonies, and also some crosses in the first and second degree. As a result of his experience, he would not give a straw for the foreign races. There seemed to be two great drawbacks: one the foul brood and the other the strong propensity to swarm. With foul brood he had lost heavy colonies, and on the whole many large