

CAT BROODING CHICKENS.—The following is a curious circumstance which occurred last summer. A hen that had a brood of chickens was accidentally killed. A cat belonging to the owner of the chickens took charge of them, and slept with them for about a fortnight, when she deserted them.

BLACK BREASTED RED MALAYS, BREEDING, DUCKWINGS.—A writer in *The Field* says: "I have a Malay cock and hen of the Birmingham prize strain, perfect in color and shape, with yellow legs and beaks. Last year I reared from these two young cockerels (they are now nine months old), which are exactly similar to the old cock, except in the color of their necks and backs, which, instead of being red, are a yellowish white color; there is, in fact, just the same difference between the old and the two new young cocks as between a black-breasted and a duckwinged game cock. Do other instances of this kind occur either with Malay or game fowls? To which the editor replies: We have heard of similar instances; but they are certainly not frequent in Malays.

"Are these pure canaries?" asked a young gentleman who was negotiating for a gift for his fair. "Yes, sir," said the dealer, confidentially; "I raised them ere birds from canary seed."

Our Letter Box.

KEEPING POULTRY PROFITABLE. (*Amateur.*)—There is considerable profit to be made by the sale of eggs when poultry are reared in the vicinity of a large town or city, and when the eggs are kept till the winter. It is now so well known which are the most prolific breeds, and also the ages at which pullets begin to lay, that the production of eggs by healthy, and well and judiciously fed birds can be made a certainty. It will then only remain for you to procure a sale to ensure the profit you speak of. You will, however, need a proper locality, a good run, a dry light soil, and, if possible, the facilities for growing the food necessary for them. You are one of a numerous class asking for poultry information in regard to the remuneration to be derived from it. It is like everything else. If you were to start by putting down on paper all the possible expenses attending such a venture you would never undertake it, but if you are careful, and can give personal superintendance, we have no doubt you can make it pay.

CANKER IN PIGEONS.—(*F. G.*)—On page 75 of this journal you will find an article treating of this disease, to which we would refer you. In addition, we may add the following from Mr. Brent, an able English writer on pigeons: "The only disease that has troubled me to any extent has been canker—a cheesy-looking lump or lumps of pus of very disgusting color, which forms in or about the mouth, and which I consider highly contagious. I have sometimes bought a bird with it; at other times it has appeared without any apparent cause. I believe it arises in the first place from a bad state of the blood, and breaks out in any part wounded by fighting or otherwise. It is also said to arise from drinking from a tin vessel, or from dirty water. It is very fatal to young birds. When old birds are attacked, I remove the matter with a thin piece of wood, cut like a spatula, and rub the place thoroughly with caustic. This must be done effectually at once, or it will only form again, spread more, and become more difficult to eradicate. I believe confinement and want of condiments to be a common cause of this disease."

HOUDANS.—(*Novice.*)—Of all the French breeds of fowls known in this country, there are not any equal to the Houdan, and we have therefore no hesitation in saying we consider the Houdan best for general purposes. Their laying qualities are of a high order, and they are as hardy fowls as can be; they also do well in confinement. They are non-sitters, and if you wish to raise chickens you must keep another breed.

REARING GUINEA FOWL.—(*J. H. D.*)—Guinea chicks want to be fed like young Pheasants, on curd, dough, boiled eggs chopped fine, and bread and milk. The hen should be kept in confinement. Nothing is so prejudicial to chickens of all kinds as to be kept in a room. It is productive of cramp, it is bad for the feet, and yields no food.

FOOD FOR DUCKLINGS.—(*W. M.*)—Ducklings may be fed on oatmeal, some greaves, curd, and chopped onion tops. As they grow older, discontinue these one by one, until you have reduced them to plain oatmeal, and then to oats or other grain.

FOOD FOR YOUNG TURKEYS.—(*Enquirer.*)—After your poults are hatched, keep the hen in confinement. If allowed to be at liberty, she will drag her unfortunate offspring through dew and rain till none remain. If she starts with a dozen, she is quite content if she brings home two. Nothing is better to put her under than an empty china crate; it affords room for the poults to be fed, and protects them from other poultry. You will find on page 163 the dietary scale you should adopt, with other information on rearing turkeys.