REARING OF CHICKENS.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Register.

You some time since requested to know my mode of raising chickens, and I take great pleasure in forwarding the same to you.

I must, in the first place, give you my plan for constructing a "hen house," as I consider it one of the most important things about the rearing. My "hen houses" are built of pine logs, with the bark taken off, and chinked in with wood. On the inside of the house, and about one foot from the walls, I plant forks, across which I lay poles for the fowls to roost on, being careful that no part of the poles or forks shall touch the house. About once in four weeks, I have these poles washed or replaced with new ones; by these means I get rid of lice, if any should have found their way to the roost of the fowls. My boxes for the hens to lay in are put upon forks in the same manner, being entirely detached from the house, and are taken out once in three or four weeks, and new nests made for the hens.

Since I have been pursuing this plan, I have never been troubled with lice, nor have I ever lost any considerable number with the gapes, a disease which I am convinced proceeds from the young chickens inhaling hen lice from the parent hen.

In chickens having the gapes, a worm is found in the larynx, near the lungs, which continues to increase in size until the whole aperture in the windpipe is filled up, and the chicken then suffocates. I am convinced that this is the cause of the disease; for if the parent hen is kept clear of lice, the young escape the gapes.

When I find my hens are ready to go to setting, I always in the early part of the season, set two on the same day, and when they hatch, put them together in coops, or hovers, and feed them on corn bread; until the chickens begin to feather, when I give them small hominy. At this time I take away one hen, and confine her for a few days, when she will become weaned, and again be ready for setting in a few weeks.

In the summer, when the young chickens do not require the protection of the mother to hover them, I frequently give as many as fifty or sixty chickens to one hen.

Last season I set six turkeys, and they only brought out a sufficient number for three of them to attend to. I set the remaining three on hen's eggs, taking care to set a hen at the same time. During the season, each turkey brought out three broods, amounting in all to 150 chickens.

The turkey hens while setting require to be well fed and watered, and if well attended to, will set most of the summer.

Since I have adopted the above rules, I have been very successful in raising chickens, and can recommend them to the patrons of the Register.

Very respectfully,
WM. B. GREEN.

PEACH TREES.—When bearing trees are planted in low places, the blossom buds are urged forward by the warmth of day, and the increased severity of night frosts destroys them. But on hills, these extremes of heat and cold do not occur; hence they generally escape. One of the early settlers of Wayne county, near Palmyra, twenty four years ago planted a peach orchard on a hill nearly one hundred feet above the average height of land; and during twenty years since they first began to bear, he has lost only one crop by frost.—*Cultivator.*

LIME IN AGRICULTURE.

Of the mineral substances that have been employed to improve the soil, lime is the most important. All our lands seem to be susceptible of great benefit from it; and I believe that in many parts of this district it can be obtained on such terms as to create a probability that it may be profitably applied. The theory of its modes of action involves chemical principles, which it would be beyond my limits to attempt to explain here; I may briefly state, however, the facts connected with its various effects.

It renders stiff and tenacious soils more friable—and light and sandy soils more retentive of moisture. It disposes all vegetable matter in the soil to decompose, so as to supply the nourishment of living plants, and it makes the nutritive matter itself more salubrious. These last effects may be seen in familiar instances. If a little quick lime be added to a heap of leaves or rotten wood, it is soon reduced to black mould; and if a little be sprinkled on the rank spots which get up in pasture fields, and are rejected by cattle, they will shortly be eaten down. It is not more active in rendering the vegetable matter of the soil available, than it is in giving vigor to the plants, and goodness of quality to the grain; and on no grain are its effects so remarkable as on wheat. I knew a gentleman who from having a great command of manure, thought that he might dispense with lime. He raised by measure as many bushels of wheat on the acre as his neighbours; but it was coarser in quality, and therefore lighter, and in the British markets great discrimination of price is made on account of quality; so that he lost in two ways. He had at last recourse to lime, and with complete success.

In cold and humid climates, it is not considered that old turfy lands can be profitably broken up without lime; the straw will be abundant, but the grain light and unmatured—treated with lime these lands are the most productive. In our climate, the vegetable matter has no such a tendency to become peaty and inert, and lime may not, to such a degree, be necessary for the purpose of promoting decomposition; but it would in every case make our wheat of better quality. In our best lands, it would give health and vigor to the straw and render it less obnoxious to the diseases to which luxuriance is exposed, and it would make lands, at present too rich for bearing grain, capable of producing healthy and productive crops. From what has been said, it will follow, that it would be improper to apply lime to impoverished land, unless at the same time accompanied with manure, without which it would aid in the robbery of the soil. For other reasons, it should not be applied to wet land.

In calculating the expense of liming, the permanency of its effects should be taken into account. If a proper dose be administered, there will be no need of a repetition of it for 15 or 20 years. What the dose should be, must depend in the quality of the land; but generally speaking, it should be increased as the land is more adhesive, or as it is more filled with vegetable matter. There are soils probably that would be benefitted by less than 100 bushels to the acre, or which would require more than 300 to produce the maximum effect. As, in proportion to the mass of the soil, the quantity of lime used is small, the two should be mixed together as equally and intimately as possible. The lime may be allowed to lie till it falls down into a state of flour, and then be spread out, when the soil has been previously well pulverized.—*Renkine's Address.*

TOMATOES FOR COWS.—It is not generally known (says the *P. U. Advocate,*) that this vegetable is a superior article of food for milch cows. We have tried it two summers, and it is decidedly superior to any other vegetable we have yet tried. They add greatly to the quantity as well as to the richness of the milk, and give a rich colour to the cream and butter, which is at least pleasant to the eye, even if the flavor is not so improved. We do not know, however, that they impart any richer flavor to the butter.

We have known a cow to refuse them when first offered, but soon became very fond of them; others, we believe a large majority, eat them greedily from the first. Thus far we have fed them only in the raw state; but if boiled with corn meal, say half and half, or two-thirds tomatoes, they will, doubtless, be far better.

To one who has a dairy farm, the cultivation of an acre or two in tomatoes would be repaid by greater profit than any vegetable we know. From one acre not less than eight bushels may be gathered daily from July until frost. There is some trouble in picking them, but then nearly every farmer has children; his little boys—ay, and his big ones too—would not be the worse for a little work. We should be glad to see the experiment tried on a larger scale than ours, and to learn the result.

SPAYING.—We have received from L. Bishop, Esq., of Smyth County, Virginia, the following account of the process adopted in spaying pigs by Rufus Rouse in that neighbourhood.

"Fix a plank three feet high. Lay the pig upon the right side on the plank, with two persons to hold the fore and hind legs and mouth. The implements used are a sharp pocket knife and a long crooked needle, with cutting awlblade edges, and a strong wax thread. The operator takes his knife and shaves off some of the hair, three and a quarter inches from the hip bone; he then makes an incision crosswise, so that he can introduce one finger to bring out the uterus; he then cuts off the whole of the uterus and throws it away; he then enters the needle on one side of the wound and brings it up through the other, and secures it with a strong knot. One stich is sufficient. A mixture of tar and hog's lard is used to smear the wound. This mode of operating is the invention of Capt. Rouse, and I am in favour of the plan, considering it more safe and less troublesome than the other methods."—*Cultivator.*

TO HOUSEWIVES.—Recent experiments in more than one family in this city, says the *Delaware Gazette,* have established that the plant known to botanists as the *Polygonum punctatum,* commonly called water pepper, or smart weed, and which may be found in great abundance along ditches, roads, lanes and barn yards, is an effectual and certain destroyer of bed bugs. It is said to exercise the same poisonous effect on the flea. A strong decoction is made of the herb, and the places infested with the insect are carefully washed therewith. The plant may also, with much advantage, be strewn about the room. Elderberry leaves, laid upon the shelves of a cupboard, will also drive away roaches and ants in a very short time.

SOAK YOUR SEED CORN IN SALTPETRE.—It destroys the worm, is not relished by crows or squirrels, and yields much more abundantly than when planted without.