POULTRY.

Notes on Poultry-keeping.

Kerosene oil for scaly legs.

Kerosene oil on roosts in coops and nest boxes for red mites.

Fresh water for old and young stock is essential to best results.

Skim milk, sour milk and cottage cheese take the place of animal food for poultry.

Movable roosts and nests are best in poultry-houses. Roots should all be on a level, and within three or four feet of the floor. Two feet or two feet and a half is high enough for the heavier breeds. If droppings boards are used underneath the roosts, the entire floor space is available for scratching floor.

The hardest worker is usually the best layer. Make them all work and get more eggs.

When a flock of poultry do not eat their food greedily and quickly it is a safe proposition they have been overfed.

One breed fed right and properly cared for will make more money on the farm than where several varieties are kept.

Give the late-hatched chicks extra care and attention, and they will repay all your trouble. They should be fed separate from the older chickens where they are allowed to have all they want, and it is surprising the rapid growth they will make. But if the other chickens are allowed to domineer over them they will be stunted.

The hens should have a good chance for dusting themselves, and if the place is under cover, a little insect powder can be added to good advantage. It will prevent the lice getting much of a start, in this way, without much work of the poultry-keeper.

There is no discounting the advantages of free range for poultry. Yarded fowls can be made profitable, but when chickens are growing and developing there is no care or feeding that can take the place of a good free range of meadow and woodland. The freedom they enjoy, as well as the great variety of food they obtain, goes far toward building up strong, vigorous constitutions and fitting them for best results as breeders or layers.—[The Farmer.

"Rhode Island Red" or "American Red?"

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Your letter addressed to the Director of the Experiment Station has been referred to me, and in reply will say that the "American Reds" is the proper name for the "Rhode Island Reds" breed of poultry. This breed is doing exceptionally well in the West, and is gaining great popularity.

O. ERF,
Professor of Dairy and Animal Husbandry.
Kansas State Agricultural College.

[Note.—The "American Reds" were so named in the egg-laying breed test, results of which were given in our last issue. We were under the impression that they were the breed referred to by several writers in recent issues of the "Farmer's Advocate" as "Rhode Island Reds," but presume the genuine "Reds" by any name will lay as well. We have been told that trouble over the name of this breed is one of the reasons for the delay in the issue of the long-expected "Standard of Perfection.—Editor.]

Concrete for Poultry-house Floor.

In the Canadian Poultry Review, Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Manager Poultry Department, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, quotes approvingly a few remarks by Mr. A. McNeill, Chief of the Ottawa Fruit Division, to this effect:

"There is, in my experience, no floor for a hen-house like a concrete one. My house is of concrete, too, and nearly frostproof. My floor is made by putting in about six inches of sand, gravel or cinders, well rammed. On this put an inch of concrete of one part cement to two of coarse, sharp, clean sand, well pounded, and floated with a wooden float only. This is rat and weasel proof, and perfectly dry. One or two inches of dry earth on this floor, with one or two on the droppings, will keep everything sweet and clean for some time. A little cut straw or chaff on top of the earth on the floor will give you one of the best scratching shed floors ever invented."

"And," says Mr. Gilbert, "our experiments with concrete as a flooring material corroborate in every respect what has been so well said."

A farmer is kicking because he gave his daughter a pair of chickens two years ago and promised to feed the increase for four years if she would take care of them. He says that she has $64 in the bank, and also 200 chickens that he had to feed all winter. He also says that at the end of the four years she will own the farm and will be charging him rent for living upon it.—[Ex

Possibilities in Egg Production.

Mr. James Long, writing in the Farmer's Gazette (British), says:

"A correspondent writes, referring to the English Utility Poultry Club's competitions, as well as the competition in New South Wales, in which as many as 220 to 250 eggs had been laid within a year, or an equivalent number in four winter months, to say that he regards such figures as almost incomprehensible. There are, no doubt, many persons who take the same view, and who look upon 158 eggs as a large number to be laid by a hen within twelve months. In this case the writer believes that seven eggs laid in fourteen days by hens of the very best breed is excellent work, and he points out that at least twelve weeks in the year are non-productive, so that, taking forty weeks as the period which would cover a hen's laying season, we get 140 eggs as the net result. It is perfectly true that such a number is excellent, and that were it common throughout the whole of a flock of birds it would pay extremely well. Unhappily it is not common by any means, and so far from a hen laying 140 eggs on the average in this country, it is more than probable that the average is nearer to 80. What with the period of moulting in the autumn, and the cessation of laying in the winter, owing to severe weather, it is quite possible that instead of twelve weeks the average hen in the poultry-yard is still longer unproductive. I cannot for a moment find fault with my correspondent's suggestion that 150 eggs is first-class, but he makes his own remark on the basis of the results attained in his own poultry-yard. He says: "I have at this moment 23 pullets, hatched in April last year, kept apart. They have been laying eleven weeks, and only since some three or four weeks have they laid from 58 to 68 eggs per week, or practically three eggs per bird, which would be equal to 120 in the forty productive weeks of the year." Now we come to the more crucial point. My correspondent says, "What can be done with birds hatched in January by the aid of incubators, I cannot say. They would commence by the latter end of August, and might lay right through to the following July, a period of 45 weeks, although they would not lay three eggs per week during the whole of this period." That is the result of his experience of thirty years; the eggs have been daily set down, and a balance sheet made each year. It is precisely this question of early hatching which touches the spot. Nobody supposes that the hen after her first year will lay 200 eggs or more in her second year. It is the early-hatched pullet which commences to lay in August, or thereabouts, and which continues to lay with more or less frequency until the moulting time in the following year. We cannot date the commencement of the laying year until the bird commences to lay, at which time she possesses a specific value. After commencing to lay, we date forward twelve months, and it is the early-hatched pullet that lays a batch of eggs in autumn, and continues to lay through the winter and the following spring, that does the best work. It is these pullets which compete in connection with the Utility Poultry Culb tests, and which were employed in this year's laying competition inaugurated by the Government of New South Wales; and, after all, an average of four eggs a week is not a very serious thing to contend for in the case of an early-hatched pullet, especially of the non-sitting varieties, but, curiously, it is the sitting varieties which usually come to the top.

Care of Young Turkeys.

Success in turkey-raising comes only to those who are careful in every detail. It is for this reason that many of the most successful turkey-breeders are women.

This care must begin when the poult first comes out of the shell. Each should be taken from the hen as soon as it is dry, and covered with woollen. When the hatch is completed a little grease should be put on the head of each to prevent lice from working there; one big louse on a poult's head may kill it, but too much grease is as bad as the louse. Dust each well with insect powder, and repeat once a week till too large to handle well.

Put the hen in a box with a crack in the cover through which she may put her head. Put liquid lice-killer in the box. Leave her there an hour.

She should be shut up in a coop for the first two days; three if the weather is chilly or damp, but not longer than that. Turkeys need exercise and must range. It is well to watch the hen and see that she comes back to the coop at night, where she may be shut in and protected from rain and vermin. The coop should be kept clean if it has a bottom, and shifted frequently if it is without a bottom.

Great care is necessary in feeding at first. It is far better to let them run with the hen on free range and give them no feed at all than to overfeed them or feed them improperly. Feed them boiled eggs. Start the eggs in cold water and boil half an hour. Chop them up shells and all. Alternate this with milk curd, or cottage cheese, as it is sometimes called; chop a little lettuce or dandelion into it. They should be fed in the morning only what they will eat up quickly. If fed enough so that they are not hungry, they will stand around and not exercise, and die of indigestion. If not fed at all the hen will keep them moving so much in search of food that she will tire them out. Two feeds a day are enough. After the first four weeks they may be fed chick-food or small grains. No corn should be fed to a turkey before it is full-grown.

A turkey's worst troubles are three in number, and in order of their seriousness stand thus: overfeeding, lice and rain.

W. I. T.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Canadian.

Mr. Frank Cochrane, of Sudbury, has been sworn in as Minister of Lands and Mines for Ontario.

Right Rev. Alexander MacDonell, Bishop of Alexandria, is dead.

The G. T. R. has let the contract for a large elevator at Midland, Ont.

Work has been begun on the erection of the great mills of the Keewatin Flour Mill Co., at Keewatin. The mills will have an immediate capacity of 3,000 barrels per day. Storage elevators will also be built at Keewatin and other points in the West.

British and Foreign.

A Boxer outbreak is reported from Western China.

A massacre of Armenians by Tartars in the Transcaucasian district is in progress. The streets of some of the villages are said to be filled with dead.

It is feared that the French schooner Cousins Renius, en route to St. Pierre Island, has been lost with all on board, numbering 160 souls.

Owing to the continued eruption of Mount Vesuvius, Italy, the Funicular Railroad has been compelled to stop running. There are now four streams of lava issuing from the volcano.

While King Alfonso and President Loubet were driving through Paris recently, a bomb was thrown at their carriage. It went too high, however, and only succeeded in killing a horse and wounding several horses and people.

Every additional detail of the terrific Battle of Tsushima, fought in the Straits of Corea, May 27th and 28th, but adds to the magnitude of the Russian loss. Nineteen battleships and three destroyers have now been authentically reported as sunk or captured. Three, the cruiser Almaz, torpedo-boat destroyer Grozny, and a hospital ship, have managed to straggle to Vladivostok, and three others, the Aurora, Oleg and Jemtchug, have reached Manila, so badly damaged that their pumps have been kept going continually to keep them afloat. A Russian torpedo-boat with 180 men on board has arrived at Shanghai. All the others, so far as known, have fallen into possession of the Japanese.

The story of the encounter, as told by the survivors on the Almaz, would seem to indicate that it might well be termed the Battle of the Torpedoes. Admiral Togo, it appears, held his position steadily in the vicinity of the Straits, refusing to be lured away, until warned by wireless messages that the Russian fleet was approaching. When the opportune moment came he pursued forward and opened a terrific fire on the flank of the port column. Steadily, systematically, he pressed the whole division toward the Japanese coast, then, as evening fell, the torpedo boats—the "mosquito fleet"—did their work. Out they came in swarms, pressing round the big battleships in every direction, and aided to some extent by a fog which partially concealed their movements. One after another the great vessels foundered and went down, while now and then was heard a terrific explosion, which told that a magazine had become ignited, or that a submarine mine was doing its deadly work. Presently Admiral Rojestvensky's flagship, the Kniaz Souvaroff, was seen to tremble from stem to stern, then to settle slowly into the waves, leaving her crew struggling helplessly in the water. Rojestvensky, severely wounded, was lowered from the sinking vessel into a destroyer, which was afterwards captured. At all events, to him has been accorded the credit of being taken while fighting bravely at his post. Nebogatoff's surrender, on the contrary, is looked upon as a disgrace. Cut off from the rest of the fleet by the slower movement of his vessels, he, it seems, turned and fled, followed by swift Japanese cruisers, which succeeded in overtaking him near the Liancourt Rocks. Of his five vessels, four surrendered; the other made good its escape. Nebogatoff and Voelkersam are both among the 3,000 Russian prisoners. Upon the day following the battle, boats and wreckage kept drifting in all day to the shore, even the debris being covered with clinging and exhausted men, many of whom were badly wounded.

As yet the Japanese losses have not been published, although it is known that two at least of her vessels were sunk.

The Czar has been prostrated by the news, but in