

BEEES AND POULTRY.**POULTRY AND BEES.****BILL OF FARE FOR EGG PRODUCTION.**

"Fanny Field" reports her methods of feeding to the *Prairie Farmer* as follows:—

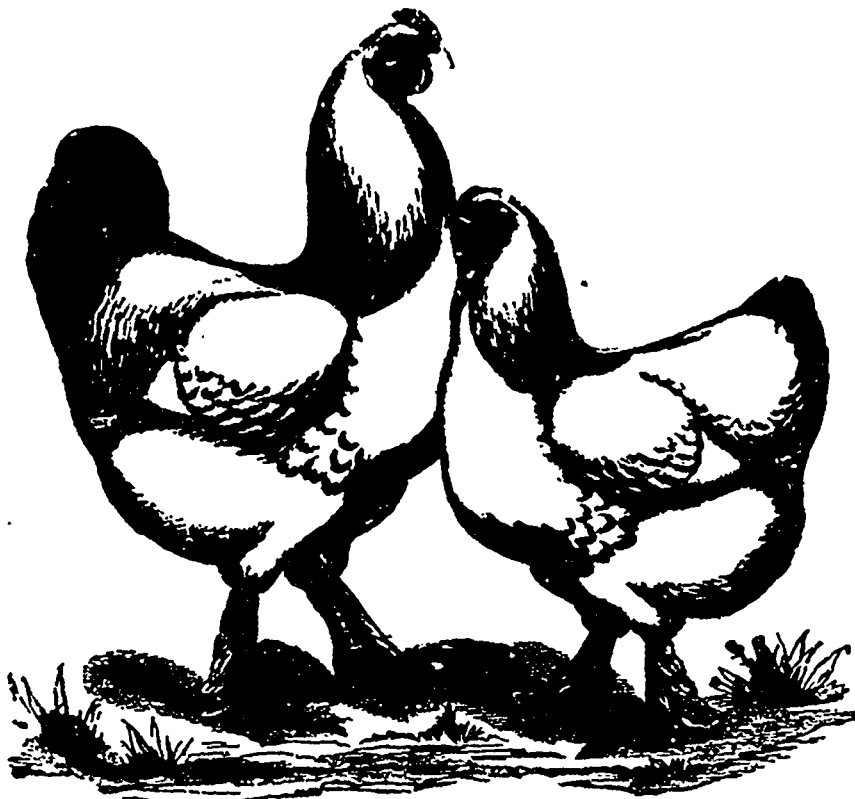
"My way of feeding fowls in winter—and it works wonderfully well—is to give them a warm breakfast every morning as soon as they can see to eat, a few handfuls of grain at noon, and a full feed of grain at night. The warm breakfast is made of vegetables, turnips, beets, carrots or potatoes, boiled and mashed up with wheat bran; or oatmeal scalded with skim milk; or refuse from the kitchen boiled up and soup thickened with bran; and when sweet apples are plenty, we boil them and mix with cornmeal—sometimes one and sometimes another; we don't believe in feeding one thing all the time, and the hens don't believe in it either. I don't think that my biddies need the noon feed because they are hungry, but I give it to them to make them scratch for exercise, and to keep them out of mischief. I scatter it around among the litter under the shed and let them dig it out. This 'lunch' is generally oats or buckwheat, and once in a while sunflower seed. At night I generally feed corn, but if I could get wheat cheap enough, I should feed that at least half of the time. My fowls have water or milk by them all the time, and green food is supplied by fastening cabbage heads up where the fowls can help themselves. Sometimes, when somebody has time to attend to it, we give them a change of green food in the shape of raw turnips or sweet apples chopped fine.

"Two winters ago I took a new departure on the meat question, and now, instead of fussing to cook it, and deal it out a little at a time I hang up a piece and let the fowls eat all they want. When they have meat within reach all the time, there is not the slightest danger of their eating too much. I get cheap meat from the butcher, and I am sure I am paid twice over for the outlay. Crushed oyster shells, gravel, charcoal, and crushed raw bones are kept in the houses all the time. This bone is an excellent thing for fowls, and would be the last article of food that I would think of dropping from my biddies' bill of fare. When the crushed oyster-shell cannot be obtained, lime in some other shape will do just as well. One of my neighbours had two of the rooms in his home plastered this fall, and he saved all the old plaster for his hens. The poultry raisers who neglected to get a supply of gravel under cover before the ground froze up, must do the next best thing—feed their broken dishes to their fowls. Break them into bits of a suitable size, and it will do just as well as gravel. I believe in salting all the soft food, and I used to put in a dash of pepper, sometimes mustard or ginger, once in

a while, and I honestly thought the fowls were benefited thereby; but doubts are creeping in, and I am very much inclined to drop everything except the salt."

WINTERING BEES.

Mr. J. B. Hall, of Woodstock, one of our most successful bee-keepers, writes the *Canadian Farmer*, under date of December 1st, 1881, on the above subject, as follows: "I will state that last winter I put forty-five stocks of bees into a cellar under the dwelling, and they wintered nicely. Size of repository, 12x12 feet and 6 feet high; a window 30x10 inches, which was loosely packed with straw, allowed fresh air to enter, but excluded all light, the sash of which I opened and closed to regulate the temperature. Near the top of the cellar was a ventilator about six inches each way; a three-inch pipe from the cellar floor to stove-pipe above to take off foul air. The glass registered from 38° to 48°. In the same repository I put 114 stocks on November 10th, and they were very uneasy. On the 19th I



LIGHT BRAHMAS.

cut a 10x10 inch ventilator near the top of the cellar to let off the hot air, and since that date all has been well. The highest the glass has been was 54° at the top and 50° at the bottom, and at these figures bees are quiet. I like the temperature as near 44° as I can keep it. The bees in my bee-house seem all O. K."

THE LIGHT AND DARK BRAHMAS.

The Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission contains a useful chapter on "Poultry and Eggs." From it we glean the following:—

The dark Brahmas are preferred by Mr. Doel, but the light Brahmas are the choice of Mr. John Plummer. He says:—

"I tried twenty-eight varieties of fowls and ducks together, and out of the different varieties of fowls I selected the light Brahmas. Living in the city, and having small yards or gardens, I required fowls that would not only be profitable, but that would stand confinement and not trouble my neighbours, and those qualities I found in the light Brahmas.

"If I were in the country, or had a farm, I would cross them with the Games, which would make a hardier fowl, and one that would forage more for itself, while at the same

time it would be as good a layer, and better for the table, though not quite so large.

"The white Brahmas are good setters as well as layers, and for those who wish to raise poultry extensively they are good fowls."

"I would cross them with the Game for raising chickens. If the Dorkings are crossed with the Game, the result is a good fowl. Poultry-raising, if properly conducted, is a profitable business. The cross of the light Brahmas and the Game would suit our climate best."

CHARCOAL AND LIME.

These two articles, says the *American Stockman*, play a very important part in the management of fowls, whether bred in a fancier's yard or on a farm. Charcoal should be liberally fed, for no one thing is more conducive to health than this. It should be broken in small lumps and put where the fowls can get at it, and they will eat it with great relish. We have seen it fed to pigs with the very best of results, and those which were treated to it were never troubled with disease or sickness, while the neighbouring ones were. This helps to prove its value, not only for swine but for fowls. Where the birds are kept in confinement it is a very good plan to

keep a small trough in a sheltered place, full of small bits of charcoal, and the fowls will soon learn to help themselves.

The value of lime in the form of whitewash is well known, and the ones who use it liberally are the ones who keep their flocks healthy and cleanly. To render whitewash more effective in dislodging, driving away and destroying lice and other parasitic nuisances, the addition of a little carbolic acid is invaluable, for scarcely anything else is so distasteful to the vermin. For material for egg-shells, oyster-shell lime is the best.

WEIGHT OF TURKEYS.

Farmers frequently have occasion to sell turkeys by live weight, and wish to know what is the fair relative price between live and dead weight. In turkeys for the New York

market, where the blood and feathers only are removed, the loss is very small. For the Eastern markets the heads are taken off and the entrails are taken out. This makes a loss of nearly one-tenth in the weight. A large gobbler was recently killed, weighing 31½ pounds. After bleeding and picking he weighed 29½ lbs., a loss of two pounds, or one-fifteenth. When ready for the spit he weighed 28½ lbs., a loss of three and one-quarter pounds, which is nearly one-tenth of the weight. When the markets require the New York style of dressing, the price is fifteen cents a pound, live weight, or less, if the labour of dressing be counted anything. In the other style of dressing, if the price were twenty cents, the farmer could sell for eighteen cents or less, live weight, without loss. Farmers who never tested the loss of weight in dressing often submit to the deduction of three or four cents a pound for the middlemen, who are interested in making this large difference.