

accordingly. A poultry keeper must take an interest in what he is doing, if he wants to make it a profitable and pleasant occupation.

Farmers may hatch all the chickens they have range and time to care for, when they raise for market only. But whether fancier, or farmer, breeder for fancy feathers and form, don't undertake too much.

Hatch all chickens you want before May 1st if possible, as the pullets will then begin to lay early in the fall, when eggs command the highest price.

Skim milk is excellent for young chickens, either used instead of water for drink, or in mixing with soft feed.

If the mother hen has free range, lice give little trouble: we hear little complaint from farmers' wives as to the destruction of chicks by lice.

The purpose of not giving roosts to chicks before four months old, is to prevent crooked breast-bones, caused by roosting and resting the breast-bone on hard roosts while young and pliable. Make nests deep, have them so constructed that the hens must get down into them, and they cannot then eat their eggs. A hen only attempts to eat eggs when she can get at them conveniently, and she wants plenty of room for that purpose. Darkened nests will do much toward preventing the egg-eating habit. The use of plenty china rest eggs is an additional aid. Farmers, one hundred well cared for, well fed, well grown, healthy, hardy, handsome chicks is better than three hundred scrubs—scrubs because half fed, poorly attended, and crowded for range by day, and roosts by night.

ROBT. CRAWFORD, Canboro, Ont., writes:—I intend to do all I can for the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL. I read every number and study its pages thoroughly. The JOURNAL is a book which every farmer should take.

Horticultural.

For the CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL
The Garden of the Farm.

By Mrs. ANNIE L. JACK.

A lady of an observing turn of mind once said to me, "Show me the dooryard and I will tell you the character of the inhabitants." We were passing, at the time, through a village where gay flower beds told of the taste, or want of taste of the different families, and I answered: "Show me the fruit and vegetable garden and I can tell the *cuisine* of the family."

It is for this reason that I am about to write for the benefit of many readers how a farmer may have a garden without much extra labor, and enjoy all the luxuries in their season. There is surely a piece of land near the house suitable for this purpose. It can be plowed as for an ordinary field, harrowed and marked off into rows—wide enough apart to be worked by single plow and cultivator. We have ours twelve feet apart, divided by fruit trees or bushes every twenty-four feet. Vegetables and fruits thrive just as well in rows as in little square beds, that require digging and constant hoeing, besides, the former are more easily managed with little more trouble than field culture. I do not think any one would care to put field peas on their table after eating the "American Wonder"—or field corn after the toothsome "Early Minnesota." Does it look afar off while the frost is in the ground, and the snow

covers the earth? Then prepare by studying the best methods of culture, the best seeds and plants suited to your climate and conditions. There are many catalogues to be had by application, and one can spend some profitable time comparing them, and deciding on their respective merits. To begin with vegetables, one has wide range of choice, and has only to select the best "early" and "late" to keep up a supply of peas, beans, and corn. Wethersfield onion-seed, "Egyptian turnip" beet, "Student" parsnip, half short carrot, "Sandringham or Turnees" dwarf white celery, which can be planted on the ground after early peas come off. A bed of herbs may be made where thyme and sage savory and marigolds with a bordering of parsley will furnish garnishing and soup flavoring for the season. The "Beauty of Hebron" is the best early potato—I have tried them side by side with other early kinds, and find them an advance of three days over all except the old kidney potato, now rarely met with. Cauliflower, cabbage, tomato and egg plants are better raised in a hot-bed. It is not much labor where manure is plentiful, to place a cart-load or two in some sunny protected corner—let it heat for three days, then sift on some earth, and have a sash ready to put on. When the earth feels warm to the touch—just as you would like to put in seeds in spring out of doors—put in your seeds. A little attention to watering and airing will give you a full supply of these vegetables to set out in the latter part of May. I have grown all these things, however, in a garden row, sown just at the time of putting in onion seed, filling the ground with turnips in July after the plants were all transplanted, but they are rather late. Squashes are a treat, but take up a great deal of room for the vines to spread. I know an old lady who grows them successfully every year behind the little stable where she keeps her cow—the ground there being very rich and warm, and hence well suited to the needs of this riotous vegetable. If there are children in the house let them each take a vegetable to make a specialty, and if there is a county fair, let them enter for prizes whether they win or not. A little nine-year old girl at my elbow showed beets last year, and her second-prize money of one dollar is more valued than if it had been a gift to her, for it is prize money and she earned it. And here I would speak a word for the children at our shows and larger exhibitions. Surely something might be done for them to inculcate a taste for horticulture among them, and to encourage in them a love for flowers and other products of the soil, that would help them to a higher appreciation of nature's gifts, and how best to cultivate them. Window gardening should be encouraged, and all attempts to beautify and adorn a home. I should not like to live in a house, and call it a home unless the "dooryard" had some shade trees, and a bit of lawn, be it ever so small, that the children can call a play-ground, where one can sit at eventide, and enjoy the sunset, and the fresh sweet summer air. Land is so cheap, and trees grow so rapidly—flowering shrubs of such beauty and fragrance can be had for a mere trifle, that it is a wonder one sees so often the bare denuded houses without even a "laylock" bush to send forth its sweetest fragrance in May time.

As to fruit, of which I will write later, no farmer can enjoy the full benefit of his privilege, as landholder, unless he has a crop of the daintiest, and most perfect fruit of all varieties, for his table. A centre piece of luscious strawberries, grapes or pears, rosy apples, or other fruit in its season, is a better appetizer in hot weather than the "stalled ox." So in this, as in subsequent articles, when I may write of "fruit," my advice and motto is "*plant*."

Farmers' Daughters' Column.

Our New Department.

So gratifying has been the success of our "Young Stockman's Department" that we have been lead to believe through this experience that a department devoted in a practical way to the interests of our farmers' daughters would be as warmly appreciated and encouraged by them; for it is an opinion of ours that they are fully as enthusiastic in other matters of the farm and garden as the boys are in their special spheres of work. Our idea conforms with the wave of public opinion in favor of the practical education of the girls of the day, which now so strongly sweeps over all civilized lands. It is not our intention to pander to present vanities, but to be an agent in reform, and at the outset we wish it to be understood that this department is not to be devoted to the discussing of the latest fashions and other like material, which abound so lavishly in most other periodicals, but it shall be founded and conducted on the principle that our girls of the farm are capable of grappling with the questions of the garden and the farm. We hold that it is no more the province of an agricultural paper to keep its lady readers informed on the latest styles of dresses in Paris than it is to keep the brothers and fathers posted on the latest cut of coat in Toronto.

This idea of conducting a department on such lines is original with us, and it has grown out of the principle at all times in our minds of making our paper an energetic business periodical, that all may find within its pages matter that has to do with the various questions that crop up in a useful every-day life, and not such as may appeal to the frivolous phases of our work. We rely freely on the good sense of our farmers' daughters to enable us to make it a complete success, and we, in turn, hope to supply them, through themselves, with wholesome mental food, which, if digested, will nourish their minds so that they may have a stronger grasp on the different phases of their work, and live a more useful and more enjoyable life.

As before stated, we shall conduct this column on like lines to that of the "Young Stockman's Department," offering prizes for essays on such practical subjects as we think our farmers' daughters are or should be well informed upon, as, for instance, the treating of the different questions that arise about poultry, or those of the garden.

For next month's competition, the following are the subjects from which to choose:

(1) The feeding and care of chickens from time of hatching until prepared for market.

(2) The growing of strawberries for home use.

For our April competition, the following are the subjects from which to choose:

(1) The feeding and care of turkeys from time of hatching until ready for market.

(2) The making of butter on the farm.

For the best essay on any of the above subjects, we offer any of the following as a prize:

The Canadian Queen, one year..... \$1 00
Seeds, cuttings, or bulbs of any kind, selected
from the catalogues of any seedsmen advertising in our columns to the value of..... 1 00
Vick's Illustrated Floral Magazine..... 1 00

This list will be added to.

The essays for the March competition should reach us as early in the month of February as possible, but we shall not close the entries, owing to the shortness of notice, before the 20th of that month. For the April competition, essays must reach us on or before the 15th of March. Now, girls, let us hear from you. Prove yourselves to be possessed of as strong an ambition and of as good abilities as the boys.