

There can be no doubt about this and the bones have the advantage of containing so much lime. Where green bones are fed, less grain may be used. It is a mistake to suppose that laying stock have to be gorged with the most expensive grain in order to obtain eggs. A variety in diet is essential and with proper management that diet can be made economical. Experience will be a good guide as to what to feed and to the "happy medium" in feeding. Mills to "cut," not "grind" bones are not sold, but in case the cost might be considered as an insuperable difficulty, bone preparations are sold at moderate prices by the Fertiliser Companies. Although not desirable, it is better to burn the bones and so feed them, rather than not give any. Many farmers however have meant in fair quantity.

Another important feature of winter laying is the water, and that should be given in liberal quantity, with the chill taken off. Better still, if the poultry house is just so warm as to prevent the water from freezing. It has already been stated that a warm poultry house means economy. The food given to fowls, which shiver during the long cold winter months in a house little better than an open shed, is levied upon to keep up the animal heat. No chance for eggs in such a case.

Much space has been given to this subject because it is an important one, and more may be said about it before going on to the subject of the proper feeding and treatment of the young chicks so as to make them early market fowls and layers.

I might add that any questions in relation to the subject matter of these articles, if addressed to you or the writer, will be answered with great pleasure.

Where milk can be had, it makes one of the best poultry foods known. It may be fed to the laying stock, mixed with their soft food, or it can be given as a drink. It may be given sweet, skimmed, sour or in any shape. When sour or in curds, it will be eaten greedily mixed in the early morning meal. It will be found a valuable aid to egg production.

#### SUMMARY.

The following points will be found useful.

1. Select the best layers for the winter pens.
2. Supply the layers with bones, oyster shells and vegetables.
3. Kill the drones, for they eat the profit made by the good layers.
4. Keep the layers, if possible, in a temperature where the drinking water will not freeze.
5. The laying stock should be supplied in winter with all the material necessary for making the eggs. The best layers will generally be found to be the most active ones. The Black Minorcas are rapidly coming to the fore as winter layers.
6. Where the water is kept from freezing, it is of special advantage to the hens with large combs.
7. In cold poultry houses the food instead of going into eggs goes to keep up the animal heat.
8. Fowls divided into small colonies lay more eggs than when crowded together.
9. Keep no layer over two years, for it then moults so late that all future profit is eaten up before it commences laying.
10. Intelligent and systematic management is as necessary in the poultry department as it is in every other line of business.

#### POULTRY EXHIBITIONS.

Shows and shows, but to what purpose? *Cui bono?* Some people say poultry shows have done more harm than good, and doubtless for a while they did work injury to certain breeds of fowls. The evil, however, was, after hard fighting, made manifest, and when "the fancy" could no longer exercise its pernicious influence and its accompanying bitterness, poultry shows again proved beneficial. I was greatly surprised by the great amount of interest taken in exhibitions that have lately been held, and also by the more careful and correct judging of poultry that are specially adapted for the farmyard. There is no more visible proof of this than is afforded by the entries and adjudications in the Dorking classes; if "fine feathers make the birds," whiteness of flesh is of more consequence, and now instead of spots and "sooty" blemishes, we have white down to the tips of the toenails. This is as it should be. To bring back the fading or blotted-out characteristics of such a variety as the Dorking was in the power of the judges, and when they themselves ceased to be in the power of "the fancy" their duty was well discharged. At an agricultural show we expect our best birds to be thoroughly good and true representatives of the class in which they stand, specially when that class is supposed to be made up of useful fowls for the farm. There is outside these a wide range for the fancy to disport itself without spoiling flesh for feathers. For many years past these columns have been protesting, warning, and showing up the effects of carelessness in practical matters. Men like Mr. Harrison Weir have joined us, Mr. Tegetmeier elsewhere has rendered good service, and so it comes to pass that the mean tricks of former days, the "little" points and wranglings, are not so numerous, and if fanciful prices are more scarce, the really good article receives its fair share of commendation and obtains a just market value. W. J. P.

#### Competition of Agricultural Merit.

THIRD YEAR, 1892.

##### Report of the Judges of the Competition.

(Continued.)

##### No. 66.—W. THOMAS SMITH.

On the 7th. September, we visited the farm of Mr. Wm. Thomas Smith, New-Carlisle, Bonaventure. It contains 150 arpents, 68 of which are arable, and 75 in bush. The soil, in general, is sandy.

As we do not approve of Mr. Smith's rotation, we only gave him 2½ marks for that item. His system is: First year, oats; second year, wheat, barley, oats, and potatoes with fish-manure; third year, oats, buckwheat, with seeds and in-ploughed dung on about ¼ of the land he ploughs. He mows 3 years and pastures 3 years. We advise Mr. Smith not to plough more land than he can find manure for in the course of the rotation.

Division of the farm and fences, good. No weeds in the fields. The house is good and suitable to the family.

All the necessary buildings on the farm are not too convenient, but they

are sufficient for the stock. The implements are good and there are enough of them.

For care and preservation of manure, we grant 5 points—the maximum.

General order and management, sound: no accounts kept.

Very few permanent improvements made by Mr. Smith: only a few forest trees planted.

Stock: 1 brood mare, 1 work-horse; 5 milch-cows, 1 fattening beast, 2 2-yr.-olds, 2 yearlings, and 2 calves; 8 ewes and 8 lambs.

Crops: 1 arpent of wheat, 2 of barley, 23 of oats, 1 of buckwheat, 1½ seed timothy, ¼ of swedes, 2 of potatoes, 15 in meadow, 20 in pasture, and a garden 70 x 100 feet.

Mr. Smith having earned 67.20 marks is entitled to a diploma of Merit.

##### 67.—NAPOLÉON CATELLIER.

Our visit to the occupation of M. Napoléon Catellier, of St. Vallier, Bellechasse, was paid on the 19th. August. The farm consists of 120 arpents, of which 90 are under the plough, and 30 in bush: all heavy land.

Rotation: First year, wheat after meadow and oats after pasture, both sown down to grass. He lays 5 years and pastures 2 years. Top-dressing the second year's ley. As he ploughs every year, 50 arpents and only manures 8, his system is incorrect, as he does not manure all the land he ploughs: we therefore deduct 2 points for this item.

Fences and division of the farm are good.

As to weeds, we deduct 1 mark, since there were some daisies to be seen in the fields.

The buildings were very good; barn, stable, cowhouse, piggery and sheepshed, are well suited to the occupation and economical of labour.

Only 3 marks out of 5 for implements, as they were not complete.

Maximum of marks for increase and preservation of manure, which were perfect.

General order, good, but M. Catellier keeps no books.

Ditches sufficient in extent and well cleaned out.

Stock: 1 brood mare, 3 work-horses, 1 2-yr.-old colt; 2 bulls, 8 milch-cows, 3 fattening beasts, 4 2-yr.-olds, 3 calves; 8 ewes and 10 lambs.

Crops: 4 arpents of wheat, 50 of oats, 1 of peas, 1 of seed-timothy, ¼ of swedes, 2 of potatoes, 50 in meadow, 25 in pasture, and a garden 100 feet square.

M. Catellier wins a diploma of Merit, since we awarded him 66.50 marks.

##### No. 68.—FRANÇOIS GOSSELIN.

The 3rd. August saw us at M. François Gosselin's, at St. Victor, Tring, Beauce. This farm, composed of *terre-grise* (loam?), with a porous subsoil, contains 300 arpents, of which 130 are arable, 80 non-arable, and 90 in bush, part of which is a fine maple grove.

Only 2 marks given to M. Gosselin for his system of cultivation, of which we do not approve. Rotation: First year, on meadow, oats with seeds, to wit, 10 lbs. of timothy and 8 lbs. of alsike-clover to the arpent. He mows his meadows 4 or 5 years. He only leaves his pastures one year in oats, with grass-seeds, and feeds them 4 or 5 years. He top-dresses his meadows as soon as the hay is cut, but he does not manure all the land he ploughs. We advise M. Gosselin not

to plough up more land than he has manure for.

The fences and the division of the farm are good. As to weeds, we cut off 1 mark as there were a few daisies about. The house is some distance from the farm: it is a very suitable farm house.

The buildings are capital; the implements good, but not enough of them; we only allowed 3 marks out of the 5 for this item.

The manure is well cared for, but not increased in quantity: we deducted a half-mark for this.

Management, in general, good; still we took off a quarter-mark for some faulty work in the fields. No books kept by M. Gosselin.

Full marks allowed for stone clearing and other permanent improvements.

Stock: 3 work-horses; 1 bull, 7 milch cows, 3 2-yr. old beasts, 4 calves; 8 ewes and 10 lambs.

Crops: 12 arpents of oats, ¼ of potatoes, 60 in meadow, 50 in pasture, and a garden 30 x 40 feet.

M. Gosselin, having obtained 66.50 marks, is entitled to a diploma of Merit.

##### No. 69.—ADOLPHE BEAULÉ.

We inspected the farm of M. Adolphe Beaulé, of St. Vital, Lambton, Beauce, on the 4th. August. It consists of 105 arpents, 55 arable, 22 in pasture, and 28 in bush; the soil being composed of *terre grise and jaune*, with a porous subsoil.

Rotation: First year, after meadow, oats or wheat, after pasture, oats; second year, oats were there was wheat; he sows oats, buckwheat with 5 lbs. of clover and 6 lbs. of timothy to the acre, with in-ploughed dung; where oats followed pasture, he sows oats and buckwheat with seeds, without manure on the land ploughed for the first time. Hays for 3 to 4 years, pastures for 3 to 6 years. He manures ¼ of the land he ploughs. His system is good, but because ¼ of his land gets no manure, we deduct one mark for this item.

The division of the farm is pretty good, still, we deduct half a mark.

The fences are of wood and well kept up, and there are no weeds about the farm.

The house is good, but the other farm-buildings are old and by no means fit for their purposes; so M. Beaulé is to put up new ones.

The implements are well cared for and almost enough in number.

Maximum of points allowed for increase and preservation of manure, which are perfect.

General condition, except the buildings, good. M. Beaulé keeps no books.

Nine marks out of 15 given to M. Beaulé for permanent improvements.

Stock: 1 brood-mare, 1 work-horse; 1 bull, 6 cows, 3 fattening beasts, 3 calves; 1 ram, 6 ewes and 6 lambs.

Crops: 1 arpent of wheat, 15 of oats, 1 of buckwheat, 1 of seed-timothy, ¼ of swedes, ¼ of potatoes, 25 in meadow, 28 in pasture, and a garden of 1 arpent.

The number of marks, 66.45, accorded to M. Beaulé entitle him to a diploma of Merit.

##### No. 70.—F. LEBLANC.

Our visit to M. François Leblanc of Ste. Monique, Nicolet, took place 11th. July. This farm contains 275 arpents, of which 190 are arable, and 85 in bush, the soil being clay, with an occasional occurrence of bog-earth.

Rotation: First year, wheat, oats, peas, and a mixture of peas and oats