

attack comes on anew every fifteen or twenty days, and affects the birds equally in winter and in summer?

5. I am advised to keep only young hens of 4 or 5 years old. how can I recognize them?

6. I hear of a coop for fattening fowls: how is it made, and what are the dimensions.

ANSWERS.—1. "Bliss's American Wonder" is the best dwarf pea in existence. I sowed a peck last year - April 27th—in the very poorest sand, and gathered them on the 24th June. In a garden, they may be set a foot apart as to the rows, but in the rows the space should be sown very thickly. Evans, 93 McGill Street, furnishes me with all my seed: out of the peck mentioned above, there were not five pease untrue to sort.

2. *Boston curled*, is evidently the kind of lettuce you speak of. In England, except for forcing, the only lettuce used for salads is one or other of the *Cos* sort; the best of which *Sutton's self-closing*, and even this is all the better for being tied up for ten days. It is useless to attempt to grow lettuce unless the land is as rich as it can be made—lots of water and liquid manure. Ask Mr. Barnard, D. A., about my lettuces, if you see him!

3. Eighty hens, for the production of eggs only, will do with the companionship of one cock amongst them. If you mean to breed fowls for the table, one cock will be required for six hens; the strength of the young ones will pay for the father's food. This is the rule of our Surrey farmers who supply the London market with the fine poultry only seen at the best tables. I have paid as much as \$4.00 a couple for them to take down to "The Derby."

3. The disease in question is evidently the *pip*: the cure is said to be, a few drops of *ipeacuanhu wine*, two or three times a day; but all diseases of poultry arise from bad management. People persist, in spite of remonstrance, in keeping a large stock year after year in the same place and running over the same confined space, until the very air itself stinks of them, and then wonder at their birds not being healthy! In winter, poultry must necessarily occupy the warmest part of the stable, but in summer, their runs should be changed as often as possible. We have, in England small hen-houses, to hold a dozen hens and a couple of cocks, which are moved about from place to place. With regard to medical treatment applied to the diseases of poultry, the nostrums and mode of treatment adopted and recommended by books on the subject are a farrago of nonsense and absurdity. If shelter, warmth, food, and cleanliness, will not preserve them in health, but little reliance can be placed upon medicine. Fowls ought always to be in fair condition, except of course after moulting, and the moment any of them show signs of ill health, their ticks should be winged.

5. No hens should be kept after two years old. The pullets that lay this spring—hatch of 184—should rear a brood in 1886 and then be cooked. Simmer them in a *ban-marie* for three hours, and then roast them till brown, with copious basting. They are not bad, if well done, but they must not boil.

6. Any small coop, provided the dung can drop from it easily, will do for fattening fowls. The French coop is by no means new, as I saw it in use in South-Wales (at Wenae Castle) fifty years ago! Mr. Chapais gives the measurement as follows (v. French Journal for Jan. 1885, p. 14): The coop is to be 9½ inches wide, 13½ high, and 20½ deep. The bottom is made of round bars an inch wide and an inch apart, so that the droppings fall easily through; the front is made of a plank in which a hole is made large enough to allow the hen to pass its head and neck through without difficulty. One side should slide up and down to admit the bird. Fattening mixture: 2-lbs. barley meal 1 lb oatmeal, ½ lb. fat, ¼ lb.

coarse sugar or molasses. The birds should be kept dry, clean, dark, and warm. Trough outside the coop divided in two for food and drink. A box of ashes or earth under each coop to catch the droppings.

A. R. J. F.

THE SALE OF HEREFORDS AT STOCKTONBURY.—Considerable surprise has been caused in Herefordshire by announcements that the renowned Hereford bull Lord Wilton and thirteen heifers, and a bull calf of which that animal is sire, are to be again sold by auction by the former vendor, as the bills say, "in consequence of their not having been paid for by Mr. Henry Vaughan, their purchaser at the recent Stocktonbury sale." Lord Wilton was sold in the autumn to Mr. Vaughan (of the firm of Orr, Vaughan, and Co., U. S. A.) for 3800 gs., Mr. Rankin, M. P., for Leominster, being the next highest bidder at 3750 gs. The heifers also fetched fancy prices. Much regret was expressed that the bull had been allowed to be bought for America. Why the animals have not been taken away is not made public. Resold last month for £1,050!

THE MODEL COW.

One Satisfactory Breed.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—The "general purpose" cow, so long sought by those who have done the least to improve the native stock with which nobody is quite satisfied, is not here or elsewhere. Perfection in animal structure, such as will produce the highest results in converting food into beef, is antagonistic to the best results in turning food into milk, cream and butter. Hence, the more perfect the beef animal, the less the milk. This is an age of strong competition; no one shop can succeed in turning out work which a half-dozen can do cheaper and better. The cow that is the most successful as a beef-maker cannot well compete as a milk and butter producer. The hope of a general purpose cow which will combine in one animal all the capabilities of these specialists may as well be dismissed.

The model cow, however, is already in the field. She may be found in the Shorthorn, Hereford and Polled Angus for beef: the Holland and Ayrshire for milk and cheese; and in the Guernsey and Jersey for rich milk, cream and butter. Good butter-makers undoubtedly exist among Short Horns Now and then a profitable beef animal may be found among the Holland or Ayrshire cattle, or any of the breeds. Even the natives do as well. The objection to the "common cow" is that she is inferior, as a rule, for any of the purposes for which a cow is wanted. Her ancestors are mixed, and as she breeds like herself or like some of her ancestors, the result is too uncertain; she must be bred up, or discarded. No capitalist who has invested in a western ranche will send to it a herd of Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, or even perhaps Holland cattle, with a view to make beef, his chief product. Shorthorn, Hereford and Polled Angus bulls are superseding all others on the western plains. The men engaged in beef-making on a large scale are very discriminating in their choice of machinery. The greatest amount of beef in the fewest years is what they seek. The cost and quantity of food necessary to make a pound of beef is an element that will more largely enter into their calculations whenever they are compelled to raise or pay for the food which their animals consume. Then, they may aid in deciding which of the beef bulls has a decided advantage, if either has it. One fat steer will not decide which is the superior as a breed.

Of the dairy breeds, the Guernsey should command more ge-