

apt to leave the house entirely too damp for the coming season. It would be better done in the spring or summer.

Egg-eating and Its Cause.

How often are we apt, in our short-sighted way, to blame our stock for certain bad practices or condition, when the fault really lies in our own defective management. No greater instance of this occurs than in the case of egg-eating, for, although a bird may in time become a confirmed egg-eater, and no amount of attention will prevent the habit, except abstracting the eggs from the nest immediately they are laid, yet in the first case it is invariably induced by a natural craving for something which is not within the bird's reach.

Now, this craving, says an Australian exchange, is, in most cases, for lime, with which to form the shell of the egg. Lime is found in both animal and vegetable foods consumed by birds when in a wild state, and possibly under such conditions sufficient is obtained, or nearly sufficient, without recourse to mineral matter, for the original wild hen laid, perhaps, 25 to 30 eggs per annum, instead of the six or eight times as many which we would fain have her produce now. And even then she could roam over a large extent of ground, where she could pick up numberless bits of limestone, quartz, or broken shells, which helped to supply the small drain on her system. But our hens have a limited field, which has, in most cases, been searched and searched again for shell material, which is, therefore, hard to obtain, and the consequence is that we find soft or thin shelled eggs, that such eggs are involuntarily dropped, or—worse of all—that some are picked, or are altogether destroyed.

In most cases the real evil begins before this stage is reached. Just as the frame of the cow becomes weakened to provide the lime constituent in milk for her offspring, so does the constitution of the hen become exhausted to provide material for coating the egg; and is it any wonder that she endeavors to satisfy her craving for this constituent by attacking the egg itself? Then she finds out that the contents are appetizing; that they also supply protein—of which she may also be in need—and so the habit grows upon her of picking at her own and other eggs, and she becomes a confirmed egg-eater.

We cannot tell exactly when the hens are first in want of lime, nor can we gauge the exact quantity they require. More is required with some kinds of food than with others, and especially is there a great demand when the hen is in full laying, or just before she commences to lay. A tin or box, rather deep than flat, so as to prevent scratching, can be attached to the fence or side of the house, and a good supply of grit always kept in it. It will want looking to very frequently at this time of year, for it is wonderful how it will disappear when hens are in full laying.

Grit, as grit—that is, an aid to digestion—always plays its part in the formation of egg-

shell, even when, as in the case of flint, glass or crockery, it contains no lime. But though silicon has no place in the shell, it is often a mechanical aid to digestion, and enables the hen to extract from other food the lime constituents that she so much needs. In fact, the first essential to sound eggs is good digestion, and the next the necessary material for formation of the egg-shell.

The Sheffield Egg Market.

Eggs are from 2s. to 3s. a great hundred (10 dozen) dearer than they were at the corresponding period last year. The best foreign eggs are larger than the same kind of eggs produced in this country. The recently-issued returns show that the imports for the first nine months of this year were 1,631,418,120 single eggs, costing £4,855,720. English eggs, as a rule, are cheaper than foreign eggs of the same quality, the latter being larger and more carefully graded.

A very large part of the Canadian eggs shipped into north England go to Sheffield, which is one of the best egg markets in Great Britain; in fact, there are many more eggs sold in Sheffield annually than in any town in Great Britain (outside of London).

This has long been taken advantage of by English egg-shippers, and it is said that there is no home firm of any repute which is not represented in Sheffield. The popular demand in Sheffield is for small-sized eggs, either glycerined or direct from cold storage. Sheffield's working classes form such a large proportion of the population that it makes it an excellent market for small-sized eggs of good quality at cheap prices.

Fresh Air for Turkeys.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The scarcity of our great festive birds should stimulate all producers to do their best to overcome the difficulties in their culture, for they are very profitable at present prices. Even at a considerable reduction in prices they would pay, but the probability of lower prices is not very great. One thing turkeys can endure is fresh air—outdoor roosting; the higher the wind and the lower the temperature, the more inclined are they to roost upon the highest object in sight. When permitted to roost in the open and receive their food in a shed, breeding stock seldom have any troubles. If the breeders are hardened and sound in constitution, half the battle is won in raising the young, for they will be sound and strong to begin life.

It is a bad practice to allow turkeys to frequent the henhouse, and especially to roost therein. Besides being too cramped and confined for their health, they are objectionable where one is trying to obtain a profit from the hens. The latter will not do well where they are constantly disturbed and fought back by the turkeys.

In Manitoba turkeys winter well and maintain excellent health in an old straw shed where the thermometer ranges as low as 30 or 40 de-

grees below zero. This I had the privilege of observing during more than one winter. In fact, on the coldest night the old tom would insist upon roosting on the ridge-board of the highest roof on the place. So we need not be afraid, in this country, of their freezing, but, on the contrary, all the exposure they can get here is no more than a tonic to the constitution, which is so indispensable.

The only thing to guard against is irregularity. For instance, if they are housed during fall, and become accustomed to indoor life, it would be unsafe to permit of them being out in a cold storm. The better way is not to let them become used to housing, but to preserve their natural hardiness. In their native haunts they have no warm and fancy houses.

J. R. H.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Ornamental Hedges: What to Plant.

The two best evergreens for a hedge are White Cedar or American Arbor Vitæ and Hemlock (*Abies Canadensis*). These make a fine hedge, and are close and compact when well and properly pruned, and far superior to Norway Spruce, which so many attempt to make into a hedge. Norway Spruce is excellent for a wind-break, but does not stand pruning well. The California Privet and also the Chinese Privet are both very suitable for hedges, and in some respects more desirable. These can be kept to any height, and cut back if necessary, or down even to the ground, and they will immediately come up again. You cannot do this with either the cedar or hemlock. The foliage of both these Privets is very fine, and remains fresh and green well on into the winter. In planting a hedge, set the plants nine inches to a foot apart, preparing a good bed before planting, so that they will be thrifty. We often see hedges that are starving for plant food. A well-kept hedge should be pruned every year. The evergreens should be allowed to grow just a little higher and wider every year. When pruning, use a pair of pruning shears, and don't attempt to prune without a line to guide you. Don't let them get too wide, and give the top a roof shape, slanting each way about the same as one-third to one-fourth pitch for a roof. A neat, well-kept hedge adds very much to the appearance of a farmhouse or town property. A neat and tasty combination would be cedar or hemlock for the sides and Privet for the front or along the roadside. The plants can be bought very reasonably from any good nurseryman. In ordering, get your plants about a foot to fifteen inches high, and, if well planted and cared for, you will soon have a nice hedge. Don't fail to mulch well after planting with strawy manure, and keep well mulched for a couple of years. After that they will take care of themselves. J. S. PEARCE, London, Ont. Parks Supt.



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