

Poultry.

Poultry Notes.

MANAGEMENT OF HENS IN WINTER.

To begin with, I take it for granted that the fowls are in a comfortable house, but if you have neglected to attend to this very important part of the work, you had better do so at once. This wintering fowls in a house where the cracks are so large and numerous that the cold comes right through in big slices, and the roof so dilapidated that they can study astronomy on clear nights without going out of doors, is a piece of unpardonable shiftlessness, and the farmer who keeps fowls in such places ought to be indicted for cruelty to animals. What do I call a comfortable poultry-house? One in which the inside temperatures keep above the freezing point, even though the mercury outside drops to a cipher. Such houses go a long way toward inducing hens to lay in winter, when eggs command the highest price. "Artificial heat?" No, I don't believe in artificial heat except for raising early chicks. Fowls that are kept in artificially warmed houses are very sensitive to cold, and suffer from the least exposure to the cold outer air.

HOW TO FEED.

The next thing is the food. Every morning about as soon as they can see to eat, the fowls should have a warm breakfast of boiled vegetables mixed up with wheat bran and cornmeal. But don't feed the same thing every morning from now until warm weather; experience has taught me that hens lay most when fed upon a great variety of food. Potatoes, turnips, apples, carrots, pumpkins, squashes, celery tops, scraps from the table, anything of the kind when properly cooked will be greedily devoured and turned to good account. Our way of preparing this feed is to boil the potatoes, or whatever happens to be on the bill of fare at the time, until soft enough to mash easily, and then thoroughly mix with enough bran and cornmeal—two parts of bran to one of meal—to make a stiff mess; this is seasoned slightly with salt and pepper and fed warm. Sometimes we scald wheat bran and middlings with hot skim milk, and feed for a change; and again we boil up refuse meat, take out the bones and thicken the soup with bran and meal. This is superior egg food. An hour or two after breakfast we scatter among the litter in the shade a few handfuls of oats, sunflower seeds, wheat or buckwheat, sometimes one thing and sometimes another. This is given more to amuse the hens and keep them scratching than anything else. At noon they get a light feed of oats, wheat or buckwheat, and at night a full feed of corn or wheat—corn most of the time, and always when the weather is extremely cold. Corn digests slowly, and is therefore just the thing to "stand by" during the long, cold winter nights.

RAW BONE AND OTHER STUFF.

Besides all this, we give our fowls raw bone, a pint to every dozen fowls, three times a week; and on the other days the same allowance of meat, raw or cooked, unless we have plenty of milk. When there is milk enough to go around, no meat is given; and when we have sunflower seed to give a little every day less meat is given. Sunflower seed is rich in oil, and will take the place of meat to a certain extent. Water or milk is kept by the fowls throughout the day; cabbage heads are kept fastened where they can help

themselves at any time, and the boxes for gravel and crushed oyster shells are never allowed to get empty. "A good deal of work!" Yes, lots of it; but then there is nothing particularly hard about it, and it is work that pays. If you don't believe it, just try it awhile and report when the returns begin to come in.—[Fannie Field, in *Prairie Farmer*.]

Standard Weight of Fowls.

All pure bred fowls that have been admitted to the American standard of excellence are required to reach certain weights, and when on exhibition, for every pound below these weights, the specimen is cut two points, says the *American Farmer*. A pullet is a female not one year old, a cockerel is a male not one year old, a cock is a male one year old and over, and a hen is one year old and over. Of the most popular varieties the weights are as follows: Light Brahma cock, 12 lbs., cockerel 10 lbs., hen 10 lbs., and pullet 8 lbs. Dark Brahmas, cock 11 lbs., cockerel 9 lbs., hen 9 lbs., pullet 7½ lbs. Buff Cochins, cock 11 lbs., cockerel 9 lbs., hen 9 lbs., pullet 7½ lbs. Partridge Cochins, cock 11 lbs., cockerel 9 lbs., hen 9 lbs., pullet 7½ lbs. White Cochins, cock 11 lbs., cockerel 9 lbs., hen 9 lbs., pullet 7½ lbs. Black Cochins, cock 10½ lbs., cockerel 8½ lbs., hen 8½ lbs., pullet 7 lbs. Langshans, cock 10 lbs., cockerel 8½ lbs., hen 8 lbs., pullet 6½ lbs. Plymouth Rocks, cock 9½ lbs., cockerel 8 lbs., hen 8 lbs., pullet 6½ lbs. Wyandottes, cock 8½ lbs., cockerel 7½ lbs., hen 6½ lbs., pullet 5½ lbs. Black Javas, cock 10 lbs., cockerel 8½ lbs., hen 8 lbs., pullet 6½ lbs. Houdans, cock 7½ lbs., cockerel 6½ lbs., hen 6½ lbs., pullet 5½ lbs. The different Bantams run, cocks 26 ounces, cockerel 24 ounces, hen 24 ounces, pullet 22 ounces.

The Leghorn family does not come under the weight clause, but the males should weigh about five pounds and the females four, when matured. Some specimens run over these weights, but it is best not to let them go much under.

The cattle quarantined on suspicion of pleuropneumonia at Chicago appear to be more likely to die of old age than of the dreaded disease.—[Colorado Field and Farm. They call the disease contagious, yet it does not spread. Young or thrifty animals do not take it. May be they keep well from pure cussedness.—[Texas Inter-Republics. The pleuro-pneumonia canard will go on record, soon or late, as one of the biggest conspiracies ever gotten up by the boodlers.—[Drovers' Journal. It is reasonable to assume that a combination of men employed at per diem wages will resort to schemes. A pleuro-pneumonia scare in Chicago is a bonanza for them, and the agitation is worked to perfection.—[Pittsburg Herald. We have never been in any humor for submitting to the *ipse dixit* of these veterinarians, simply because they claim knowledge which we are morally certain they do not possess.—[American Dairyman. If real malignant contagious pleuro-pneumonia had existed in the Jersey herds of this State in 1884, as the alleged veterinarians then declared, it would have destroyed the cattle industry of Illinois.—[Chicago Journal. The veterinarians and their allies, a crowd of pauper politicians, are using great efforts to make the most of the "outbreak." Congress is to be appealed to for a million or two, and so large a sum is worth manufacturing evidence for on a grand scale.—[Kentucky Home and Farm,

The Apiary.

Are Bees a Nuisance?

[By W. H. Weston.]

An important case that has engaged the attention of Canadian beekeepers, and one which is likely to effect this most important industry, is now before the courts in Canada. It appears that a beekeeper named Joseph Harrison, of Southamton, Ont., has been proceeded against by a neighbor, and an injunction asked for to restrain him from keeping bees in the town. The neighbor is a blacksmith named McIntosh, and he asserts that the bees came into his shop and stung the horses standing in the shop, and also that they came into the dwelling house and annoyed the inmates. The case came before a jury at the assizes which were held in the town of Walkerton, Bruce County, and Judge O'Connor very properly declined to grant the injunction, but reserved it for discussion before a full court. Had he issued an injunction in this case it would have established a most dangerous precedent, and one which would be always an annoyance to beekeeping. This industry has always been considered a business that should be encouraged, and when we take into consideration the immense advantages derived by fruit growers by having the blossoms fertilized by the honey bees, we can hardly decide against them, should a citizen get stung once a year. That they are not usually so aggressive, I will mention a case in point. Mr. John McKimmie, of Lisle, Ont., has been in the habit of keeping bees on his property, which is adjoining the public school grounds, with an open board fence between the two yards, and although the boys had been playing ball during the summer, and frequently a half dozen were over the fence and among the bee-hives looking for the ball, he has yet to learn of one person having been stung. Another case is where a very prominent apiarist, Mr. Allen Pringle, of Selby, Ont., has kept over one hundred colonies, and quite near the public road, with only a picket fence between, and he never knew of a horse being stung while passing along the road or hitched up in front of the apiary.

Honey is used in a great many places instead of sugar, and in Europe bee-keeping is greatly encouraged. Sir John Lubbock is the president of an association of bee-keepers in England, and in Germany a knowledge of bee-keeping is requisite to obtain a diploma as school master. The government admit the importance of this industry, and pay experienced apiarists to travel about the country and give instructions in the art of bee-keeping. It would no doubt surprise many of your readers to learn that there is annually gathered in the United States and Canada over thirty million pounds of honey.

Dr. J. B. Lawes is still against ensilage, notwithstanding American and British claims, some of them based upon commercial considerations. This Rothamsted experimenter and celebrated authority on scientific agriculture, casually remarked a while ago in the *London Agricultural Gazette*, that a silo "rather tends to reduce than increase" the quantity of feed—which is contrary to the teachings of interested persons with cutters and other equipments for sale, who have even ventured to maintain that you can get more out of a hole in the ground than you put into it.