

and sulphur; set the mixture on fire and keep the chicks in the box until nearly suffocated, or rather keep them under the influence of the fumes as long as it is safe. As soon as the chicks show signs of relief feed them on soft food on a clean surface. To every quart of soft feed add a quarter of an ounce of Rochelle salts. They will need but little care after.

A good sized fowl eats about one and a half bushels of corn in a year, or its equivalent, that is about three and two-third ounces a day. On this basis almost any man can calculate the cost of a flock a year in case he must buy everything. The allowance is liberal; small sized fowls require a little less.

To prevent hens from eating their eggs, turn the nest so that the hens must enter by the rear. The interior of the nest should be dark, so that there will be hardly any light in it at all. The nests should also be about three inches above the floor, in order to compel the hens to jump up to them before reaching the eggs. By such an arrangement the inducement to eat the eggs will be materially lessened.

In former issues we have frequently alluded to the valuable qualities of the white Minorcas, which have become established in this country and admitted to the Standard of Perfection. There is also a black variety equally as good as the white one. Some persons do not like black breeds, but where eggs are desired the color of the plumage is only a secondary consideration. However, for crossing on light Brahmas and white Cochins, the white Minorcas are destined to become great favorites, as they are more compact than white Leghorns, lay more eggs, and are larger in size. It was predicted that they

would excel all other breeds, as layers, and they have been given a fair trial. They have had a successful competition with other breeds, and it cannot be doubted that they have added largely to the production, especially since they have been distributed to all points. We would advise you to give this breed a trial.

A western farmer insists that the following is a true story: "My wife's old hen was sitting beside the garden fence on thirteen eggs. About a week ago a large black snake came along and ate the hen, curled himself on the eggs, and stayed there until they hatched out, and then ate the whole brood at once."

The foregoing item has been going the rounds of the poultry press. Such things make us tired. Readers want solid instructive reading. Such items do not interest any one, and the sooner editors learn it the better. Give your readers something to think about, that is what they take poultry papers for.

Of all thieves, fools are the worst; they rob us of time and temper.—*Goethe.*

NOTES.

BY F. M. CLEMANS, JR.

Diversified farming is the shortest and surest road to success for the small landholder, and even the large landholder is beginning to see the error of making a specialty of one crop, and thus "putting all his eggs into one basket." The small farmer who keeps a variety of small live-stock, hogs, sheep, poultry of all kinds, and raises a variety of crops, "going in" a little on fruit both small and large, who has a little

farm free from mortgage may safely expect to "keep the wolf from the door" and get ahead in a very substantial manner also. Prices of lands are now coming within reach of persons of moderate means as it becomes more and more understood that the large land holder cannot make interest on his investment by raising special crops and by allowing large tracts of land to remain idle. The commercial poultry business has not been overdone. Prices are as good as they have been, and the demand is increasing. While there is no great future in poultry raising, it must become a great item in the product of small farms. There is no reason why every farmer should not produce enough poultry and eggs to pay his "store bills."

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Soft shelled eggs are occasioned by the hen being too fat or from lack of shell-forming food. The latter case results from fowls being kept closely in small runs, as fowls having range will pick up enough calcereous material. It is a very good plan to keep a supply of this shell-forming material where the fowls will have free access to it, (Bro. Jacobs of the *Poultry Keeper* to the contrary, notwithstanding). Shell-less eggs are often found under the perch when the hen is too fat or is suffering from internal disease. In such cases feed on unstimulating food, and remove the patient to a quiet place by herself as she is likely to introduce the almost incurable habit of egg eating into the flock.

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Those who breed pure-bred fowls and depend on local patronage will not as a rule meet with much success. Printers' ink is the best salesman, but much depends on the manner in which it is used. No one will subscribe for a specialty paper who is not interested in the industry represented by that paper, and so the entire subscription