

same place, waste grains, siftings, buckwheat, barley, wheat, rice, etc., taking care not to give out more than what is really necessary, for, in the outside life, it is better that hens should cultivate the habit of searching for their food.

They should have a greater variety of food when enclosed in their pen and when food can no longer be found outside. Then, one should be careful to give them now and again different vegetables, as cabbages, potatoes, Jerusalem artichoke, etc., either raw or cooked, well crushed and either pure or mixed with bran, moulie, corn meal, etc. We should also know that grain favors the production of eggs, while other foods produce flesh. Fat hens never lay well. While the hen is occupied in producing fat, the production of eggs is at a stand-still and vice versa.

I said that meals should be given at exactly the same hour each day, yes, regularly and always in the same place, near the poultry house on a clean surface where nothing may disturb them. Poultry becomes very quickly accustomed to regular habits and will always be punctual at the "rendezvous." This affords a good chance to examine them, to count them, and note the condition of the flock. A glance may be easily given to the whole flock, but those which show some peculiarity, as sick ones, for example, would attract our attention, or the absent ones.

Pure, fresh water frequently changed should always be kept near the eating place.

#### PENNED UP POULTRY.

Fowls confined in a straitened place have not the many advantages of free poultry. It is thus with those that are kept penned up: they are not the happiest ones, so, we must give them the greatest care, and, by such means redeem the violent suppression of their own free will. We should not wish to deprive these but should feed them well in their house.

*Having no outside exercise, all that they consume will be reproduced either as eggs or meat.*

These do not require different food from free hens, but more of a variety each season. They have especially need of greens, such as lettuce, cabbage, sorrel, &c., well chopped up so as to avoid waste. It must be said, although not very creditable to them, that hens are really sloppy in their eating.

Although they are very careful about the smallest Godsend they may find in their self-interested wander-

ings, they are just as much wasteful when it is brought to them in abundance. They are active and busy workers when allowed to go and come but lack economical order and forethought when kept in and forced to a retirement which is not at all to their taste.

They look on the raiser as their manager and provider. This they feel and do not bother helping him or lessening his work. Otherwise, they accommodate themselves to almost anything. So newly pulled weeds from the garden are acceptable, only to avoid their wasting them which they are sure to do, put them in small hanging boxes within their reach. Prepared thus, clover and lucern are joyfully received.

We may give them, without the least fear of a cool welcome, refuse of beets from distilleries, barley from breweries, skins of grapes, apples and any fruit which spoils, and all the mixtures imaginable, chiefly those of bran and cooked roots.

The May bug, all kinds of worms and table scraps are great feasts providing they are not over done. Hens are very fond of these dainty tid-bits, but if they eat these exclusively or for a prolonged length of time, as we have already said, they will no longer give us the fine eggs or the juicy meat. The surest way to eat bad eggs and poor flesh is to keep hens exclusively on animal diet. Hens are omnivorous, that is to say, they are just as well fed by following their instinct and as well provided for by nature as by foods more or less exclusive, more varied. If one give them nothing but herbs or liquid food, grain alone, insects or hashed meat either would prove an equally harmful diet.

Herbs determine the chlorosis and bad condition of the organs of the body, grains are much too stimulating and produce very serious inflammatory irritation, animal food gives productions and inconveniences of a bad kind which we need not discuss here. It is a mixed diet that agrees better both with the appetite and constitution of hens which renders their productions better and abundant.

I insist that the hen is omnivorous, let her be what she is since she was made so by the Creator.

#### HURON COUNTY DATES.

The Huron Poultry and Pet Association have selected Jan. 30th, 31st, Feb. 1st and 2nd for holding their show. Please note. Yours truly,

JNO. A. WILSON, Sec'y.