

BEES AND POULTRY.

THE MAKING OF HONEY.

In Great Britain bee culture is carried out on a small scale, compared with the immense "bee ranches" of some of the American States, or even of Russia, Hungary, Hesse, Cassel, Greece, Finland, Cyprus. In Siberia the exiles pasture thousands of swarms on the heaths of the Altai range, and in the Caucasus the Meretins and Grusins live in plenty by the sale of the honey stored by their winged flocks. Still, even in England, the apiarist, as the bee-master likes to be styled in print, is no mean personage. There are numerous societies devoted to his interests. His wards possess an extensive literature, and one or more journals, published expressly for the dissemination of information connected with their welfare. There is even an apiarist vernacular, and the bee-keeper has his shows, dinners, and his professional quarrels.

In this country, where the Minister of Agriculture is still unknown, the dissemination of information of this sort is left to private individuals, or to societies such as the Bee-Keepers' Association. But in Germany the different Governments are so alive to the importance of this source of profit to the peasant that the children are taught the best mode of bee cultivation, and a school-master does not receive his diploma until he satisfies the State Examiner that he is familiar with the science of a "bienenvater."

It is in the United States, however, that honey-making is pursued on the largest scale; the "bee ranches" are establishments as extensive in their way as the vast wheat farms about which we hear so much. In California as much as £6,000 worth of honey has been produced in one year from 2,000 stocks, and results quite as extraordinary might be sighted from other States. We learn, for example, from an American journal devoted to the "honey trade," that in 1881 the surplus comb-honey of the transatlantic bees amounted to 9,467,622 pounds. New York heads the roll of honey-producing States; then follow Pennsylvania, Canada, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Louisiana in the order named, California, in spite of the size of its "ranches" and the boasted profusion of its flora, barely producing a fortieth part of what the Dominion does, while the average per colony is only sixty-three pounds, compared with the 159 pounds which is yielded by every colony of Dakota bees. Altogether there are in North America about 300,000 colonies of bees, which yield, it is calculated, over 100,000,000 pounds of honey, worth at least \$300,000, for the figures given refer solely to the honey marketed, and even then not over a twelfth of the bee-keepers make returns of their crops.

It is estimated that one acre will support about twenty-five swarms; and such is the magnitude of the business in some parts of America, that a single firm keeps two steam saws constantly employed in cutting up the timber used in constructing the boxes for holding the comb-honey. Though most flowers yield some food for bees, yet much skill is required in the selection of a grazing district.—*London Standard*.

WHITE LEGHORNS.

White Leghorns, originally from Leghorn, are birds of the Spanish type, but white in the place of black plumage. They are abundant layers of fair-sized white eggs, the hens rarely showing any inclination to sit, but laying the whole year round except during the time of the annual moult. They are a vigorous and hardy race, range extensively for their food, and are very shy. The chickens are very hardy, active and robust from the first.

Unlike those of the Spanish, they feather quickly and mature rapidly. The Leghorns are more valuable to egg farmers than to breeders of table fowls, as they are but small eaters and do not put on flesh quickly. To those, however, who depend on their poultry bringing them constant supply of eggs, they form a most valuable breed.

The Leghorn cock should be an upright and sprightly bird, standing and carrying his tail very erect. The comb is large, single, brilliantly red, firm, grown well back and evenly serrated; head short; wattles long, pendant, even and very red; ear-lobes smooth and slightly pendant; a clean, opaque, white eye; large and quick; neck, long, gracefully curved; the hackle full and flowing; back very short, the tail starting up almost at the base of the hackle; saddle rather broad; the feathers plentiful; breast full, carried well forward; wings well clipped up and not too large; tail large and plentifully adorned with side sickles; legs a brilliant yellow, rather long and slender, and perfectly free from feathering on the shanks. The hen is a deeper bird, rather square in body, with full round breast, close plumage, large and very erect tail; comb large, red, and falls over on one side; face red, ear-lobes white, smooth and free from folds; wattles rather short, round and thin; neck long; wings well tucked; legs rather long, slender and yellow.—*Exchange*.

LICE IN POULTRY.

Lice are the great pest of the poultry-raiser. Hens left to range about the farm or garden will keep clean by wallowing in the dry dust. But for a good part of the year the villagers have to keep their hens in confinement, and very soon, without constant watchfulness, lice appear; and if the poultry-house is near the barn, or within it, the vermin spread to the cow and horse stables and make trouble there. White-washing, if it were attended to every month, would be effectual, if the wash penetrated all the cracks. But this involves a great deal of labour, and it is difficult to reach all the crevices. There is the same objection to sulphur and tobacco smoke. A few of the lice are generally left for seed after every smoking. The best remedy we have ever applied is crude petroleum, or, if more convenient, the common kerosene oil used for lamps. This is always at hand, and a few minutes' labour with the oil can will rout the enemy. Generally one application is enough to destroy them. We apply it directly to the perches, pouring a continuous stream from the spout. The hens get this oil upon their feet and legs, and it is rubbed all over the feathers. It is penetrating, and the odour seems to be exceedingly offensive to all insects. We have no lousy hens since the application of this remedy.—*Exchange*.

BUSINESS POULTRY.

In riding about the country one seldom sees pure blooded poultry. The fancy fowls are in nearly every instance owned by business men. Why is this? Is it because farmers are lacking in enterprise and intelligence? I think the bottom facts are that a mixed lot of poultry proves most profitable, being most hardy, and laying best. Where one breeds for the one idea of looks, the tendency evidently is to lessen the egg production. These are my conclusions after twenty years' experience, in which time I have tested most of the new breeds as they came along. It is entirely legitimate for anyone to keep fancy fowls if they have a taste in that direction, and can afford it, as others keep a fast horse or a poodle dog, but the real business hen is not often the most noted for beauty. Many new broods have been introduced; we have plenty of

poultry magazines pressing their merits, with a host of energetic champions writing up their alleged superior excellencies, and yet both poultry and eggs bring better prices than in the years gone by. The profit from keeping poultry depends on management, feed, care, etc., of our fowls; and, as the average man only takes an interest in what costs him dear, fancy fowls, at fancy prices, have proved beneficial.—*Nelson Ratter, Onondaga Co., N.Y.*

SKIMMED MILK FOR CHICKENS.

There is nothing better for laying hens in the spring than milk, after the cream has been taken off. We have tried it several seasons with complete success. With the milk given fresh from the dairy-room every day, the fowls will need no other drink, and it will supply everything required in the way of animal food. The pullets, fed with milk and corn, and a mixture of corn-meal and milk, through the cold weather, have given an abundant supply of eggs. Wheat bran is also a good article to mix with milk. It is better to give the mixture a boiling and to feed it in a warm state, but this is not necessary. We have also found the milk one of the best kinds of diet for young chickens, soon after they come from the nest, to promote their health and rapid growth. Indian meal, ground coarse and scalded with milk, is a perfect feed for them. As they grow older, grass, cabbage or onions may be chopped fine and added to the daily rations. A portion of the milk on dairy farms usually going to the pig trough may be diverted to the chicken-coop with great advantage. Eggs are worth twenty-five cents a dozen, and poultry twenty cents a pound, when pork brings but ten cents a pound in the market.—*American Agriculturist*.

USE ONLY PURE BRED MALES.

Never use a cock that is a cross. The hen may be a cross, but the cock should be pure and without a blemish. The males exercise the stronger influence on the chicks, and if the cock is tainted with the slightest infusion of foreign blood the chicks will "throw back," and be of all sizes, colours and characteristics. What is most to be desired in breeding chickens for market is uniformity of appearance, which causes them to sell readily, and increases the price. For market chicks a good Plymouth Rock cock will impress his qualities on chicks from all kinds of hens, every one being alike in colour and nearly of a size.—*Farm and Garden*.

FRENCH POULTRY.

The census shows there are 40,000,000 hens in France not including ducks, geese, turkeys, guineas and pheasants, valued at half a dollar each, an average below sixteen and two-third cents per pound meat. One-fifth are annually marketed for the table, aggregating \$4,000,000 to the producers. The annual raising of chickens is 80,000,000, which bring in the market \$25,000,000, or an average of thirty-three and a third cents each. Four millions a year extra is added for ducks, geese, turkeys, capons and poulardes. The production of eggs is estimated at \$48,000,000 a year, and the total value of eggs, hens, capons, ducks, geese, turkeys and young chickens, yearly, amounts to the astonishing sum of \$80,000,000.

Glass or porcelain eggs are much better and safer for nest eggs than added or rotten ones. If the bad eggs break, the nest is made filthy and lice invited, and unless they are marked they sometimes are mistaken for good eggs and sent to market along with the good ones, and then woe to the producer's reputation!