

MORTIMER'S MONTHLY MORSELS.

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Not to lose the good is proof that you are bad.

It is much cheaper to maintain animal heat in your poultry with good quarters, than by feeding stimulants.

With all the other directions that are given for the prevention of disease among poultry, none is of more importance than that of having pure, clean, warm and dry houses.

Fowls in winter need fresh, pure drinking water, and should not be left to eat snow and ice, provide good large drinking vessels for them, and do it now.

We believe that fowls need very little medicine, and if properly cared for will need none. Constant dosing renders the birds delicate and liable to sickness. Occasionally it is well to give them a stimulant. They will relish it, especially in water. We know of nothing better than a few drops of tincture of iron, or a little pinch of red pepper, both act well.

Is your poultry house clean, close and comfortable? The poultryman who cannot reply affirmatively to this question, should give his immediate attention to his fowls, and either put their quarters in such condition or dispose of them to somebody who will give them protection against the storms of winter.

When you write to a fancier to quote your prices on stock, remember that it is the *points* that make the high prices. All breeders have *culls*. Now, culls are those that have frost bitten combs, a speck of white on a red face, or

some other insignificant defect, though they may be hatched from eggs laid by the dams of prize winners. Hence, if you want good stock for crossing, let the breeder know it, but tell him you want a *pure-bred* bird. He will then sell you at half price.

La Nature recommends the following process for finding the age of eggs and distinguishing those that are fresh from those that are not. This method is based upon the density of eggs as they grow old. Dissolve two ounces of kitchen salt in a pint of water. When a fresh-laid egg is placed in this solution it will descend to the bottom of the vessel, while one that has been laid on the day previous will not quite reach the bottom. If the egg be three days old it will swim in the liquid, and if it is more than three days old it will float on the surface, and project above the latter more and more in proportion as it is older.

On the same subject an exchange reports the following: In a recent experiment a dozen of eggs which, when newly laid, had been lightly smeared with linseed oil were found to have lost only two per cent. of their weight at the end of three months, and three per cent. at the end of six months. Another dozen rubbed over in the same way and at the same time with poppy seed oil lost three per cent. in three months and four and one half per cent. in six months. Two eggs left in their natural state, but packed in dry sand as were the others, lost eleven per cent. and eighteen per cent. during the periods mentioned. When opened, finally, the first batch retained the smell of fresh eggs, the second had no unpleasant smell, while the two un-oiled eggs were very offensive.

A dust bath is very indispensable. Have it placed where the sun can pour

in upon it as much as possible. Do not place it in a dark or damp corner of the hen house. Use a good-sized box for this purpose. Fill it two thirds full of road dust, adding some wood or coal ashes. If you can get a good insecticide add a little of it to the dust bath, it will help along in keeping down lice—and your poultry will thrive.

Don't forget to provide your hens with plenty of cracked oyster shell, or other grit as well as charcoal. Put them in a small box having two compartments, and hang about six inches from the floor. Your hens will know what to do.

If the hens are thoroughly well assured that they can lay their eggs without danger of having them frozen in the nest, they will be encouraged to lay, but if they can find no place of resort on cold nights or days in which they can keep their toes from freezing, you can depend upon it they won't lay, and they can't lay.

The eagle and the arrow.—A bowman took aim at an eagle and hit him in the heart. As the eagle turned his head in the agonies of death, he saw that the arrow was winged with his own feathers. "How much sharper," said he, "are the wounds made by weapons which we ourselves have supplied."—*Æsop*.

EAST YORK ASSOCIATION.

REGULAR meeting of the East York Poultry Association was held in Chester on the 4th Nov., the President, Mr. Otter in the chair, with a good attendance of members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. On motion of Mr. McKinnon and Mr. Bloy it was decided to