

you bet, for I am totally opposed to artificial heat and I hold that fowls thrive better without this assistance. The principal thing in the winter care of fowls is the systematical way of feeding, and this is in reality the main point, especially if you would enjoy a few fresh eggs when the thermometer reaches the thirties below. My plan worked well last winter, but perhaps I did keep my pets a *wee bit too fresh*. Notwithstanding this fact, my July pullets commenced laying in January, which was not bad for such late birds.

I fed grain twice daily—first at about eight in the morning—a mixture of buckwheat and wheat, always well scattered in cut straw about a foot deep. This makes the fowls work for their breakfast, and at the same time gives them exercise, which is indispensable for proper circulation—and also prevents them from contracting bad habits, such as feather plucking, egg eating, etc., etc., which is occasioned by the long months of confinement and nothing to do—for remember, Mr. Editor, fowls, like ourselves, contract bad habits through idleness—hence the necessity of giving them work in the shape of scratching, foraging, dusting, etc., and thereby keeping them busy. The next meal I prepare for them is at 12 or 1 o'clock, which consists of a sort of everything warmed up—scraps from the table, a little meal, milk, potatoes, etc., with a little dash of red pepper and one or two teaspoonsful of castor oil, only occasionally. You must also supply the fowls with a little green food, say cabbage cut fine; they also relish apple peelings. Of course you must keep before them a constant supply of "grit," also bone meal mixed with food is capital.

You will find that fowls much prefer snow to water, and I gave much more snow last winter than water, and found it did no harm. The third meal consists of whole grain, and a big meal this must be to keep them through the

long cold nights. I generally feed corn, scattered in straw about four o'clock, or as late as the light permits them to see to feed. An occasional feed of warmed buckwheat should be given on very cold days. This can easily be done by placing a large pan in the oven, and leaving the buckwheat therein for ten or fifteen minutes.

I do not like the overfeeding of fowls, especially in winter time, for when fowls are let to gorge themselves they hang around moping, with a too full crop, making them heavy and inactive, which tends to promote cold, and then that nice little disease called roup!

I trust, however, that all the fraternity will be spared this much dreaded sickness amongst their respective flocks this winter, and wishing all good luck and long life to THE REVIEW, I remain, Mr. Editor, with an apology for the length of this "yarn,"

Yours truly,

P. T. H. ERMATINGER.

#### PORTABLE POULTRY-HOUSES.

The commonest form of portable poultry-houses is that upon four wheels, with a wooden floor. At one time we used these, but the labor of removal was so great when the ground was at all soft, and often it was impossible to do this without the assistance of a horse. A lighter form of house became necessary, and thus the kind capable of being carried by a couple of men was adopted. In all these there was a wooden floor, but we have come to the conclusion that this is not desirable in summer and autumn. Wooden floors close to the ground attract the damp from the earth, and the atmosphere of the house is always moist. We have seen these kind of wooden floors rotten with damp, and when they are adopted they should be raised at least 30 in. from the ground. But this means the circulation of air below the house, and a consequent reduction of the temperature in the house. This was brought

before us some time ago by realising the difficulty of maintaining the heat in a conservatory raised some distance above the ground. It is much better therefore, to have no floor at all. But if for any reason it be thought one is necessary, it should be raised a little from the ground, say 12 in. or 18 in., and be of double thickness, with two floors, each an inch thick. The sides had better be closed, so as to prevent the fowl getting below. On all, except very damp soils, or during very wet seasons, no floors will be needed in the movable houses, the attendant just taking care when he selects a fresh position, not to put it in a hollow where in case of rain all the water will gather,

A very handy form of house, and a very cheap one is that made with four handles, so that it can be carried by a couple of men. This, if made 4 ft. by 3 ft. or 3 ft. 6 in., is large enough to hold twelve or fifteen fowl or twenty to thirty chickens, according to their ages and breed, and it can easily be carried by two men. It need not be more than 5 ft. in height at the front, sloping down 12 or 15 in. at the back. The handles for carrying are best made part of the structure, really being the centre horizontal joist carried out 2 ft. at either end. A window should be fixed in the front, and this is all the better if made to open. A small door or trap may also be at the front and the attendant's door at the side. The only internal fixtures needed will be a couple or three perches, and a box or two for nests, if laying fowl are in the house. A few ventilation holes near the roof will be sufficient for summer work. Such a house as this is all the better for a few good coats of tar on the lower half so as to prevent the damp striking upwards. The roof also is more likely to turn the rain if well tarred. This house may be either made to take to pieces or not as is thought best. In the former case, the carrying handles can be dispensed with, and the house removed in sec-