

POULTRY.

Poultry on the Farm.

BY MRS. IDA E. TILSON, WEST SALEM, WIS.

A very common disappointment met in winter by poulterers is the failure of their fowls to lay as wished. One winter, from about eighty hens, I many times gather over fifty eggs a day. Then again, it has almost seemed as though biddy had passed resolutions not to lay till some desired and needed change of treatment. The product I get is not a matter of chance, but varies according to stock, care and weather. I have been puzzled over two sentences which at first seemed a contradiction of each other, and "When doctors disagree, who shall decide?" Sir Andrew Clark says "The highest life of an organ lies in the fullest discharge of its functions," and Goethe says "Unqualified activity, of whatever kind, leads at last to bankruptcy." I have concluded the word "unqualified" reconciles them. A hen fully discharges her duty as a layer only when in prime health, for which she needs wise preparation and support. Many poulterers have testified that the effects of poor food and disease descend among fowls, even to the second and third generations.

I would suggest sunshine as the best and cheapest tonic. It greatly invigorates skin, blood and lungs. In connection with this preserver of health and supporter of activity, I will give a brief history of my henhouses. Good things come slowly, you know, and not till after both my houses were built did father have his drive-well and windmill. The best place for the latter seemed between houses, but a few feet south and not in line. The open tower casts little shadow, and did no harm. In this cold climate the tank, or reservoir, kept freezing, despite various protections, so it was finally thought necessary to build a tank-house, the shadow of which in winter, when the sun runs south, is on the west henhouse till near ten o'clock in the morning, and falls on the east one at about three o'clock in the afternoon. My buildings are on stone foundations, hence I cannot very well pick up and move them. To prove how important it is that all of you who have poultry quarters unobscured on the south should keep them thus, I add my thermometer test, which only confirmed what my feelings had long told me. The morning of January 8, with the sun well up, it was eight degrees below zero outdoors, twenty-six degrees above in the east house, but only twenty degrees in the west one, a more warmly constructed building. Just after sunset, when seven degrees above zero outside, the east house, shaded for some hours, showed a temperature of twenty-six degrees above, and the west one thirty-eight degrees. Next morning—a stormy time, with no sunshine, and an outer temperature of ten degrees above zero, the thermometer registered exactly twenty-four degrees above in either house, which proved I had apportioned my hens just right, having allotted fewer to the warm house, and left a larger number to create animal heat for the colder house. A few additional degrees of warmth may make quite a difference in egg production. I have never employed artificial heat, because there is already enough natural difference between night and day, without intensifying it. Hens need added warmth at night most, but I cannot turn into a night watchman just yet; and having fire only daytimes, they would greatly feel its loss afterward, when not covered, like ourselves, with good bedding. Lately my fowls had not been under their sheds as much as usual, getting sunshine baths, till I remembered I had forgotten to replenish the shed bottoms with straw, which keeps their feet so comfortable. Fortunately the tank-house shadow does not reach either shed, each being on the far side of its house.

The topic of activity reminds me of a very wise and sprightly rooster, appropriately named "Socrates," which sometimes flew up and alighted on my head, therefore my brains have been both figuratively and literally racked for the benefit of poultry. This very afternoon, too, I used my mind and both arms so vigorously that all three were tired. First, I rubbed a big raw onion, cut in halves, all over my roosts. Then I started to catch and give each fowl a midwinter examination, and dispose of some of next summer's work now. Having looked them over not long ago, I expected to scrutinize both flocks in a short time, but a gray louse becomes a great grandparent very young, so I was kept busy, and got only half done at that. An early check given parasites means an earlier check in the pocketbook. If strength is sapped and devoured by parasites, the stimulating food given has surely caused a very "unqualified activity." Having done much in the line of food, and yet left undone other things, eggs will not come in quantity and quality desired. It is only by doing all well that we stand.

It is time the prudent were taking a look ahead, getting nests, sitters and coops ready, now while we have leisure, for soon, or maybe a little before, biddy will sit, if she does not quit. I have, this winter, broken up sitters in both December and January. Oftentimes the question is asked "Does a hen sit or set?" The dictionary proves that we invariably set her, but she herself always sits. It is easy on our memories when grammar for hens does not differ from that for people. It is better to say a setting of eggs, than a sitting, because

they are put under biddy. Although I believe in treating a sitter like a lady and using good grammar to her, still she looks most to the quality of her eggs and character of her nest. Shall we set the early laid eggs or not? If from hens wisely and uniformly active, and furnished green food to make a perfect product, the early eggs may be, and I think will be, the strongest. Set your own eggs first, because you know about them, and wait a little for those you buy, which may not come from as active fowls, and might get chilled when gathered or on the way. I hope eggs will be so plentiful that the children can all have some for Easter. This use of eggs is said to have a Hindoo origin, and the dignity of the egg appears when we remember how many races regard it as the symbol of hidden life and a resurrection.

The Use of Poultry.

BY JOHN J. LENTON.

Did you ever notice that on the top of a load of coarse coal you can throw half a ton of fine coal, and after driving a mile on an ordinary road that you will see no sign of the fine coal? It's there, all the same; it just fits in and fills up all the corners and spaces between the larger lumps. So it is, or should be, with poultry on most farms. The horses, cattle, sheep and swine mainly occupy the attention of the stock grower; the corn, wheat, oats &c., are first considered by the general farmer. But either man, without losing a dollar in his general line of work, and with a very slight expenditure of time and money, can reap from \$50 to \$250 per year by filling up the corners of his yards and his time with poultry.

Laying aside the aesthetic side of the question—the pleasure and culture to be derived from a carefully tended flock of pure breeds, and failing to reckon the convenience and helpfulness of having always at hand a good supply, for the home table, of nice fresh eggs and palatable poultry, the clear profits from fifty hens, well kept, are usually four times as great as the same investment of time and money in any other branch of farming.

The villager who buys at retail, for cash, all the food consumed by his hens, makes an outlay in this direction of about \$1 for each hen. It has been shown by different poultrymen that the natural product, at regular market prices, of a well-disposed and well-cared-for hen is worth from \$2 to \$3 a year, leaving the owner a net profit of from \$1 to \$2 on each hen. Supposing that the farmer does not get his hens to take hold of his scheme as enthusiastically, his outlay for feed is at least fifty cents less per hen, owing to the better foraging facilities and less grain, with that at wholesale prices, so that his profits per hen are not less than his village competitor.

The main difficulty in persuading farmers to believe there is something in this business, if managed right, is the difficulty of inspiring them with sufficient faith to make them manage it right for a whole year. Spasmodic strokes for a short time will not do the business. Continuous, persistent attention is needed. There is a steady call for first-class poultry products. To be rated as first-class, all marketable products must be neat and clean, and, as far as possible, uniform in size and color.

Once more we urge those who have not tried it, or those who have failed at it, to dispose of their dung-hill fowls that they are ashamed of, and that act as though they were ashamed of them: clean up, probably better burn down, the ramshackle affair that stands for a chicken house, and put up a neat, well arranged, but inexpensive house in a sunny, protected place; buy a dozen nice, uniform, well-developed pullets, either of the American, Asiatic or Mediterranean breeds; give them the run of your place when practicable, but have a good yard too, in which you can confine them when necessary. See that there is no chance for them to become contaminated by contact with a cock of any other breed; keep them by themselves this winter. Buy a choice male bird now to mate with them, for in the spring prices will be higher. Keep them free from lice and disease; care for kindly. Cull closely; improve your flock every year. Take an interest and pride in this corner of your work, and in two years you will find yourself well repaid for your care, trouble and outlay.

Boys on the farm, Easter will soon be here. What are the prospects for a supply of eggs? Are the hens under your care? If so, and you have done your duty, they will do theirs. Your mothers and sisters depend upon you at this season of the year to care for and carefully feed the fowls. Now, do not disappoint them, as they always have great faith in your ability and good judgment. Now, boys, all of you that can do so, go in for some pure-bred birds for this season. Try it, and see what an interest it will cultivate in you for the business. Be sure you get the best at the start; get a kind that will lay well and be a good table bird as well. I started at it when quite a boy, and tried to get a kind suitable for the farm and found none that can beat the Wyandotte. They seem to fill the bill. I do not take my experience only, but that of others tells the same story. Try them, and let us hear from you of your success. Let some boy in each neighborhood start, and he will see how soon others will follow suit. Josh Billings once said that one live man in a neighborhood was like a case of itch in a district school, because he set them all a scratching. If you have any questions to ask, pitch in; the ADVOCATE will help both you and yours.

W. J. S.

DAIRY.

Western Dairymen's Association.

The Seventeenth Annual Convention of the Western Dairymen's Association was held in the town hall of Ingersoll, on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of January, 1894.

It was indeed a fitting coincidence that this the largest and most successful dairy convention ever held in Canada should have been held in this jubilee year of world-wide triumphs, in the historic town of Ingersoll, which gave birth to the association just twenty-seven years ago, the Canadian Dairymen's Association having been formed in July, 1867, by a number of enthusiastic dairymen who worked on against trials and discouragements until now they have the satisfaction of seeing their labors crowned with success. In 1874, the first Provincial grant was received, and three years later the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario was organized, and the old name of the first society changed to the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario.

Since its organization the Association has been the chief factor in promoting the interests of the dairy industry, and also been the medium through its annual conventions, and travelling instructors and inspectors, of imparting the latest information regarding the best methods of operating the factory system, and of making the finest quality of cheese.

About a year ago, considerable change was made in the management of the Association. A permanent secretary was appointed, who gives his whole time to the work of the Association. Since that time a number of local conventions have been organized in different towns in the western part of Ontario, and much interest has been excited in the improvement of our butter and cheese.

The convention this year was acknowledged by all dairymen to have been the best which they had ever held, the commodious town hall of Ingersoll, capable of seating 500 people, being filled to overflowing from the first with an attentive audience, which blocked the isles and invaded the speakers' platform in their anxiety to obtain all the information possible from the interesting addresses and the practical discussions which followed; while Messrs. McLaren and Robinson were busily employed all the time in taking money and filling up members' tickets. This same interest was manifested right up to six o'clock on the third day, which is something unheard of in the annals of agricultural or dairy conventions in Canada. The able and efficient secretary, Mr. J. W. Wheaton, London, Ont., had spared no pains in securing reliable and practical men as speakers, and in thoroughly advertising the meeting among the dairymen and impressing upon them the importance of attending such gatherings. It is largely due to his efforts that the convention was such an unqualified success in every particular. Never before was there such a representative gathering of the dairymen of the country. Among those present were Hon. John Dryden, Hon. Thos. Ballantyne, Senator Read, of Belleville, Sir Richard Cartwright, Prof. Vanslyke, Ohio, U. S. A., John Gould, Ohio, U. S. A., E. J. Burrell, Little Falls, N. Y., Prof. J. W. Robertson, Prof. Fletcher, of Ottawa, Prof. Dean, Guelph, J. S. Pearce, London, John Geary, London, E. A. Struthers, Manager of the Barnardo Farm, Manitoba, D. M. McPherson, Lancaster, A. F. McLaren, Windsor, D. Derbyshire, Brockville, J. A. Riddick, Woodstock, C. E. Chadwick, T. D. Millar, Burgoyne, Andrew Pattullo, Woodstock, A. T. Bell, Tavistock, J. W. Wheaton, London, and many other young and enthusiastic dairymen from all over the country.

THE OPENING SESSION.

After routine business was transacted, a number of short addresses were delivered. Mr. D. Derbyshire, President of the Creameries Association, said that the duty of the hour was to resolve to take another step in advance of anything which had been done. We should keep better cows under better conditions, and manufacture a better product in a better factory. He was ashamed to have to state that in this great province the average product per cow from the cheese factories was only \$30. He disputed Mr. Pattullo's claim, and claimed the honor of having originated the system of co-operative dairying for his own county of Leeds.

Prof. Vanslyke, the chemist of the New York Experimental Station, Geneva, in his address stated that all they needed was to exercise their brains a little more, and at the next fair the Americans would not be so far behind. He complimented the Canadians upon their quickness and readiness in taking up every new thing of value as soon as it came out.

John Gould, Ohio, said that though the different governments might set up tariffs, the kingdom of the cow knew no bounds, and that there was a species of Free Masonry among all dairymen.

Mr. John S. Pearce, dealer in seeds and dairy supplies, London, who was one of the judges of butter at the World's Fair, then read an interesting and practical paper on Canadian butter at the World's Fair. In this paper he pointed out the defects in Canadian butter, and showed how it was that we were not more successful in winning a greater number of the awards. As this is a very important question to all Canadian dairymen, we have secured the paper and will publish it in full in an early issue.