

Golden Wyandottes.

Several new varieties of fowls have been recently introduced, among them the Golden Wyandottes. They are described as possessing the good qualities of the Silver Wyandottes, but are larger, hardier and mature earlier. The American Agriculturist thus describes them: The color of the male, on breast and wings, is a deep rich golden-bay, laced with black, and the hen is a deep gold color, laced with black. There is little penciling in the centre of the feathers, and clear, bright hackles. Their general appearance is striking and beautiful. The variety originated a few years ago, and rapidly found favor among fanciers. Last autumn a "Golden Wyandotte Club" was formed, with a view of promoting the pure and uniform breeding of this new variety. At the recent meeting of the American Poultry Association it was voted to admit the Golden Wyandottes to the standard. They are therefore entitled to a class in all poultry exhibitions, and are likely to become one of the leading classes of standard poultry throughout the country.

The "Orphan Asylum" Brooder.

MISS E. K. WINANS.

A few years ago, when contemplating to raise several hundred chickens with only fifteen hens, I devised a plan which I termed my "Orphan Asylum," and which proved a perfect success. Most of the chickens were brought up in brooders, while the hens were given more eggs to hatch. The asylum was moved into outdoor quarters about the middle of May, and there was a frame made of broad boards standing on their edges and pegged together at their ends. It stood on the grassplot in the vegetable garden, and every few days was moved a short distance, so as not to injure the grass. The lower edges of the boards must be so closely fastened down that even the smallest chickens cannot get out. When the birds are old enough to fly over, they can also find their way back. At three weeks old they will begin to do mischief in the garden and to the smaller chickens in the brooders, and must be moved to another yard. It is best to have these yards oblong, and one end roofed and floored, and provided with a movable wire screen with which to shut in all the chickens in wet weather. That year there was a terrible three-days' storm, but not one of the orphans died during it, though they complained bitterly of being desperately bored in their prison.

One of the advantages of raising chickens without the assistance of hens becomes apparent on rainy days, when hens are very liable to trample on them. After the middle of May no artificial heat is needed in the brooders, except in those for the new hatches. I kept one warmed box especially for the babies until they were four days old. At first I used a tiny night lamp to heat a zinc sheet in the box, but this made it too hot; then I found that a great tin pail of hot water, filled twice a day and kept thickly wrapped, warmed my brooder to ninety degrees, which is warm enough in summer. I had a shelf over the pail and a rug tacked on the inside of the top of the box, and hanging down in front. An easy ladder led up to the shelf, so that the chicks might come out and lie in the sunshine. As soon as they were strong and active they were put into brooders made of a slanting board, lined with old fleecy rugs.

It is said that there is no profit in late-hatched

chickens, but I find them always profitable. Many boys and girls would be glad if they had raised two hundred chickens in the way I speak of, and had sold them in the fall, even if they made on each only ten cents clear gain. If you try it, do not let any one persuade you not to go out to care for your asylum as often as usual on stormy days. The worse the weather is, the more the orphans need their five or seven meals a day. Don't fail to fasten in the chickens, safe from rats, every night. Beware of clucking hens near your brooders. One evening I found the babies had deserted the asylum and had crowded into the coop of an old hen who had twenty chickens of her own, but was delighted to get thirty fresh ones.

To clean every crumb of food away after each meal seems to me the best way, although very high authorities advise keeping dry food always near the chickens. A good quality of the ground meal is capital food, especially if there is in it a large proportion of buckwheat. In summer it is a good plan to bake bread of it twice a week and crumble it freshly for each meal. Milk is almost necessary, and if in any way a supply can be had cheaply secure it. Chickens flourish on wheat. See that they have every day, besides their regular meals, proper animal food, green food, bone-meal or oyster shells, and clean water or milk.—[Abridged from the Agriculturist.

Stealing Nests.

Some of our hen turkeys would hide their nests, but others would walk into the poultry houses, and under the sheds and lay in nests just like hens, and they didn't seem to care who knew it. For the benefit of those who desired to "make believe" hide their nests, we provided accidental looked places for nests in fence corners, and other retired nooks, not far from the buildings, and the turkeys generally took to such places kindly. In the few instances when they did not, a little patient watching soon enabled us to discover the nests.

But mind this: when watching a turkey, in order to find her nest, don't let her see that you are watching her, or pounce upon her when she is on her nest. Keep an eye on her from a distance, but do not follow her close up to her retreat; just take your "bearings," and then, an hour or two later, carefully search in that direction for the nest, and you will probably find it. If you remove the eggs as fast as laid, the turkey will lay twice as many eggs before offering to sit as she would if the eggs were allowed to accumulate in the nest; but you should always leave one or two nest eggs of some kind, and if you find the eggs covered with leaves, leave the nest eggs covered in the same way. After the turkey has laid a dozen or fifteen eggs, and the danger of the eggs chilling is over, they may be left in the nest.—Fanny Field in Prairie Farmer.

TAME TURKEYS.—If you want tame turkeys, take pains to make them tame, and keep them so. Do not allow the children, cats, dogs, and hired men to frighten and worry your turkeys, if you desire to keep them tame. I never allowed our turkeys to be driven about and worried or frightened. "From their childhood up," I always made pets of my turkeys, and the result was that they were so tame that they would eat from my hand, and I could pick them up anywhere at any time. My little girl made a special pet of an immense Bronze gobbler, and visitors at our place were astonished to see that great bird stand quietly, while "Topsy" stroked his back as if he were a cat.

The Apiary.**Strong Colonies.**

The great secret in securing a honey harvest is a strong colony, and in time for the honey flow. No effort should be spared to secure this desired end, and many a bee-keeper has been compelled to report a poor season because his bees were not in a condition to take advantage of an early honey flow. It must be the aim of every bee-keeper to know his locality, and the best results cannot be secured without such knowledge. For an example, let us say A, B and C go into bee-keeping in different localities. A may have sufficient natural flow to keep his bees working and building-up to the best advantage from willows, one of the first sources of pollen and honey, to the clover-honey season. B may have an abundance of willow, but nothing from that time until clover. It will readily be seen that A can do little more than keep his bees snug and warm, especially by packing over the top frames; his bees will build themselves up for the harvest, if it is a fair colony. B, to secure the best results, must resort to an artificial honey flow. If pollen is very scarce, he should put out a little copped oats or rye meal, and the bees should always have sufficient stores ahead to do them for at least a week. It is not advisable to feed them liquid food, and a little, day by day in early spring. It is advisable to either purchase a candy, sold by supply dealers for the purpose, or take granulated sugar and make a cake of sugar of it by adding a little water and boiling. Liquid food, frequently given, is apt to wear the bees out, as in the honey harvest, when we all know a bee's life is much shorter—about six weeks. Keep sufficient stores, then, in the hive, and keep all the warmth you can in the hive also. If the colony is strong, under these conditions it can take care of itself, far better than you can, for the rest. In our example C may not be in a district where clover is, and his yield may be from basswood; if such be the case there is no object at all in getting colonies strong so early, and they should have nothing which might be called stimulative, as plenty of time will be given to have them build up for such a harvest.

On the other hand, A's locality may not permit him to secure any basswood honey, and clover may be his only source. It will at once be seen that, should he not have his bees strong for his harvest, his profits from the apiary will be left to evaporate in the flowers, and the farmer who has been depending upon his bees to fertilize his clover field and increase the seed yield will be correspondingly disappointed. Again, towards the latter part of the season, especially in taking comb honey, although the honey flow may be prolonged or shortened, dependent upon the weather, knowledge of locality will prevent such errors as the putting on of sections when the honey flow is about over, and many unfilled sections to be carried over for the following season.

C's locality is quite an exceptional one, and, therefore, colonies should be strong and at their best about the 20th of June, or even a little earlier. Then, when you see the cells along the top, in the brood chamber, have that fresh, white appearance, being newly drawn out, you may rest assured the bees are storing honey, and your surplus arrangement may be put on.