

Raising chicks.

When chicks are growing, any check will be of permanent injury. Four good meals must be regularly given, one of which, at least should be of soft food mixed nice and dry, and, if the place admits of it, scattered about so as to allow them room to pick it up clean; but if not, it should then be placed in vessels, kept clean and free from sourness.

Milk, if it can be had, may still be given them, even up to the age of six months if the range is good; but if kept in confinement, not more than three months; in such cases, it is too much for the sluggish digestive organs. At the age of from ten to twelve weeks the cockerels ought to be separated from the pullets, and kept by themselves.

They never grow so large when the sexes are kept together, besides which it saves trouble, and the cockerels are not so ready to fight among themselves as if with the pullets. In all the large breeds there will be little difficulty in picking out the cockerels, the comb and spur of which will be a pretty sure indication of their sex. In cases where a good run is impossible, and the chickens are kept in small yards, these should be regularly swept out, and occasionally sprinkled with carbonate of lime, which kills all offensive smell.

Fanciers Journal.

The Secret of Haymaking.

The time to cut meadow-grass is when the complexion of the field begins to wear a brownish tinge. At this stage the bulk of the grasses are flowering, and some of the earliest ones have gone to seed. Very heavy crops should be cut earlier than this, particularly sewage grass, or they will become laid and rotten in the bottom. Clover should be cut when the majority of the heads are in blossom, for if it stands till it has done flowering the woody fibre increases and the nutritive qualities decrease in proportion. All grass and clover should, in fact, be cut a little under rather than over ripe, as at this stage they contain a considerable quantity of sugar, gum, mucilage, albuminous and other soluble compounds, which are all liable to be washed out by repeated or long continued showers of rain, and particularly so after the hay is partly made. While the grass is still newly cut and fresh, a coating of waxy or oily matter is found on the epidermis, giving it a waterproof covering and protecting it from injury by rain; this protection remains so long as the grass is fresh and unbruised, but when it has been turned and knocked about repeatedly the fibres are more or less bruised or broken, the cell-walls are lacerated, and the juices containing the soluble constituents begin to ooze out and escape, unless the drying proceeds pretty rapidly, sealing them up in the stems and leaves. If rain falls at this period the drying is checked, the escape of the compounds is promoted, and fermentation sets in, during which the two most valuable properties of the hay are destroyed, viz., albumen and sugar. So in showery weather it is advisable to leave the grass or half-made hay quite alone; for stirring them during rain, and when there is no certainty of getting them dried and made up into cocks in good condition, does much more harm than good. To make up into cocks hay that is wet with rain-water is the surest way to spoil the hay, and until the rain ceases and the wet can be got out of it it is best to leave it quite alone. The stirring bruises the hay all the more—a result that is easily attained when it is full of rain-water—and cocking it up wet only promotes fermentation, so that no good whatever, but great harm, comes of messing about among it in wet weather. There is no good whatever in stirring hay about when even the atmosphere is such that no drying will take place. It is not enough that it is not raining and that the hay has no rain-water in it, for if the atmosphere be damp no moisture will evaporate from the hay, consequently no drying is going on, and the hay is far better

left alone without the bruising it gets in stirring and knocking about. It is sun, or wind, or dry air, or all these together that do the drying; and, however valuable it may be with them, stirring is absolutely worthless without them.

"Dairy Farming," by Professor Sheldon.

VENTILATION.

We are now in the midst of our season, where the fowls and chicks will suffer most severely if confined at night in close unventilated fowl houses. A good plan would be to let them roost under sheds, simply lathed in to keep out cats, foxes, weasels and other vermin. A well trained rat terrier is a useful adjunct to have about the poultry house. If you prefer to keep in close quarters, have ventilators put at the peak of the house, in the shape of a square cupola with slated windows, and an opening at the floor covered with wire netting, some distance from the perches, so that there may be a constant current of air passing through without creating a strong draught upon the roosting places. If the draught annoys them they get out of the way of it if possible, and if unable to do so they will find other roosting places.

S. J. A.

Ayrshires at Auction.—John L. Gibb, Esquire, the well known breeder of Ayrshires and other stock at Compton, had an auction sale on the 26th of August last, as advertised in these columns. Four Ayrshire bulls, eighteen females of various age, and quite a number of Berkshire pigs, were sold at satisfactory prices. The largest purchasers of Ayrshires were Mr. Jardyne of Hamilton, O., Mr. Ball of Stanstead, and Mr. Ernest Bennon of New Liverpool.

We regret to hear that, owing to the very busy season and also to the fact that the advertisements were sent so late to our Journal, very few Canadians attended the sale.

Besides the breeding of Ayrshires and Berkshires of which Mr. Gibb has made a speciality for many years back, he informs us that he is about to add a small herd of Short-horns (Durhams) and also one of Herefords to his already large stock. We wish him every success in his new ventures.

BUTTER-WORKER.

Mr. Crawford, of St. James' street and Chambly, informs me that, after a fair trial of the *Butter-worker*, figured and described in our June number, he has come to the conclusion that its work is as nearly perfection as anything of the sort can be. The butter, Mr. Crawford says, is left without a drop of butter-milk in it, and, at the same time, there is no appearance of *salviness*, the grain being perfectly preserved. To use Mr. Crawford's own words, "I would not be without it on any account." The American butter-worker, heretofore in use in Mr. Crawford's dairy, is thrown aside for this new-fangled invention. It is made of hard wood.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Toronto, August 9th. 1880.

To the Editor of the Montreal "*Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*."

DEAR SIR.

In your June number appears a "Report of the Goderich Horticultural Society" in which, under the head of "Tree Brokers," we are treated with great injustice. In the interests of fair play, we claim space to give the assertion, there made against us as nurserymen, a flat contradiction!

This report says we "belong to the class of tree-dealers, or brokers, and should be frowned down by all true Horticulturalists." We declare this to be false, in every particular, and cannot understand, unless on the ground of petty spite or jealousy on the part of their informants, why any one should thus spread