

# POULTRY

## MORTIMER'S MONTHLY MORSELS.

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**T**HE best way to keep good acts in memory is to refresh them with new ones.

Where tobacco or a large field of tomatoes is growing, the turkeys will do effective work destroying the large green worms that often do so much damage. A turkey hen and her brood will search every hill and not a single plant will be missed. They are fond of the worms which serve as animal food, and they save much labor, as those who grow tobacco know that it is often necessary to go over the crop every day in order to kill the worms, which is a tedious job. The turkey will eat many grasshoppers as well as slugs of various kinds.

An injudicious use of bran in the poultry yard will result disastrously, it causes scouring and so weakens the fowls. Scald the bran and mix with ground grain and feed once a day.

A good egg will sink in water, a boiled egg, which is done, will dry quickly on the shell from the kettle. The boiled eggs which adhere to the shell are fresh laid.

Rake off the lawn mowings every time the grass is cut and shower the short, juicy, fresh blades over the floor or ground of the pens where the poultry may be confined. This is a splendid way to dispose of the debris, and every morsel will be devoured by the chickens. For one kind of "green food" there is nothing so palatable or so satisfying—as far as it goes—as this, and in no other way can fresh grass be

so well fed to poultry. The fresh cutting is crisp, tender, nourishing and highly nutritious too.

In a discussion of the subject by the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture it was recommended: *First*, To allow the droppings to remain in or near the poultry house, and at regular intervals sprinkle plaster or dry soil over them in order to prevent loss by evaporation. Sufficient dry soil should be added to keep the pile moist and prevent it drying up so as to render the application to the crop difficult. *Second*, to gather up the droppings at intervals and place them in tight barrels, being careful to cover each layer with plaster, dry soil or road dust. When ready for application, when dry, it may be mixed with a varying amount of soil and allowed to lie until the whole is moist enough to crumble readily, when, by shovelling over a few times, the mixture can be easily and readily applied to the crop. Either of these plans will prevent loss by evaporation and attain the same end. No plan was proposed where poultry is not kept under shelter, but it was decided that the increased value of the droppings would soon pay for a roof.

The cross of the Langshan on a common fowl will give splendid broilers. They mature early and grow to good size.

The hot weather is coming; fix up for it. Shade must be provided, and plenty of it. If you have your young stock where there are no trees or bushes to make shade, get at it and make some shade yourself. Cut down some bushes, build a frame-work, and pile the bushes on it.

Poultry droppings alone will pay for the feed the poultry consume, if properly cared for, in the returns it will bring from worn out land in the

quantity and quality of fruit when applied to the orchard.

Do you notice some of the chicks trailing their wings? Look out for lice. Examine beneath the wings, on top of the head, and about the vent. Look closely and you will find the cause.

A good remedy for "scaly leg" is made as follows: Mix together 3 ounces of sweet oil, 1 ounce of sulphur and 20 drops of carbolic acid; wash the legs with a little castile soap and water and then anoint. Use every other day until a cure is effected.

We had this spring, says the *Rural New Yorker*, eight barrels of hen manure from a flock of 40 hens. Such manure sells in our neighborhood at about \$1.25 per barrel, and is well worth the price. It contains the plaster which was sprinkled under the roosts twice each week during the winter. It was used on corn. It was put in the hill and supplied about three-fourths of an acre, on the rest of the field a light dressing of cow manure was plowed in, and a handful of high-grade fertilizer dropped at each hill, in the surface. The corn in the part which received the hen manure is perceptibly taller and greener than that on the other.

It is quite an art to properly feed a Brahma or Cochin. As soon as they are matured they fatten so easily that unless great care is used they soon become sluggish, apoplectic and cease to lay. When such is the case it is best to give them nothing but green food, allowing a meal of wheat and oats at night, but no corn. The chicks of these breeds do not steadily fatten as they grow rapidly with heavy feeding; but as soon as they are matured and have ceased to grow, they readily convert nearly all their food into flesh. If so fed that they can be kept in