

other day, for about a fortnight, when the parrot or macaw will cease to destroy his plumage. It is not a remedy which has not been proved, for I have used it these two years with success."

Productiveness of Fowls.

Experiments to ascertain the comparative productiveness of the different breeds of poultry, have been made this spring in the Zoological Gardens of the Bois de Boulogne. The number of eggs laid by the fowls in that establishment has been immense. It appears that the Asiatic breeds of Nankin and Brahmapootra are the best layers; the French *Crevccers* come next; the Houdans third; the La Fleche fourth; and after them the Dorkings and a Dutch breed.—The Nankins and Brahmapostras are also remarkably precocious; and according to some breeders they begin laying in February, and keep on almost to the end of the year.

Hen Wisdom.

It is a pleasant recreation to tend and feed a bevy of laying hens. They may be trained to follow the children—and will lay in a box. Egg shells contain lime, and in the winter when the earth is bound with frosts or covered with snow, if lime is not provided they will not lay—or if they do lay the eggs will, of necessity, be without shells. Old rubbish lime from chimnies and buildings is proper, and only needs to be broken for them. They will often attempt to swallow peices as large as a walnut. I have often heard it said buckwheat is the best food for hens; but I doubt it. They will sing over Indian corn with more animation than any other grain. The singing hen will certainly lay eggs, if she finds all things agreeable to her; but the hen is such a prude, as watchful as a weasel, and as fastidious as a hypocrite—she must, she will have secrecy and mystery about her nest—all eyes but her own must be averted—follow her, or watch her, and she will forsake her nest and stop laying. She is best pleased with a box, covered at the top, with a backside aperture for light, and a side door by which she can escape unseen.—A farmer may keep one hundred hens in his barn, and allow them free liberty to trample over his hay mow, and set where they please, and lay if they please—and get fewer eggs than one who has a department especially for his fowls, and keeps but half as many, and furnishes them with corn, lime, water, and gravel; and who takes care that his hens are not disturbed about their nests. Three chalk eggs in a nest are better than a single egg. Large eggs please them. Pullets will commence laying earlier in life when nests and eggs are plenty, and other hens are cackling around them.

A dozen fowls shut up, away from the means of obtaining other food, will require something more than a quart of Indian corn a day. I think

fifteen bushels a year a fair provision for them—but more or less, let them always have enough by them—and after they have become habituated to finding enough at all times, they take but a few kernels at a time, except just before retiring to roost, when they will fill their crops. Be just so sure as their provision comes to them scantily, so surely will they raven and gorge themselves to the last extremity, and will stop laying. One dozen fowls, properly tended, will furnish a family with more than 2,000 eggs per year, and 100 full grown chickens. The expense of feeding the dozen fowls will not amount to eighteen bushels of Indian corn. They may be kept as well in cities as in the country, and will do as well shut up the year round as to run at large—and a grated roost well lighted, ten by five feet, or larger if you can afford the space, partitioned off from the stable or other outhouse, may be used as a hen house. In the spring, (the proper season) five or six hens will hatch at the same time, and the fifty or sixty chickens given to one hen. Two hens will take good care of one hundred chickens until they are able to climb their little stick roosts. They should then be separated from the hens entirely. They will wander less, and do better, away from the parent fowls. Chickens put in the garden will eat up the May bugs and other destructive insects; but for my own part I much prefer four or five good size toads; for they are not particular about the food, but will snap up ants, and bugs of all kind, and will not, if a good chance offers, refuse the honey bees, but will down them in a hurry. In case of confining fowls in summer, it should be remembered that a ground floor is high necessary, where they can wallow in the dirt, for they like it as well as the hog likes muck.—*Col N. H. Journal of Agriculture.*

Transactions.

Report on the County of Bruce.

(Continued from page 509.)

The next article purchased on credit was the fanning mill, one of which every man that had a bushel of wheat sown considered himself in the greatest need. Now although the fanning mill is very handy and useful, when you have plenty for it to do, to get one before you have 20 bushels of wheat or a barn put either the wheat or the mill in, is an unprofitable speculation.

I have seen an article called a "hand-fan," made in a semi-circular shape. A hoop, like the rim of a large sieve, cut in two halves and a light solid bottom nailed into it with small tough nails, a handle on the end of it