

HOME AND FARM.

"When the spring-time comes, gentle Annie"—or gentle anyone else—it is reasonable to discuss poultry, especially chickens and their feed. First, as to practical breeds. We have, we think, crowhills descended on Black Spanish, which are magnificent layers and excellent table fowls, but not good sitters. The gray, or variegated Dorkings, crossed with good barn-door fowls, but retaining those which show the characteristic marks—principally the five toes—are but little bred in Nova Scotia, but they are admirable in every way, and we have tried them for years. Here let us remark that, in our opinion, however much high combs may be the marks of certain excellent breeds, rose-combs should be cultivated in preference, for the simple reason that they do not freeze so readily. Of more recent breeds we know none with which Nova Scotia is familiar so good all round as the well-bred and carefully cultivated Plymouth Rock. There is every reason to believe from all the accounts we read, that the new Wyandotte breed is as good as any, and we are now told of a white variety of this kind which is highly spoken of. So far as our experience goes, we do not favor white varieties of any kind. They are, we think, more delicate as to standing cold, etc., than darker colors, and there is a peculiarity about them generally, which is apparently much thought of, but which we do not in the least appreciate, viz.: yellow legs. It was our practice, when keeping poultry, to eliminate all yellow legs as quickly as we could out of our stock. So far as our experience or knowledge goes, the best breeds for our ordinary farmers are Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte's, and Black Spanish. White Plymouth's and Wyandotte's are highly recommended, but we should in all cases prefer colored varieties of those breeds. There is another great disadvantage about white poultry, one is so like another that it becomes quite a difficulty to distinguish individuals when sitting.

With regard to food for growing chicks, we believe in it cooked, until they are quite old enough to assimilate a variety in raw grain, and the experience of those who make a business of raising spring chickens agrees with our own. Fowls in the wild state, it may be argued, do not bring up their chickens on cooked food. It is well replied that we are not raising fowls in the wild state. No doubt the wild hen's way of bringing up her chickens is a very good way; at all events she probably does the best she can for her family, but her ways of feeding do not answer for civilized chickens. However, as soon, say in a fortnight from hatching, as the chicks are old enough to assimilate grain, wheat and cracked corn are better than cooked food in the evening, when, during the night, there is ample time for digestion, while the variation is beneficial. Another point is the separation of flocks, which should be arranged in groups of not more than twenty, giving them a separate run, say a yard for each flock of 50 by 200 feet, with grass in it. Over-feeding with grain is not conducive to heavy laying. Two or three heads of cabbage nailed up in the hen-house, where the fowls can reach them, are an excellent variety. Rye sprinkled in the straw, so that the hens have to scratch for it, is beneficial, and sunflower seed is very good. Rye in the morning, about a quart to twenty fowls, is good, but corn should be used sparingly. Of course cleanliness is indispensable to any successful poultry raising.

Wet weather is more injurious to sheep than is the severest cold. Their woolly fleece protects them from cold, but when the fleece itself becomes wet its constant evaporation of moisture chills the animal through. At this season of the year the fleece is long, and holds water a great length of time. Even when made into cloth, every one knows how slowly woollen clothing will dry and how uncomfortable is the feeling if dried on the person. Sheep should be fed from racks under shelter, so that they should not go out on rainy days.

It is better to make granular butter, and salt it with brine, than to gather it in the churn and dry salt it.

OUR COSY CORNER.

There is still discussion about the bustle. The truth is, it is, in moderation, not without its value. It does, as is said for it, keep the dress from encumbering heels and ankles, and from dragging in the mud. The real objection only lies in extremes, when the protuberance is prolonged beyond the lines of grace.

Brauches of holly, accurately reproduced in enamel, are still in vogue as brooches.

Powder and patches begin to be worn by the more daring dames of the great world in Paris.

Paris threatens to bring in with other empire fashions low necked gowns for all times of the day.

Gold color and black threatens to take the place of the green and black so long considered the height of style.

Colored borders to your handkerchief are decidedly passe; so is the fashion of tucking them in the front of the corsage. The correct thing now is a fine white kerchief with border of embroidery, or else narrow edge of fine Valenciennes lace, and carried as conspicuously as possible.

Dull blue sashes are in high favor in Paris for wear with gowns of nettle green.

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LIST OF PRIZES.

1 Real Estate worth.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	2,000	2,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	1,000	1,000
4 Real Estates worth.....	500	2,000
10 Real Estates worth.....	300	3,000
30 Furniture Sets worth.....	200	6,000
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1000 Silver Watches worth.....	10	10,000
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