

after proper methods to remove it. It ought not even to have stopped those who know that instead of a leading mother, a leading father may be given to chickens hatched under hens, and that a capon duly instructed will lead, tend and warm the chickens trusted to his charge with as much care as the mother under whom they were hatched could do. Now it has been for many years a well known fact, that a cock may be made to contract both the inclination and skill which seem peculiar to the mother hen alone. Gesner says that this fact was attested by a great many moderns of his own time, and he even quotes Albert the Great, who asserts that he has seen a cock foster chickens. Willoughby speaks of the same fact as an eye witness of it; he says that he had more than once, with great pleasure, seen a capon perform very well all the functions of an affectionate mother with chickens entrusted to his care. Almost all authors who have written of rural economy have taught us the manner in which we ought to give a capon an inclination for the leading and tending new born chickens. However country people are not sufficiently informed that capons may be substituted for hens for that kind of business. I have had many opportunities of convincing myself, with my own eyes, that capons perform this office very well. A lady, generally respected by all who know her for her good nature and extraordinary sense, has a vast number of chickens brought up every year, and not one of them taken care of by any but capons. I have seen very frequently at her Castle of Vaujour, by Sivoy, about two hundred chickens that only had three or four capons for their leaders, for one of the advantages to be obtained by giving them that office is, that a capon may be trusted with two or three times as many chickens as may be given to a hen. Another advantage is that you may trust a capon with chickens at any time you please; he is always ready to accept of those you think fit to commit to his care; he even seems to be prouder in proportion as their number increases, whereas hens abuse the young chickens offered them when their age is a little different from that of those they have hatched and tended from the moment of their birth. Another benefit resulting from the custom of intrusting capons with chickens is, that you do not lose the eggs which your hens would have laid during part of the time they would have been busy about tending their brood. But the desire of laying eggs, which is generally suspended by that care, is sometimes too soon renewed in them, in which case they give up to themselves the care of chickens as yet too weak; whereas they are never given over by the capons, but when they are no longer pleased to be under tuition. These are very essential benefits. Why then do we so seldom see

in our villages, capons at the head of a brood of chickens? These methods were taught a great while ago by Porta in his *Natural Magic*, book 4, chap. 25. He directs us to pluck at night the feathers off the belly of the capon, so to be taught, and to make that part of his skin painful by rubbing it with nettles, and to put chickens under him that very night or the following. Others will have us add to this method, as a surer receipt, to make the capon drunk by giving him wine, and to range the chickens under him whilst he is intoxicated. Some people think that the effect of that drunkenness gives room to the capon to think at seeing himself surrounded with chickens when awakened that he has been transformed into a hen, so as to give him, or cause him to contract, all the inclinations of that creature. These proceedings, which have been given out as equally sure and plain, must have taken a disgust for making this use of capons to all who expected sudden success from them. They must have seen that the capon as soon as awake, trod upon and crushed the chickens which had been slipped under his belly, and killed some of them by pecking them to death;

This was the behavior of three capons which I successively tried to train up to the tending and leading of chickens. What is it, then, we are to do besides the foregoing, to cause capons to contract an affection for chickens like that hens have for those they have hatched?

(To be continued.)

November.

The changeable weather of the early part of this month will have given a strong hint to the fancier that his preparations for the winter care of the fowls should be about completed, and he who has not now got the greater part done may expect the evil effects of his tardiness to show in colds and roup. Some argue that it is better to allow the fowls to roost out in the open on trees and fences, and not house them until the frosts become so severe as to endanger their combs and wattles, claiming that it "hardens them," but our observations have convinced us that this hardening process generally results in great loss, and the stunting of those that have vitality enough to pull through it. A comfortable house is an absolute necessity for the proper care of poultry, and cover at all seasons and stages of growth is necessary to success. The cold winds and rains are a fruitful source of disease, and no stock is better of being exposed to them.

The early hatched birds are now well through their moult, but the later ones require great care, and should be well housed nights and during inclement weather. A thick bedding of dry leaves