

hen. This question has been thoroughly discussed many a time, and the conclusions are all in favor of judicious exercise for the hen.

Poultrymen are getting their eyes open to this essential point, and every where they regard it as an important requirement. The hen that sits about, or stands with legs drawn up in her feathers to keep them warm, or goes about in an aimless way, gobbling down large quantities of food without exhibiting any activity, will soon be incapacitated for laying: she gets too fat, and will not lay, except on the table as a table fowl. Just how to get the hen to take exercise is a great trouble to many; and yet it would seem to be plain enough what to do.

If you have a good poultry house, one that is made tight and warm with plenty of litter to make a hen take exercise, it is as natural for a hen to scratch as it is for a small boy at school when he has that well-known malady called by a similar name; she wants to scratch and will do it, if given the incentive and opportunity. Sometimes the hen has the incentive but not the opportunity; and, again, she may have an opportunity without the incentive. Cut straw, chaff, or leaves will afford splendid material for scratching and it fairly make the hens feet itch to see it placed a foot deep in her quarters. It matters not whether any feed is placed in this material when it is first put in, for the hen will scratch. She soon loses her disposition to do so, however, if she finds little to eat, but if given this incentive will retain her scratching proclivities. Scatter plenty of grain in the litter. Some morning, after the fowls have had about half a feed of some warm mash, scatter some screenings, or millet seed in the litter and see how eagerly the hens will scratch for it. They will scratch, jump about and busy themselves, and soon after sing a song, whose notes indicate a thorough circulation of the blood. They work so hard that at night they will be ready for a big supper which, if it is grain, should be fed early and in the same way. What they eat is easily digested, because of the natural tonic they have taken in the way of vigorous exercise. Following good digestion comes health, and, subsequently, a well filled egg basket. It is a wrong idea to furnish fowls exercise by allowing them to become lousy, scratching themselves, because when they scratch because of lice they will have but little desire for any other exercise or to do anything else. When feeding corn, I prefer using

the cracked instead of the whole corn, and throwing it in the litter and covering it up well in the litter, so they will have to get it in small pieces, thereby taking more time to fill up the crop and thus gaining exercise. G. S. ANDRES.

## The Horse.

### HORSE-BREEDING METHODS.

As announced in last week's market review, the outlook for horses the coming spring is very bright. If the department of Agriculture at Ottawa is successful in supplying the British war office with 1,000 cavalry horses, as they will likely be, it certainly will tend to improve the market for nearly all kinds of horses in Canada. The signs are not wanting to show that there is an exceptionally good demand for solid, blocky, well set horses and large heavy draft types, such as it will not be difficult for our farmers to breed if they give a little attention to it. No careless or slipshod method should be followed in horse-breeding, or in any other line of breeding for that matter. By putting skill, intelligence and care into his breeding methods it should not be difficult for the average farmer to produce the kind of horse in active demand in the European markets at the present time.

With the approach of the breeding season farmers should begin to give a little attention to the selection of stallions for breeding purposes. During the past year some valuable importations have been made and breeders will undoubtedly have a much better class to select from than was the case a year or two ago. This being the case farmers should be careful to choose only the very best, whether it be for heavy draft, carriage or other purposes. It never pays to breed a good mare to an inferior stallion, no matter what the cost of his service may be. Evidently too many farmers in the past have bred to the cheap, inferior class of stallions that have been only too common in many parts of the country. A difference of \$5 or \$10 in the price of the service fee between an inferior and a first-class stallion is neither here nor there as compared with the much larger price that the latter's offspring will command when offered for sale two or three years later. The difference in price to-day as between an inferior horse and one of a type that meets the