

All domestic fowls have the gapes, but chickens and turkeys suffer more than the aquatic tribes. almost any housewife will tell you that chicks will not have the gapes if you change roosters every year, simply because you make a change of blood ; and yet if you inform her that her chickens had already had or were having the gapes, she would not believe you, because she had not seen her chickens gape and duck their heads out and in, as chickens usually do when thus afflicted. Turkeys and ducks never draw the necks out or in ("duck it," as it is called,) but merely open and close the beak, throwing the roots of the tongue out for breath. usually chickens are never supposed to have the gapes, until they stand and sleep by the hour together and gape with every breath. At this period the doctoring generally commences, but the result is pretty generally the death of the victim. Every one admits that the cause of the gapes is a small red worm, seated in the windpipe, but it has never yet been fully explained how the worm gets there. Mr. Hslsted, I think, says it is a nit that is deposited by the head louse in the nostril of the chick as soon as dry. I cannot endorse this theory. Lousy chicks suffer from the gapes oftentimes, but sometimes they are very lousy and never suffer from the gapes.

Anything that serves to reduce the chick prevents the ejection of the gape worm. Where chicks have been raised for any length of time on one spot, this ailment rages to a greater extent. In new countries on the fresh soils this disorder is unknown. Very early chicks, too, generally escape any serious attack ; but the latter broods will generally go through all the stages and will not suffer, if well fed and kept dry and warm. One May chick is worth two of March, as there is less danger of a stunt to the growth. Proper food, also, is necessary. The strength and activity of the bird carries it safely through most diseases, and a good constitution in the first place is the foundation of health, and is inherited from the parents. Never breed from a bird known to suffer from "the gapes."

C. B. in *Country Gentleman*.

—Reality and imagination are very different things. We draw largely on the latter when we look at the broods as they come off in February, March, April and May. We can see many winners, and all good ones. While we rock ourselves in these blissful anticipations, and determine to avoid the errors that had so often made shipwreck of our hopes and introduced us to grave disappointment, the time creeps on, and the little balls of fluff grow into awkward and lanky chickens. Still the time goes on, and different temperature, shortened days, and lengthened nights demand a change of treatment. But the change is a startling one from

the thirteen "new comes" amply cared for under the hen, and the same number of great staring fowls that ask for board and lodging. If there were but one thirteen, something might be done ; as there are six thirteens, something must be done. No amount of writing or talking will enlarge a roosting-house. It is known Henry V., of white-flag notoriety, is slightly lame. When living at Frohsdorf his admirers were allowed to walk through the apartment as he sat at dinner, or to follow him at a distance when he took his constitutional. Two old marquises of the *ancien regime* were doing so, when one exclaimed to his companion, "My dear marquis, our prince has one leg shorter than the other." "*Maladroit*," said the other, "they are uneven only because one is longer than the other." So we will insist the house is not too small, but the stock is too large. No difficulty now. How is it to be done ? By eating or selling: by selling alive as stock birds, or as ordinary food. The good London wife, retired into the country, was asked, when her first hog was killed, how she would have it cut up ? She said, "All hams." And so our friend the poultry-breeder would have all his chickens prize birds. But it may not be. Whatever is done, it should be done at once. Procrastination in this instance is not only the thief of time, it is the thief of food. These birds are eating that for which they will make no return. You must decide how you will dispose of them. All we can tell you is, they must be sold. There is a pleasure in putting off a thing ; it shows we are not compelled to do it. But Nemesis comes in the shape of the private Caleb Quotum. He says, "If you please, sir, you must increase my allowance." These growing fowls eat terribly. Now you must steel your heart. And after all, if you had room, many of them are not worth keeping—four-toed Dorkings, single-combed Hamburgs, crooked fowls of every breed ; those that somehow never seemed to do any good, the extra cocks, the faulty feathered ; all these should now be got rid of. Their food and their room should be given to those that will make a better return for them. If you are told your fowls are all too good to kill, do not believe it. We lately went into such a yard, and the two first selected birds put into our hands were both hump-backed. If you do not thin your stock now, if it is to be thinned at all, the inevitable loss will be your own choice.—*Journal of Horticulture*.

The growing chicks now require your best care to keep them thrifty and strong. Feed and water regularly three or four times a day. Keep the roosting places clean, and give a good run in a shaded place if possible. Separate the sexes.

Let us have your "ads" early next month.