

quicker, and upon less food than our common fowls, and the flesh is far superior. The Creve can be reared and fattened for the table at the age of ten or eleven weeks, and far surpasses all fowls for the lightness of bone, and delicacy of its flesh. Combined with considerable size, and in this respect the Houdan is little inferior to it. The Houdan is the Darling of France, highly esteemed as a table bird, containing, as it does considerable egg producing powers with excellency of flesh. The Brahma Poultry, that huge Asiatic fowl, so hardy in constitution, and so well suited to our variable climate, is fast becoming a great favorite in this country, as shown by the thousands that are now annually exhibited at our poultry shows. This huge fowl attains a weight of 12 to 14 lbs. (each bird). Its chief value is however for crossing purposes, as it imparts to other breeds size with great constitutional powers. Such a large bird must necessarily be somewhat coarse in the bone, and owing to this it is much used for crossing with more refined breeds; by so doing its coarseness is reduced, and a superb table bird produced, combining size with quality of flesh, and plenty of it. Again, as winter layers, no breed can excel the Brahmas. They are said actually to lay more eggs in the winter than in summer, and we all know the value of new laid eggs in mid-winter. Another advantage the Brahma possesses is that by being a winter layer, the hen becomes broody in the early spring, at which time chickens should be hatched, and at this time broody hens are scarce, as other breeds are then only commencing to lay, and become broody too late in the season for hatching pullets to lay through the following winter. The great size of the Brahma hen enables her to cover fifteen or sixteen eggs, and she invariably proves herself a good and careful mother. To make poultry really profitable, it is clearly necessary to keep a breed that arrives quickly at maturity, is easily fattened, and attains considerable size, when the production of meat is the object sought, and to gain this end it will be well to set up a stock of Creves, Houdans and Brahmas, and by judicious crossing you cannot fail to produce a large and profitable fowl, very little inferior in size or weight to ordinary market turkeys. When the production of eggs is the object sought—and it is from eggs the chief profit from poultry must be sought—it is necessary that you set up a breed of prolific egg layers, and worthy of the name of every day layers, or even-laying layers. Brahmas for winter eggs and hatching; you may also choose; Light Brahma, Houdans, Andalusians, Faintons, Spanish and Ring-necked, all or any of them may be kept for the unending production of eggs in any quantity; these breeds never desire to sit, but lay continuously until they moult.

I may mention that careful experiments have been made more than once, and which have proved that the application of 1 cwt. of fowl dung, has equally beneficial effects upon certain crops as 1 cwt. of best guano. Does not this point to the importance of economizing and utilizing the manure of fowls, and especially in cases where large numbers are kept? How seldom do we find the manure of fowls utilized as it should be; as a rule, they are allowed to roost about here and there, and even when confined to a hen roost, how seldom, if ever, is the manure gathered and applied in any profitable way. Fowls should be provided with a comfortable hen roost, and nesting house, and the bottom should be strewed with 2 or 3 inches of dry powdered garden mould. This is a very important matter, as the moist droppings of the fowls fall upon the dry dusty mould the latter has the effect of at once deodorising it and keeping the house sweet.

I beg to conclude, hoping that by drawing attention to this important though neglected branch of agricultural industry, I may induce you to give fowls a fair trial, and I also trust that I have succeeded in convincing you that although it be true that fowls don't pay, it is equally true that they do pay, and that under certain specified conditions they not only pay but actually return a larger profit than that realized from any other farm stock.

#### Feeding Chickens.

Corn, wheat screenings and occasionally coarse meal, scalded and mixed with hot water, make up their food. I never give them corn meal mixed with cold water, I don't believe in it, in fact I think that it is one source of their sickness and diseases. All their food is better for them cooked but cooking of corn and wheat implies trouble. So it does, but it pays to do it, and does anything pay without trouble? However, let me say, whether you feed on raw corn or no, never feed on raw corn meal.

Now, when I feed, my plan is to walk all over the yard, about half an acre, and scatter the food right

and left (two grains never fall in the same spot) and immediately you see the whole army scatter themselves as skirmishers, and the yard presents, for an hour or more, somewhat the appearance of an upturned ant hill. I never give them as much as they can eat, so they always leave off hungry. By my system of scattering the food, old and young, weak and strong, small and large, all get their chance and share, all are kept so busily and actively employed that the very process of feeding stirs them about, and keeps them from being too lazy to move about. Clean water (you see I emphasize the clean part) they must have, free to all. Drinking foul water kills more chickens than nine-tenths of us raise. Occasionally in summer I drop a lump of lime into the water; I also make them cayenne pills whenever I notice them drooping, or their discharges show symptoms of diarrhoea. Gapes come from drinking foul water, living in dirty quarters and want of good food, properly given.

The best cure for this and all other diseases chicken flesh is heir to is prevention—in this case, an ounce of prevention being worth a good many pounds of cure. Give them good, wholesome food, healthy, clean quarters, pay some decent regard to their comfort, and, my word for it, they will make you rejoice in the profitable gratitude they return you; you will be but little troubled with cholera and gapes, or any other pest, except the miserable chicken thief, and the best cure for him is a spring gun, properly arranged to dose him when he makes his marauding attempt.—*Cor. Country Gentlemen.*

#### Profits of Poultry.

Nothing which the farmer produces is of quicker sale than eggs and poultry. The prices which he receives therefor are in the main remunerative; the labor incurred is light and agreeable, and can be performed by the junior members of his family. The poultry yard produces food which is highly palatable and nutritious at all seasons, and in this respect is hardly equalled by any other department of the farm. Is it not worth while then to bestow more care and skill in managing the poultry? Left to themselves, half their products are often wasted, and half the year they are non-layers. In winter they need simply warmth, light and sunshine, clean, roomy quarters, and plenty of food. Every day they will pay for this. In the summer they want range, fresh earth, shade, water, seclusion, and protection from vermin. An abundance of eggs and broods of plump chickens, either for market or the farmer's own table will result from this care. It is not feasible to carry on the poultry business on an enormous scale. Many have tried it and failed; but every farmer should make a couple of hundred dollars' worth of their products yearly. That, at least, can be done with profit and pleasure. It is a business adapted for the boys and girls, and they will speedily take a lively interest in it if only proper encouragement is given.—*Farmer's Union.*

#### Getting Plenty of Fresh Eggs.

Thirty years ago I was troubled just as my neighbor now is; I fed my hens plenty of corn and got but few eggs. I reasoned upon the matter, and happened to think that the constituent parts of milk and the white of eggs were much alike. Now it has long been known to milkmen that wheat middlings and bran are about the best of any food to make a cow give milk; why not, then the best to make hens lay eggs? I tried it, and since then have had no trouble. My mode of preparing the feed is to mix about five parts of bran with one of middlings. In the morning I wet up with water about four quarts of the mixture in a large tin pan, taking pains to have it rather dry, though all damp. This I set in a warm sunny spot, south of their shed, and they walk up, take a few dips, don't seem to fancy it like corn, and start off on a short hunt for something better, but always coming around in a short time for a few more dips from the dish of bran. There is little time during the whole day but what one or more are standing by the pan and helping themselves. I am careful to mix for them just as much as they will consume during the day. At night, just before they repair to the roost, I usually throw them about a pint of shelled corn, well scattered, so that each one can get but a few kernels. If your hens don't incline to eat this feed at first, sprinkle a little Indian meal on it. I would like all who complain of not getting eggs to try my plan, and I think they will never be sorry.

#### A Varied Diet for Fowls.

There are no animals more omnivorous than fowls; fish, flesh, herbs, and grains being devoured by them with equal relish. We say equal, for though they commonly pounce upon meat with greater avidity than upon grain, this is generally because it affords variety, and the flock kept for awhile almost entirely on animal food will show the same greed for a few handfuls of corn.

Now, those animals accustomed to use a varied diet should not be confined to an unvarying one. There are, indeed, some species which are naturally limited to one or a few kinds of food. Thus, cattle do well enough, although kept month after month on grass alone, and a tiger will thrive with nothing but lean meat upon his bill of fare. But with other animals, as with the human race, for instance, the case is different, for no person can maintain the highest efficiency when confined to one article of food. No matter how fond we may be of a particular dish, we lose relish for it when allowed nothing else for a number of consecutive meals, and the intense craving for variety indicates as its source something more than mere appetite. It gives evidence of the real necessities of the system which are constantly varying with the changing circumstances of weather, employment and other conditions.

The fondness for variety shown by fowls is as significant of real needs as we have found it to be in ourselves. In purveying for them, a judicious variety, selected from the three general divisions—*fresh vegetables, grain and animal food*—is at all seasons absolutely necessary for young and old in order to make them perfectly thrifty. True, they will not starve on hard corn and water, neither will they pay a profit so kept.—*The Poultry World.*

#### How Fowls Grind their Food.

On this subject S. Edward Todd discourses as follows: "Fowls have no teeth to grind or masticate their food with, and the best they are able to do with it is to pick it and swallow it whole. Kernels of grain are swallowed whole by them, and as they are surrounded by a tough pellicle or skin, which the juices of the stomachs of the animals will not readily dissolve or digest, they could obtain no nourishment at all from grain, if this tough pellicle was not broken. Now, if we dissect the gizzard of a fowl of any kind, we find a lot of small gravel stones, which are usually the hardest kind of flint, granite or sand stone. Surely here is a pocket edition of Farm Grist Mills.

Fowls swallow their food broken or not, and it enters the crop or first stomach, and remains in it until it has become softened, more or less, when a small quantity at a time, just as grain runs into grist mill is forced into the gizzard among the gravel stones. This gizzard is a strong muscular stomach, and plays night and day, when there is a grist to grind, similar to ballows, contracting and expanding, thus forcing the gravel stones into the grain and breaking it to fragments, and triturating the whole mass; after which it is in a suitable condition to be quickly digested.—*Farmer's Union.*

#### Dressing and Trimming Fowls for Exhibition.

Black Spanish must unfortunately be trimmed in the white of the face, specially pulling out the hair-like feathers that intrude between the white of the face, close up to the base of the comb, producing by this plucking, the extraordinary height and breadth of white which is seen in the prize birds. They must be washed two or three times a week with a little curd soap and chilled water, and bathe all off with clean chilled water. The legs simply require washing to remove any dirt. Brahmas, either dark or light, should be bred so that they may be shown without requiring to be trimmed, as they are treated with more rigor in that respect than either Spanish or game; it is necessary to wash the legs and feet of both colors; endeavor to house and provide for them so that the bodies of either do not need washing. The same applies to black Creve cœurs. There is no trimming required in well-bred birds. Fowls thrive well on a change of food, therefore give them some of every kind in change. No specified quantity can be given; they should have sufficient thrown down to them, and so soon as they appear to have had enough do not give more. Never allow food to remain upon the ground; it is wasteful, and only attracts rats, mice, and sparrows. Smash the bones about the size of split peas, and give about a teaspoonful each, twice a week.—*Cor. Land and Water.*