

macy. He himself had lived and visited amongst the grandees of the Court of the Prince, as Regent and King, and was regarded as a man of most accomplished manners. Thus, I have no hesitation in giving my young readers advice derived from such competent authority.

The Prince Regent was styled "the first gentleman in England," for, like our own Prince of Wales, few had so keen an intuitive perception of the principles that govern all rules of good breeding. On one occasion he had indulged in taking snuff, and turning to a lady beside him, he presented his open box and invited her to take a pinch likewise. Alas! the good woman was not equal to the occasion; she was not in the habit of taking snuff—perhaps she disliked it; in fact, she had not learnt her lesson in good manners. So she thanked him and declined. Of course he felt as if charged with an indiscretion; but, always self-possessed and dignified, he simply turned to another lady and made her the same offer. This time he had met with a woman who was not out of her place in a palace. She thanked him graciously for so distinguishing her, and took the snuff, just sufficient of course to smell, but not to produce a sneeze. Her act justified that of the Prince, who was only testing her good manners, and he showed his recognition of her conduct by presenting her with the beautiful jewelled box, as a memento of the occasion.

Again I must conduct you back to the dining-room. Observe how highly-bred people eat asparagus. They feel with the knife where the soft part ends, and dividing the stems, they eat with the fork. It is a disgusting spectacle to see people draw out a mangled end from their mouths reduced to a ragged fringe. Never eat peas with a spoon. You may change the fork into your right hand and use it as one, or you may press the peas with it—still in the right hand—making them adhere conveniently together. Excepting at a private dinner, where little variety, if any, is provided, never ask for a second help from the same dish.

Take care to keep your hands off the table. Never fiddle with the salt, nor the spoon, knife and fork, and make no crumbs with your bread. Avoid coughing, and the use of your handkerchief; having a cold you should remain at home. If disposed to sneeze, from pepper or mustard, contrive to hold your nose with your handkerchief for a moment, to stop it in time, but do so unobserved if possible. After the game, cheese is carried round, and its usual accompaniments of butter and biscuits, &c. If you take butter, do not scrape off a piece against the rim of your plate, turning the face of the knife downwards, as if you were cleaning a putty-knife on the edge of a piece of glass. Contrive to loosen the butter, so as to place it fairly in the plate at one side. Should you also take cheese, butter a small piece of bread or biscuit, place a piece of cheese upon it, and convey it to your mouth in this way. To do so with the blade of a knife is highly objectionable, and contrary to all rules that obtain in the upper ranks of society, though many, otherwise well-bred people, may be seen careless in this respect in private, and elderly people also allow themselves much license in trifling matters, which they do not mean to form an example to younger people. Such little infringements of the orthodox rules should not be criticised by young people. Advancing life sometimes brings lassitude and indifference about them; and, moreover, what would evidence much selfishness and greediness in youth, is only to be regarded as the consent of an infirm person, with a poor appetite, to be suitably nursed and provided for.

Dessert is now served, and the finger-glasses and d'oyleys are removed from all the plates by their respective owners. Fruit often pre-

sents difficulties to the consumers; what with the stones, skins, shells, or rind, it is not always easy to eat in a delicate and refined manner. Half-bred people may be seen inserting pieces of orange into their mouths and drawing out the peel again, showing the remains of the pulp on their plates. Pomegranates present some difficulty amongst other fruits. They are full of juice, and equally so of stones, too large to be swallowed wholesale. Cut one in two, and with the spoon press the stones within, as in a cup, extracting and taking up the juice with it.

Having taken what fruit they require, each lady dips her fingers in the finger-glass, and touches her lips also with the water, dries them, and puts on her gloves. She then lays the napkin on the seat of her chair. The lady of the house watches to attract the notice of the chief guest, seated at her husband's right hand, and smiles and bows to her, and they rise simultaneously, followed by all. The host opens the door, the chief lady walks out first, the rest according to their respective precedence, and the gentlemen stand until all have retired to the drawing-room.

In conclusion, I have a word of advice to offer on the subject of dinners at home, or after a homely fashion. Observe what dishes are being used, and those on which there appears to be a kind of "run," and never ask for that of which there is little, to the deprivation of any one yet unhelped. When there is a tart or a pie uncut, there being sufficient of some other dish, show some little consideration for your hostess. The expenses and difficulties of housekeeping in families of small means are great. Keep your eyes about you. Remember the invalids, or those advanced in years. Some small delicacy at the table may perhaps have been prepared for them. Try also to supplement the efforts of your hostess. However hospitable, and ready to give you anything you would like, she would appreciate a thoughtfulness on your part, that would leave something nice for one who is always last helped, or would spare an unbroken dish for the following day, without making the reason too apparent. Would you wish her to replace a sort of wreckage of all in her small larder, in return for her kindness to you?

S. F. A. CAULFEILD.

HOW TO REAR FOWLS.

POULTRY-keeping is both an interesting and profitable occupation. If girls only knew what pleasure it would give them, more would pursue it. Remember, however, that it is not a thing to be done by fits and starts. Poultry requires constant care; no arduous work, but regular daily thought and attention. My present paper shall only treat the subject as applicable to the keeping of a limited number of fowls, as can be practically done by any young lady.

Poultry-farming becomes, of course, a matter of capital and interest; while prize poultry-keeping is generally a hobby, very often lucrative, but depending very much on the success your fowls have at shows. It is not by any means to be discouraged, only fowls intended for exhibition require different treatment from those kept merely for household use. If you are successful in taking prizes, and can command a high price for setting eggs—for instance, from ten shillings to a guinea a dozen—it is a very good thing. Before, however, you can expect to succeed with prize poultry it is necessary to obtain a correct knowledge of the management of ordinary fowls.

Proper housing, feeding, and early hatching are the three great requisites to profitable

poultry-keeping, and I purpose now to say a little on each subject.

1ST. THE HEN-HOUSE.

Cleanliness, dryness, warmth, and ventilation, without draughts, are the principal essentials to the health of the fowls. A proper hen-house need not be an expensive affair. Of course, if you have ample means at your command, and wish for ornamental houses, you can have them in endless variety, but please don't consider that as part of the expense of poultry-keeping. My own houses cost a mere trifle. If there is any stone or brick outhouse which can be converted into a hen-house, nothing is better. If it is necessary to build a new one, wood is the cheapest and best material to be employed. We cannot expect all girls to become carpenters, but often they have a brother willing to help them, who would delight in a little joiner work. A house five or six feet square is quite large enough for a cock and six hens; if larger, it only increases their liability to cold in winter. The roof must be made sloping, and either covered with felt or tarred. It must be perfectly watertight.

It is an advantage if the house can be built against a wall, especially if it be a stable wall or at the back of the kitchen fire-place. A stove inside the hen-house is not generally considered a good thing, because the fowls get heated and then when they go out are very apt to catch cold.

The roof of the hen-house may be carried on a little longer than the house, so as to form a shed under which the fowls can shelter. If, however, the house be raised from the ground about two feet, the shed can be dispensed with and the fowls shelter under the house. If space be an object, the latter plan will be found an advantage. A slide for the fowls to go in and out by must be made near the ground. A window is absolutely necessary; one part of it can be covered with perforated zinc for ventilation, as pure air must be had without draughts. For the floor, Roman cement or concrete is best, but any hard substance that can be easily brushed will do. For perches, nothing answers better than a fir pole. Be particular in having them placed away from the nests. For the larger breeds, such as Brahmas, Cochins, &c., it should not be more than a foot from the ground. Indeed, these birds very often prefer to roost on the ground on nice, clean straw. Brahmas and Cochins are so liable to foot disease owing to their heavy bodies, and this liability is often increased by their having unsuitable perches. For the lighter breeds the perches can be placed higher, but not too high, as is frequently the case.

Boxes or little round hampers, without lids, answer capitally for nests. Hens seem to prefer laying on the ground. They must be furnished with clean straw or hay; three bricks laid at the wall, with straw between, make very good nests. Use china or chalk nest-eggs and gather the eggs every evening.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of cleanliness. The hen-house must be whitewashed with lime at least once a year. It must be thoroughly cleaned out twice a week or oftener, and the floor sprinkled with dry sand. It is a good plan to have a board placed under the perches to catch the droppings. It is so easily cleaned, and keeps the manure free from sand, &c. The manure must be carefully preserved, as it is one of the profits of poultry-keeping. For garden purposes it is equal to guano, especially for strawberries. If quite pure, the tanner gives a good price for it. In hot weather use powdered sulphur for sprinkling over the floor, nests, &c. This kills the vermin. It should also be used freely for sitting hens, but that belongs to the treatment of hatching.

The larger your run is the better; grass is preferable, but unless it can be kept very fresh and clean, it is better dispensed with, and good gravel substituted. It is excellent if the runs can be made to open into a grass park, for then the different lots of fowls can be let out by turns, but not everyone can have that advantage. Of course, if the runs be only of gravel, green food has to be supplied.

For enclosing the yards, the best thing is galvanized wire netting. Stabs must be driven into the ground at equal distances;

course on the number of fowls kept. A house could be built longer and then divided, a wire division being between each run, or a number of separate houses may be found most convenient.

THE BIRDS.

Having built your house, the next thing is to stock it, and that depends very much on the taste of the owner, and also on the nature of climate and soil. A young-hen wife should begin cautiously. Many go and buy expensive fowls and set to work with no knowledge or

broody. They make excellent mothers. Cochins are very good, too, but their flesh is yellower and their bones larger.

Spanish and Hamburgs lay splendidly, the former very large eggs. Houdens, Leghorns, Crèveccœurs, Polish, Game, Andalusians, and others give plenty of choice. The Scotch Grey is considered a strong, useful bird. Bantams may be kept for amusement; they are too small for the table, and though they lay well, their eggs are very small. Unless in a very large poultry establishment, it is



“HAVE I BEEN GIVING THOSE DEAR LITTLE CHICKENS PROPER FOOD?”

each stab should have a spike at the top to prevent the hens alighting on them. The wire is fastened to these stabs with staples made for the purpose. Better than stabs are iron stanchions, but of course much more expensive. The more liberty fowls have the better; they can pick up so much for themselves, and as a rule are healthier. Very few persons have this accommodation, though we meet with very successful poultry-keeping in very small space. It requires all the more care and very strict attention to cleanliness, but if well looked after will do very well.

The number of houses required depends of

experience (and in poultry-keeping nothing but experience answers), and then say “poultry does not pay.” No wonder; the whole thing is mismanaged; therefore, learn by experience, and, to use an old Scotch proverb, “Creep before you gang.” Pure breeds are, of course, most to be admired, but many crosses lay very well. A cross between a Dorking cock and Brahma hens makes a famous table fowl. Dorkings are capital for the table, but I do not consider them good layers; the chickens are troublesome to rear, and do not thrive well on a clay soil. Brahmas (light and dark) are good table birds, and lay well when not

better not to keep many different kinds. For beginners a very good plan is to buy some common hens, which can be had from two shillings to half-a-crown each, and buy some settings of whatever kind may be preferred.

FEEDING.

The feeding of poultry is of the utmost importance. If in confinement they require three meals a day, and in winter, although at liberty, should have them. The first meal, to be given at daybreak in winter, and about six o'clock in summer, should consist of soft food—small potatoes, potato and turnip peelings,

apples, cabbage leaves, or any refusé of vegetables, &c., boiled till very soft, and mixed into a stiff paste with thirds or barley meal, and a handful of Indian meal. This last is very fattening, and should be used sparingly for laying hens. Oatmeal makes the best feeding of all, but is generally too dear. The food should be mixed in a pail overnight, covered with a lid or cloth, and allowed to stand beside the kitchen fire, and given hot in the morning. A little pepper mixed in it in very cold weather is a good thing.

Generally the cook gives the first meal, but girls should see that it is properly done; the rest of the feeding they will do themselves. The mid-day meal may consist of waste bread, steeped in water, or, better still, skimmed milk, scraps of meat from the kitchen, or a little grain. In summer they do not require much; the last meal, given shortly before they go to roost, *must* be grain of some sort. The reason is that the fowls require some support during the long hours of night; grain gives them that, and so produces more eggs; soft food is more easily and more quickly digested, and hence is best in the morning. It is a great mistake to give grain as constant feeding, and fowls will never pay if fed entirely on it. Good oats, barley, and wheat, with buckwheat in winter, should be used; light wheat will do for a change in summer; Indian corn is too fattening. Their food is best to be varied. Old ship biscuits, which may be bought at ten shillings a hundredweight, if steeped all night in boiling water, form an excellent change. A "buff," purchased for threepence or fourpence from the butcher is also a nice variety, and in winter should be got frequently, as animal food encourages laying.

Lime must be supplied, and if in confinement, green food given daily. As there is generally a garden where fowls are kept, this is a very easy matter. Weeds, especially groundsel, do as well as anything; cabbage-leaves, lettuce, or even grass.

Lastly, but of primary importance, is a plentiful supply of good water. This is often neglected, and hence very often disease ensues. In winter it is important that it is kept free of snow or ice. Give fresh water daily, and in hot weather oftener, as it dries up so quickly. If a cow is kept, the hens will likely get skim or butter milk.

There are several varieties of drinking-fountains made, but a common delf trough or a large flower-pot saucer, serves as well as anything. As regards the quantity of food to be given, no very definite rule can be laid down; each must use their own judgment. Hens will not lay well if over-fed. Generally about a handful of grain for each fowl will be the right thing to give at night. Some kinds of fowls require, of course, more feeding than others.

Again, all poultry should be more highly fed during moulting, and on wet or cold days should also get rather more. The soft food is often given too soft; it should be of the consistence of dough. No more should be given than can be consumed at one meal; *no food should be left lying over*. Do not use a feeding dish, but give the food on the ground; the fowls require the sand that gets mixed with it for digestion. There is no economy in buying cheap grain, and the size and quality of the egg depend very much on the feeding.

It has been often calculated that the cost of feeding each hen is about five shillings a year. This is, of course, lessened if there be much waste from the house that can be used. These directions refer only to adult fowls; the treatment of chickens is different, and belongs to the subject of hatching.

P. A. L. M.

THAT AGGRAVATING SCHOOL GIRL.

By the Author of "Wild Kathleen."

CHAPTER XVIII.

JOSEPHINE HOLDS THE SCALES.

ON leaving the sleeping Helen Edison the Principal of Crofton Hall turned to her young governess, saying, rather sternly, "We must wait until to-morrow, Miss Rowe, to administer any reprimands, and I cannot help hoping that by that time you, as the elder and wiser, will be willing to pave the way for Miss Edison's apologies by telling her that you do not mind confessing in your turn that you were rather needlessly hasty and harsh with her."

"That I shall never do!" said the English governess in a low, fierce tone, that quite startled her companion, and the two separated without even exchanging good nights.

And here we must go back a little to explain how matters had come to this present terrible pass.

It must be confessed that the state of feeling between pupil and teacher had been increasingly embittered by Helen's sympathies for poor Josephine, which had been still further outraged by a needless display of what looked very much like petty spite on the part of Miss Rowe but a few days before this last and worst quarrel.

Helen had secured her favourite seat at the evening meal between Josephine Bell and Milly Wilmot, and after studying Josephine's face for a few moments, she said, with a little air of loving triumph:—

"Now confess the truth, Josephine; don't you feel ever so much better for having been out of doors this afternoon, instead of poring over your books all the while?"

Josephine was eating bread and butter with far more appetite than she had shown for it lately. But at her companion's question her face grew overcast, and she murmured—

"But I haven't a quarter done my French, and I haven't looked at any spelling, and just now Miss—"

Josephine suddenly checked herself, and tried to check Milly also, who was proceeding to finish her sentence for her. But Helen's "Tell me Mill," was stronger than Josephine's—"Please don't," and so Milly told how Miss Rowe had stopped Josephine five minutes ago, as they were coming in to tea together, to say that for the future she should be obliged to hear her repeat that lesson with Rose, as she had not time to hear her separately.

"She is a regular inquisition wretch," muttered Helen fiercely. "What a queer expression," said Milly, laughing, "and was spelling one of the tortures of the Inquisition?"

"Hurting people's feelings out of spite was," retorted Helen.

"I don't really believe that this time she had anything to do with spite at all," said Josephine, in a low tone. "It was not spoken as though she were cross at all, but more as if she were really

anxious to save a few minutes. And you remember it has been her own leisure in a sort of way that she has given up to me."

"Oh, there, do leave off," interrupted Helen, irritably. "It makes me in a worse rage than ever to hear you always making excuses for her, when she has nothing but hardness and disagreeableness for you. And, besides, I can't help feeling as if you were something of a hypocrite, for you may try to persuade me as much as you like, but I can't believe a bit the more that any but very old people, or people just going to die, ever manage to fancy they like those who are horrid to them."

"Fancying it wouldn't be much use," murmured Josephine.

No, of course not. So it is much better to be honest, and let it alone altogether. If people slap me on one cheek there is certainly a second slap to follow, but it's not on *my* cheek, and if you would be guided by me it would not be for you to have the two either."

"In this matter I have a wiser guide than you," said Josephine, in a tone of unaccustomed firmness, and then the bell rang as the signal for rising from tea, and Helen hastened away to pass the fifteen minutes' interval before preparation time in proving to Milly and half-a-dozen other sceptical companions that her leap over the two back-to-back chairs was not to be an exceptional achievement.

Josephine went off to the little study to learn her spelling, but when she had found the book she held it upside down, and gazed at it with unseeing eyes. She was thinking of her brilliant, talented schoolfellow. Hitherto she had thought of her with unmixed admiration and fondness, with just a faint tinge added of almost irrepressible envy for her talents, courage, and confidence. But as the poor, contemptuously-pitied, lustreless pupil sat in the darkening, dull little room alone, with her upside-down spelling-book in her hand, she was not envying her companion, she was not admiring her. She was pitying her. Strange and impossible as Helen would have supposed it, she was being pitied by "poor Josephine." Beauty, talent, strength, chivalry, high-spirited generosity, were all very fair things in the sight of Josephine, but they were as nothing to her if they were to be weighed in the balance with that most wonderful assurance—"Ye are my friends." Dead leaves beside pearls. Josephine had the pearls. Not for all the splendour of the world, not for all the genius of men, would Josephine have given up that Friend, the Friend who says to those who love him,—"As my Father hath loved me, so have I loved you."

CHAPTER XIX.

MISS ROWE CHOOSES A CONFIDANTE.

HALF-AN-HOUR later Josephine Bell was sitting with her hand up to a miserably puzzled head, between Helen Edison and Milly Wilmot in the large classroom, and trying to master her French exercise. Helen and Milly had secretly