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 doubt that many young readers advice derived from such experiences. The Prince Regent was styled "the first gentleman in England," for, like our own Prince of Wales, he had so keen an intuitive perception of the principles that governed the rules of good breeding. On one occasion he had indulged in taking snuff, and turning to a lady, said: "Monsieur has just presented his opera-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, and disliked it; in short, 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 then declared her determination for so distinguishing her, and took the snuff, just sufficient of course to smell, but not to produce a sneeze. Her act pleased the Prince of the West; who was only testing her good manners, and she showed her 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 rag. Never eat asparagus with a spoon. You may change the silver-fork, dress anything you like to the plate, but never eat a gentlemanly meal without the knives and forks.

Now let us take a glance at the butter. 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, unless you hold you should remain at home. If disposed to sneeze, from pepper or mustard, contrive to hold your nose with your handkerchief or a moment, to stop it in time. If you should fumble if possible, for 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, at you were cleaning a pussy-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 in a small piece of bread or biscuit, place a piece of cheese on your plate and convey it to your mouth in this way. To do so with the knife is highly objectionable, and contrary to all rules that obtain in the upper ranks of society, though many, otherwise well-bred people, make mistakes in this respect. Young people also allow themselves to use all manner of trifling matters, which they do not mean to form an example of the young. Such little infringements of the orthodox rules should not be criticised by young people.

Advancing life sometimes brings about a certain difference amongst men and, moreover, what would evidence much selfishness and greediness in youth, is only to be regarded as the consent of an infirm person, with whom you may, to be suitably nursed and provided for.

Desert is now served, and the finger-glasses and spoileys are removed from all the plates by their respective owners. Fruit often present.

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

I. THE HEN-HOUSE.

Cleanliness, dryness, warmth, and ventilation, without draughts, are the principal essentials of the hen-house. The 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 do not consider that as part of the expense of poultry-keeping. My own houses cost a mere trifle. If 100 yards of stone or brick outhouse which can be converted into a hen-house, makes a better house. 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 or builders, but they have a brother willing to help them, who would delight in a little joiner work. A house five or six feet square is large enough for a cock and six hens; if larger, it may be 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 poultry house. A stove inside the hen-house is not generally considered a good thing, because the fowls get hot and then when they go out are very liable 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. However, the house may be raised from the ground about two feet, the shed can be dispensed with and the fowls shelter under the wall. If any be an object, the latter plan will be found more comfortable for the fowls to go in and out by must be made near the ground. A window is absolutely necessary. A window with a 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 girdle. I am particular in having them placed away from the nests. For the larger breeds, such as Leghorns, Cochins, and Buffs, it should not be more than a foot from the floor. Indeed, birds very often prefer to roost on the ground on slate, clean straw. Francis and Cornish. This is all the more necessary owing to their heavy bodies, and this liability is often increased by their having unsuitable perches. For the lighter breeds the perch can be placed higher, but not too high, as is frequently the case.

Boxes or little round hammerers, without lids, and open capacitally for nests. Hens seem to prefer laying on the ground. They may be furnished with clean straw or hay; three bricks laid at the wall, with straw between, make a very good nest. Use a China or chalk straw-feet, 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 drier placed in the hen-house 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 richest manures for garden purposes it is equal to guano, especially for strawberries. If quite pure, the guano gives a good price for it, and the 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.

II. POULTRY-KEEPING.

Poultry-keeping is both an interesting and profitable occupation. If girls only knew what pleasure it would give them, many 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, which 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 but any means to be discouraged. For fanciers who exhibit and 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, for ten shillings to a guinea a dozen—it is a very good thing. Before, however, you can expect to succeed equally considerable time and energy to obtain a correct knowledge of the management of ordinary fowls.

Proper housing, feeding, and early hatching are the three greatest requisites to profitable
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 paddock, 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. Stalls 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. Houdans, Leghorns, Crevecoeurs, Polish, Game, Andalusians, and others give plenty of choice. The Scotch Grey is considered a strong, useful bird. Buffs 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

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each stall should have a spike at the top to prevent the hens slighting 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 Brahmas 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,
THAT AGRITATING SCHOOL GIRL.

By the Author of "Wild Kathleen."

CHAPTER XVIII.

JOSEPHINE HOLDS THE SCALPS.

On leaving the sleeping Helen Edison the Principal of Croton Hall turned to her young governess, saying, rather sternly, "We must wait until to-morrow, Miss Rowe, to administer any reprimands, and also to see how the rest of the feeding they will do themselves. The mid-day meal must 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. Bread, barley, and wheat, with buckwheat, oats, or corn, should be used; light feed 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 for ten cents a bushel, are a very acceptable all night in boiling water, form an excellent change. A 'bali,' purchased for three or fourpence from the butcher is also a nice variety, and in winter should be fed frequently, as animal food encourages laying.

The must be supplied, and if in confinement, green food given daily. As this is generally a garden where fowls are kept, this is a very easy matter. Weeds, especially grounded, 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 be kept free of snow or ice. Give fresh water daily, and in hot weather often, as it dries up very fast in hot weather. 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 galvanized bucket serves anything. As regards the quantity of food to be given, no very definite rule can be laid down; each must use her own judgment. Helen will not lay well if overfed. 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 get rather more. The soft food is often preferred, and should be given in the form of dough. No more should be given them can be consumed at one meal; no food should be left lying over. Do not use a feeding bowl, as the fowls on the ground require the sand that gets mixed with it for digestion. There is no economy in buying cheap sand, 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 will be found if there is much waste from the house that can be used. The directions refer only to adult fowls; the treatment of chickens is different, and belongs to the subject of hatching.

P. A. L. M.

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