

Agricultural column.

Communications for this department, if not too great length, are respectfully requested.—ED.

THE GOLDEN CHICKEN RULES.

The following are some rules that it would be well to observe in raising chickens:

- Keep the chickens in a warm, clean, dry coop.
- Don't let them run out in the morning until the sun has removed the dew from the grass.
- Let them have plenty of food and fresh water.
- The coop must be rat proof.
- Don't let the chickens have access to slops or stagnant water.
- See that they are well housed when a storm is threatening.

RULES FOR KEEPING THE HENRY IN PROPER ORDER.

- Clean out every day and sprinkle a handful of lime.
- Sprinkle ashes over the floor two or three times a week.
- Frequently change the straw or hay forming the nests, and whitewash the nest boxes at every renewal, and twice a year thoroughly whitewash the whole interior of the house.

RULES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SETTING HENS.

- Set the hen in a place where she will not be disturbed.
- Give a large hen fourteen or fifteen eggs, a medium sized one twelve or thirteen, and a small hen eleven.
- Don't let the hen come out of the setting room till she has laid, but keep her supplied with gravel, food, and water.
- When the chickens are hatched leave them in the nest for the first eight or ten hours.
- Don't meddle with the eggs during incubation; sprinkling them with water, turning once a day, and all foolishness is apt to prevent the eggs from hatching.

Rural New Yorker.

The Private Farmer, in speaking of a boy's rights on a farm, talks in this truthful way:

"We are strongly inclined to the opinion that there are no offices so poorly appreciated as those performed by boys on a farm. They seldom get any credit when things go well, but when the contrary is the case, if anything is lost, it is always the boy that has been neglected. If the gate was left unfastened or the bars down, it is the boy who was to blame. If the hens don't lay, it is because the boy hasn't fed them. If dinner is late, it is for the reason that the boy did not prepare the meal in season. If the cow gives bloody milk, it is because the boy threw a stone at her, killed a toad in her path, or raced her in driving her home. Cattle got into the fields because boys break the fence in climbing over it, and so forth. And for this reason that they have been冥冥中注目着 the boy. If a pitchfork is broken by some older member of the family, the cause is traced to a crack made by the boy the last time he used it."

All of which is sadly true. The most uninteresting work, sorting potatoes on rainy days, setting out cabbages after a shower, turning a grindstone by the hour to grind dull scythes and flat axes, running for water while the men rest their iron legs, working with the poorest tools such as dull scythes and old worn out hoes, mangle forks with two tines, and like treatment with reference to almost everything, is too often the lot of boys who are expected to *lose* farming and grow up to be farmers.

A BRAHMA CHOSA ON COMMON PRACTICE.—An experimenter writes: Some years ago, anticipating a visit to my native land, and wishing to take with me some fowls of good size for a cross with our Creole stock, I purchased of a farmer a few young hens; and having them brought to town to wait my departure, gave them liberty in my yard; but to the change in the programme of life my trip was postponed. My hens were well cared for, and began to lay, and having much interest in fowls, kept a strict account of the eggs. Soon discovered however, that I had but one good layer among the whole, and that was a part Brahman, she laying almost every day, and this winter, some of the others being crossed with Cochins, had a few eggs and wished to set, but my Brahman kept until she laid 92 eggs, and in that time lost altogether, but 15 days.

DOMESTIC HINTS.—Bread and cakes should be kept in a tin box or stone jar.

A hot shovel held over varnished furniture will take out white spots.

Frozen potatoes make more starch than fresh ones; they also make nice cake.

To select nutmegs, prick them with a pin. If they are good the oil will instantly spread around the puncture.

Do not wrap knives and forks in paper. Steel is injured by lying in woods.

Two gallons of fine chamois with a dash of asphaltum of wax, when the soap is too unpleasant that it cannot be used.

When walnuts have been kept until the meat is too much dried to be good, let them stand in milk and water eight hours, and dry them, and they will be fresh as when new.

Of all the dreary places driven us from the dreary barn houses which so many people call "home," Bars for a front gate; chickens wallowing before the door; pig pens, clanging the houses in the rear; scraggy trees never cared for, or no trees at all; no vines over the door; no lawn; no flower beds; no bushes; no trimness; no trimness. And yet a lawn, and a neat walk, and a pleasant porch, and a piano, and a piano around all do not cost a great deal. They can be secured by little help. And if ever the time comes when it is best to sell the farm, fifty dollars so invested will often bring back five hundred. For a man is a brute who will not indemnify ten倍 higher price for a such a farm when he thinks of the pleasant surroundings it offers his wife and children.

The crop reports from all parts of the West and Southwest are favorable. The only exception in some western localities is wheat.

The continued dry weather in England is creating alarm among the farmers amounting almost to a panic.

Don't beat your carpets. Try kindness and firmness, and if that doesn't keep them down, send for a bairf and have them taken up.

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