

## Question for Discussion,

"Are the smaller breeds of fowls more subject to injury owing to changes of the weather, than Asiatics?"

J. W. Bruckhart believed the question should be answered in the affirmative. Small breeds in his experience take colds sooner than the Asiatics, and are more severely beset. Severe changes in the weather at once work a great difference in egg laying. The Brahmas and Plymouth Rocks lay better in cold weather than the Leghorns, which are known to be chas. at other seasons.

Chas. E. Long's experience has been the same as Mr. Bruckhart's. The larger breeds are better protected by feathers, and therefore less likely to take colds than the Hamburgs, and Leghorns, and other smaller breeds are especially liable to roup and climatic changes.

S. G. Engle has had no experience in this matter. The large fowls, however, can stand cold weather better.

J. A. Stober has had experience with large and small breeds and especially with Hamburgs, and he has never had roup on his place. He believed lack of care was often the cause of the trouble.

C. E. Long said his experience has been that the Hamburgs are more liable to roup than any other breed.

J. E. Schum's experience has been that the Asiatics and other large breeds not only lay better in winter, but are far less subject to roup than the small breeds.

C. E. Long said that during the present winter his bantams have not been laying at all, but the large breeds have been laying all the time.

Joseph F. Witmer said he began with Light Brahms, got Black Spanish, then Leghorns, and his experience has been that the Brahmas were the best, and those he has continued to breed ever since. He had cholera badly among them, but the adoption of sanitary measures brought them through, and he has been pretty clear of it ever since. The light Brahmas have been the best layers in his experience.

Mr. Liville has had no experience with the small breeds. A remarkably hardy cross is the Plymouth Rock and Partridge Cochins, and they are good layers besides. They lay during the coldest weather of the winter; but, he got more than ever before at the same time. A full-blood cock bred to common fowls will, in his opinion, always produce a stronger class of birds.

Mr. Johnson stated that he had a number of partridges confined during the winter. They were fed on wheat screenings, look plump, are fat, have plenty of water, and yet lately they have been dying rapidly. He wished to know how the mortality was to be prevented.

Charles E. Long thought good screenings and cracked corn would perhaps remedy the matter.

## The Stolen Pigeons.

J. B. Lichty, as the chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that the sum of \$3 had been agreed upon by them as the amount to be paid to Mr. Schum for the stolen birds.

C. E. Long said while he voted for the payment of the lost pigeons, he believed it was a wrong precedent, and the society should put its foot down on such claims in the future. The society distinctly disclaims all liability for exhibition risks and losses.

J. A. Stober agreed with the former speaker, and believed the society should recognize no such claims in the future.

Chas. E. Long thought the society should have taken better care of the exhibits, and permitted none to be stolen. He believed the society should make itself responsible for such losses.

Chas. E. Long moved that hereafter the society should consider any exhibit for exhibition to be loaned. Several other members spoke in favor of Mr. Long's resolution, while several advocated the negative side of the question.

J. M. Johnston read the rule of the society governing the case, and moved Mr. Long's resolution be laid on the table.

On being put to vote, the resolution was carried.

The Secretary called attention to the fact that in doing up the rules birds were exhibited by persons who did not own them. The thing should be frowned upon and stopped if possible.

T. Frank Bucher offered a resolution which was intended to end this trouble, by means of an investigation.

The society adopted the resolution.

## Questions for Discussion.

How can we best prevent fowls from feather eating? Referred to S. G. Engle.

In the rearing of fancy poultry a financial success? Referred to C. E. Long.

Will Bantams mix with Asiatics if allowed to run in the same yard? For general discussion.

On motion, the society adjourned.

## THE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the beekeepers of Lancaster county was held on Monday afternoon, March 14th, in the parlor of the Black Horse Hotel.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter S. Reist. The following members were present: Peter S. Reist, Litz; J. P. Hershey, Mt. Joy; Elias Hersh, Paradise; John S. Rohrer, city; Lev S. Reist, Oregon.

President Reist reported that out of about 60 colonies which he had on the summer stand, he lost about five during the winter. He did not think any of them froze. Several starved. The last time he saw them they were flying and appeared to be in good health. He did not see any of them come back part of the hive, but the fronts were open the same way in summer. He did not feed any during the winter.

John S. Rohrer said he has six stands of bees; wintered them on the summer stands; he got a great deal of honey from them. About the first of November he cleaned the hives on the top, and then closed them up with the exception of one fourth of an inch. When the warmer weather came his bees began to fly out. He thought a great many bees died during the winter owing to too much surplus being left in the hives. He made it always an object to prevent swarming. As soon as a cap is full he takes it away, and this he thought in a measure prevented swarming.

Mr. J. F. Hershey went into winter quarters with 113 colonies. He went into a bee house. He divided a great many of the swarms and had lost so far three colonies. The rest of the colonies in good condition, although not very strong in bees. In February he took them all out and found many of them to have young hatching bees. He then put them back again and hopes not to lose any more. He also expects to take them out as soon as the weather gets warmer.

W. B. Detwiler, of Mt. Joy, went into the same style of winter quarters with 80 colonies and had not lost one.

H. A. Myers, of Spring Garden, went into winter quarters with 12 or 15 swarms, and they were all doing well. These bees were wintered in houses also. He found that those who went into winter quarters with the bees unprotected had lost a great many bees.

Elias Hershey went into winter-quarters with twenty-nine swarms, nine of which died, and the rest are very weak. He heard from his neighbors that great numbers of bees had died. He left the bees on the summer stands. His father, J. H. Hershey, had been ten stands of native, and they were all well and hearty. Most of his bees had died of dysentery or diarrhoea, not of starvation; some of them were very young.

Mr. Dittendier, of the *New Era*, called the attention of the society to the fact that the danger was not yet over. A great many of the hives were weak, and he desired to know how they could be built up.

Mr. J. F. Hershey said the proper way was to take all the combs from them except just as many as they could conveniently cover. They should be well covered with straw, and in regard to the bees they should also be kept quiet. They should not be allowed to fly out very much in the spring, because a great many would get chilled and drop down. As soon as they are getting a little stronger, another comb should be given them, and in that way continue until they have a full-sized colony again.

There are a great many of what are called weak swarms that can be kept alive if they are attended to properly, whereas if left to themselves they will surely starve. If strong swarms must also be carefully looked after. Everything should be kept clean and sweet about the hive, and the hives should be guarded against the cold air.

Mr. K. Black went into winter quarters on the summer stands with three colonies and lost one. The other two are doing very well. The one that died had not honey enough to carry it over the winter and starved.

Adjourned to meet on the second Monday in May.

## FULTON FARMERS' CLUB.

The February meeting of the club was held at the residence of Joseph R. Blackburn. Davis A. Brown, a visitor, exhibited specimens of Long Island Russet and Basin apples.

Mr. K. Black exhibited a package of Helges' "prolific wheat" which he had received from the Agricultural Department at Washington last fall, too late for planting. It is said to be a hybrid of the Argand and Fulton. The grain is a mixture of the variety in shape, but is less amber-colored. As its name implies it is said to make a large yield.

Asking and Answering Questions.

S. L. Greig: What effect will the snow and ice be likely to have on the wheat that is growing?

Isaac Bradley thought that it is doing more good than harm.

Davis A. Brown did not think that the wheat would be hurt by the great amount of snow. Further north they always have a great deal of snow and ice, yet they generally have good wheat crops.

Most of the others present thought that there was too much ice among the snow, and that it would be likely to injure the wheat, especially on low ground. F. H. Haines had read in an agricultural paper of a man having sown a wheat field, and a cake of ice had formed on the road. The wheat on the road, instead of being killed, proved to be better than the rest of the field.

Joseph R. Blackburn asked if live stock should be furnished with earth or clay to liek in the winter?

Franklin Tollinger thought that it would be a good substitute for old shoes, clubs and bones that they often dig across in the habit of chewing.

Davis A. Brown thought it would be well to give it a trial. He remembered a sick horse that the doctor recommended to give earth; all that he would eat.

Joseph Greist: Will feeding wheat bran or bone meal to cows prevent them from chewing bones?

Levi B. Kirk said that they could often get all that they wanted while on pasture, but would still chew.

There did not appear to be any one present who could give a satisfactory reason why cows would chew bones or tell what would prevent it.

## An Important Question.

Rebecca D. King: Why are eggs so scarce this winter?

Solomon Greig said when the ground was covered with snow fowls require shell-making material, such as oyster shells and lime. They also need gravel to digest their food.

J. K. Blackburn would feel well with corn and wheat in the winter, when warm and they will lay.

Grace A. King said that one of her neighbors fed oats to his hens, and he always had plenty of eggs.

Davis A. Brown said that part of his chickens staid at the wagon house and were fed on corn; others staid about the barnyard and had access to the sheep pen, where they got fed on wheat screenings. The ones at the barn are the best layers.

F. Tollinger had always found a few warm days better than any kind of feed, but they will lay well if fed on wheat screenings.

E. H. Haines: Will the paint on carriages be injured if they are kept over or close to a barnyard or stable?

Joseph Greist said it would injure the varnish. The paint possibly be prevented by having a tight floor for them to stand on.

Davis A. Brown asked for a remedy for hens eating their eggs.

S. L. Greig said the wheat feed broken oyster shells. They do not do it in the summer time. It must be to supply a want. Building nests so constructed that the egg would roll out of their reach was suggested as a remedy by Greist.

J. R. H. Stone and Lindley King would take their heads off and send them to market, as there was danger of their learning others.

## The Host's Premises.

After dinner the host exhibited some fine hogs and young cattle, and made the following report of the output of the farm: 10 acres of wheat, 210 bushels; 11 acres of corn, 650 bushels; 11 acres of oats, 300 bushels; 25 bushels of potatoes, 18 bushels sweet potatoes; pork and bacon sold, \$141.88; home raised cattle sold, \$307.

## Literary Exercises.

"Don't run in debt," was recited by Carrie Blackburn; "The Pumpkin," by Whittier, was recited by Mabel A. Haines; an article on entertaining company was read by G. A. King, showing that rich and costly dinners are not consistent with hospitality; but in the general course of the talk the good behavior that make your visitors feel that you are really glad to see them.

An article from the *New York Tribune* on plowing down green crops for manure, was selected by J. K. Blackburn, which he read to the club. The article contended that the great need of the farm was nitrogen, and that the cheapest way to get it was from the atmosphere by plowing down green crops, and that the live stock on the farm was an expensive necessity.

There was no one present who had much experience in enriching the soil in this manner, but the general sentiment of those present, who expressed an opinion, was in favor of the article was rather wild in some of his ideas.

The club then adjourned to meet at the residence of Joseph Greist, in Fulton township, at the usual time in March.

## LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

The society met at the hall on Saturday afternoon, February 26, 1881. Officers in the chair: Vice President Prof. J. H. Dubbs; Secretary pro tem. Prof. J. W. Reynolds, and subsequently Secretary M. L. Dant, M. D.

Present, eight members and seven visitors. After the usual formalities the following donations were made to the museum and library:

## Museum.

A specimen of *Citæda Septemdecim*, otherwise named the "Seventeen Year Locust," which evolved