

sently Matron of Kirklands Asylum, Bothwell, near Glasgow, to be Matron of the Barony Parochial Asylum, Woodilee, Lenzie, at a salary of £80 per annum, with board, furnished apartments and attendance. Miss Godwin was trained as a Hospital Nurse at Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool, for the Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Association, in which she was eight years, when she was appointed Matron of the Bothwell Asylum, where she has been for the past four years." S. G.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

#### LADIES AND POULTRY-KEEPING.

WHILE Doctors differ the patient dies, we know. Yet Doctors will differ, yea, and other people as well, as the perplexed enquirer after knowledge oftentimes proves. Does poultry-keeping pay? is one of these vexed questions to which one-half of mankind answers, Yea, and the other half, Nay, nay. From what I can gather from diversified information on the subject it depends entirely on the keeping and the keeper. Some folk make everything they take in hand pay; others again never seem to succeed, whatever they try to accomplish. It sometimes seems to me as if money-making were as much a gift of nature as many of those we term decidedly natural gifts. With regard to fowls, firstly, I would have it remembered that to make them a profitable investment is a business, and a difficult business also, needing attention, careful management, and immense energy. Of course a large number of fowls are more lucrative, comparatively speaking, than a small one. Also, a long run of grass or a field, where they can pick up enough to half feed themselves, will prove of great advantage to the mistress and to the hens also; but where there is a close run, the birds should be fed at least once a day (the middle of the morning is the best time) with green food. Young chickens need great care at first. If taken from the mother, they should be kept in an atmosphere of 80 to 100 Fahrenheit. Great disappointment is often felt during the hatching season, for the broods are liable to chapters of accidents, and need looking after constantly. Spring is the usual time for setting. Incubators are very successful if thoroughly understood, and well repay the initial cost of purchase. They are used a great deal more in France than in England as yet. Hens lay on an average about one hundred eggs per annum, but it all depends on the breed. Cochins are good birds for winter laying, and Hamburgs are so prolific as to have been termed the "every day" fowls; but their eggs are very small. Plymouth Rocks and Langshans are both

good table birds. Dark Brahmas are not now as popular as a few years back; there is a fashion even in fowls. On the question of expense of keep, Doctors or rather authorities differ. Some say three half-pence or even twopence a week per head, whilst one lady gives the low estimate of one halfpenny; but then, as I said before, fowls which have the run of a good field half feed themselves. It is certain, however, many people kill their fowls, from a cruel kindness in over feeding. Birds, like children, never know when they have had enough. It is impossible to make any fair estimate as to the amount earned yearly by poultry-keeping, as so many things—loss of birds, pussies' thieving propensities, failure of setting eggs, &c.—have to be considered; but I should think, roughly speaking, about 10 per cent. on outlay or even more may be reasonably expected. New-laid eggs in winter are often as high priced as five or six a shilling; in summer, about a penny or three half-pence is asked. The best means of selling them is privately to friends, and those who live in town are always glad of reliable new-laid eggs. Another way is to send them to a dairy or greengrocer's to sell on commission. Of course fowl keeping is essentially a country pursuit; our city sisters must look to other means of increasing limited incomes. In only a few cases, and these generally where there has been capital to start with, have people been able to make a living by this interesting occupation, which, however, is one that entails the sad necessity of early rising.

A GREAT drawback to poultry keeping is the expense of conveyance to the towns, the railway carriage and even the parcels post being disproportionately high; whilst foreign eggs can be imported far less expensively by sea, and therefore can be sold cheaper, especially as there is no duty on them. Thus it is that our own country women cannot compete successfully with the "foreigner." In this more than any other trade high railway tariffs are a terrible obstruction to the home trade of this country.

THERE is in the *Women's Penny Paper* of May 24th a most interesting account of an interview with Mrs. Alexander, the popular authoress, whose clever and life-like novels are such universal favourites. It will amuse some of my readers to know that the true name of this gifted lady is Mrs. Hector, and that Alexander is only her *nom-de-plume*. She is no young girl writing of an ideal world, but a practical able woman who understands the life which she would illustrate for the benefit of others; and whose books, therefore

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)