

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 3.

BOSTON, MASS., OCT. 15, 1899.

NO. 4.

Your Subscription Ended

for this paper, possibly with the last issue of A FEW HENS. If so, and you renew, you will get fifty per cent. more matter the coming year, as the paper will contain twelve pages instead of eight. The price will remain the same, 25 cents, as before. Kindly favor us at once with your renewal, sending 25 cents for same, in cash or postage stamps.

TAKE NOTICE. If you send us 40 cents, and one new subscriber, we will send the paper a full year to both for that amount. Send us 60 cents, and two new names, and we will renew your subscription; or send 60 cents, and we will enter your name alone for three years.

Either of the above offers we believe give more real practical value for the money than can be gotten anywhere else.

Send all money and subscriber's address, name, post office and state, (plainly written), in full to

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Whitewash.
 Get to work.
 Gather leaves.
 Show enterprise.
 Order new blood.
 Practice economy.
 Secure a trap nest.
 How are the roofs?
 Clean the windows.
 Prepare for winter.
 Paint the buildings.
 Get in the road dust.
 Keep thoroughbreds.
 Pen up the cockerels.
 Clean up the rubbish.
 Give the farm a name.
 Give the pullets room.
 Encourage the pullets.
 Today is the best time.
 Hurry up the building.
 Establish a local trade.
 Get us new subscribers.
 Secure your vegetables.
 Fight the poultry trust.
 Get rid of the mongrels.
 Discourage the huckster.
 Repairs are now in order.
 Make your plant a model.
 Market the surplus stock.
 Tomorrow may be too late.
 The morning sun is a tonic.
 Are the pullets developing?
 Introduce us to your friends.
 The new feathers are coming.
 Now is the time to buy stock.
 Get the winter quarters ready.
 Do you know your best layers?

Experimental Farm Notes.

Improvement in Egg Yield—White Plymouth Rocks—Rhode Island Reds—Fighting Lice and Preventing Sickness—The Egg Yield and Prices for the Month of August.

There is a big improvement this year in the late Summer and early Fall egg crop on the Experimental Farm, compared with the same time last year, and with the same number of fowls. In August, 1898, the highest number of eggs laid in one day was 13, and the lowest 1. In 1899, the highest number was 34, and the lowest 15. In September, 1898, the highest number was 12, and the lowest 0. This year, to date (September 18) the highest number was 18, lowest 6.

This improvement, we conclude, is due to our care in mating only our best layers. Last year we did not have trap nests to point out our best layers; this year we have, and expect to improve wonderfully in this particular.

There has been a general improvement in the egg crop ever since last January, and we are not forgetful of the fact that much of it is due to the green cut bone and animal meal, as well as the vegetables, clover and tender grass we have been feeding. We feed cut bone every Wednesday and Saturday, and mix Bowker's Animal Meal in the soft food every day. During the winter we cook clover hay and mix with the mash. Just as soon as we can get green clover we stop feeding the hay. Besides, having alternate runs to each pen, we have one yard growing in green oats while the other is being occupied by the fowls. By the time they clean out the one run, the other is green enough for them. This arrangement goes a great way towards solving the green food problem. In feeding vegetables we cut them in our Evans Root Cutter and feed raw. We find the fowls like them better, or at least just as well, and they are not so apt to overfatten as when cooked vegetables are given.

* * *

We are trying another breed. This year, or rather the coming Winter and Spring, we will experiment with White Plymouth Rocks. August 10th we

secured 6 White Plymouth Rock hens, and they laid, up to the end of the month, 78 eggs, or an average of a fraction over 3 eggs a day. This, considering the fact that they were placed in new quarters in a strange place, is a very good record. September 12th we purchased 10 additional hens, account of which will be given next month. These were owned by Wm. Bernshouse, of Hammonton, an old-time poultryman, who had his stock bred up to heavy egg production. The fowls we purchased are not only extra good layers, but they are large birds, showing very attractive carcasses, and are excellent specimens of the breed. They have been doing good work since in our possession, and we expect to give some good reports.

* * *

Our Rhode Island Reds are growing finely. We believe we will have enough pullets to make up two fine yards—one of single combs, and one of rose combs. It will be interesting to keep track of their laying and general purposes, and see how they will compare with our other breeds.

As we will use trap nests in all our pens this Winter and Spring, it will be interesting to know which breed will give the best individual egg record, which breed will give the best average, which breed will show the most broodiness, etc. Likewise, which breed will give the best broilers, which the quickest, which the best roasting fowls, and which the most attractive carcasses. The breeds contesting will be Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, White Plymouth Rocks, Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds, and Single Comb Rhode Island Reds.

We do not intend permanently keeping so many breeds on the farm. Our present idea is to test these that we may know which ones it will be best to retain for our purpose—furnishing eggs, broilers, roasters, breeding stock and eggs for hatching. We want only the best. Our territory being limited, we cannot afford to harbor drones, nor keep a breed that will not fill the bill. Two acres is not a large area upon which to make a living with poultry, but we believe that with the right fowls, the right accommodations, and the right facilities, feed and care, we will succeed.

We are continually fighting lice. Not that we are overrun by them, but instead are using methods to keep them at bay. During the past season we have had a pretty weak army to conquer. We keep insect powder in the nests, clean up the droppings daily, disinfect with carbolate of lime, pour kerosene on the roosts and in the corners of the nest, once a week, and whitewash the inside of the buildings several times a year. In addition to this we keep the drinking vessels clean and sweet, give fresh water daily to the fowls, feed only the purest of feeds, and as much variety as possible. This, with good care, always aiming to have the fowls comfortable, has enabled us to not only keep lice at bay, but have our stock in the best of health. We never had, or never saw hardier stock. We will not breed from other than the most rugged.

.

During the month of August our Brahmas laid 118 eggs; Wyandottes, 354 eggs; Leghorns, 168 eggs; White Plymouth Rocks, 78 eggs. This made a total of 718 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction over 23 eggs. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 34, and the lowest number 15.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received during the month was 19 cents; the lowest, 16 cents; average, 17 cents.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Chicago Cold-Storage Eggs—Value of Poultry Crop—Big Egg Contract—Excellent Laying Records—Remarkable Work by a Flock of Common Hens.

"Every-day layers" is stretching the truth.

"Eggs laid to order" is a sign in a New York provision store.

It is said that, in 1898, Germany imported more than 100,000 tons of eggs, valued at \$17,000,000.

The Third Annual Open Laying Competition, of London, England, will commence on October 25, and continue for 16 weeks (February 13, 1900.)

To have a regular supply of eggs throughout the year, there should be a pen of two-year-old hens, one of yearlings, and a pen each of February, March, April and May hatched pullets on the farm.

Winter laying is greatly a matter of *breeding* rather than *breed*, says A. Newport, secretary of the English Open Laying Competition, and a winning pen is not a haphazard selection, but the fruit of years of observation, careful selection, and judicious mating.

Chicago claims to have nearly 30 per cent. of all the eggs in storage in the United States. There are about 700,000 cases, or about 168,000,000 eggs, which cost \$2,677,500. The cost, including storage and insurance, is about 14 cts. a dozen, two cts. more than the cost last year.

Contracts were closed recently in Kansas City, Mo., for the sale to a syndicate of eastern commission merchants of 70 car loads of eggs now in store at Topeka, Abilene and Concordia, Kans. The sellers will realize 16 cents a dozen, and the eggs will retail in New

York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities, at a little over 20 cents. The deal is estimated to cover 10,000,000 eggs.

The Columbus (Ga.) *Enquirer* gives the following estimates of crops in this country:

Earnings of poultry,	\$290,000,000.
Value of cotton crop,	259,164,640.
Value of wheat crop,	237,938,998.
Value of swine,	186,259,745.
Value of oat crop,	163,665,078.
Value of potato crop,	78,898,901.
Value of tobacco crop,	35,574,220.

E. R. Reid, Nordhoff, N. J., writes:

"In 6 days, out of a pen of 11 hens, I have received 47 eggs. Can any of my fellow readers of A FEW HENS beat that for the month of July? The record by days was 7, 8, 8, 6, 10 and 8 respectively. The pen consists of 5 Brown Leghorns, 3 Barred Plymouth Rocks, 2 Jersey Blues, and 1 Black Minorca. No male bird in the pen. I am keeping a strict account of my hens, and am out for a record for eggs. Thanks to your paper."

W. M. Lloyd, Tuckahoe, N. Y., the inventor of the Uneda trap nest, writes: "I wish I could tell my experience the past four years with trap nests—how many of my birds were living on the fat of the land at my expense. There was the best looking hen of the flock (a show bird) putting on airs on a record of only 41 eggs a year, and there a bird I would have picked out for pot pie, putting in the big licks of 204 to help feed the beauty. I have learned many valuable pointers, and with all your experience in the past, the trap will prove the great advantage of knowing your most valuable birds."

Willie Mitts, Raymond, Ills., writes: "I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how the common hens did in 240 days. Until June 29 there were 60 hens; then I disposed of 30. The 60 hens laid 63 eggs in February, 447 in March, 739 in April, 674 in May, and 330 in 29 days in June, 529 in July, and 417 eggs up to August 29. This made a total of 3,316 eggs in 240 days. This, however, ends the common hen business for me, as I now have 75 Barred Plymouth Rock pullets growing. I sold 2,046 eggs this season, for an average of 10 cents a dozen."

R. J. Venn, Fresno, Calif, writes: "I read in A FEW HENS where you say that those White Wyandottes of yours that laid white shelled eggs were the best layers. I have White Wyandottes and like them better than the White Leghorns. But our market here calls for a good sized white egg, and I have only one Wyandotte that lays a fine white egg. From her I have a few nice pullets. She is a grand old bird, of that square, blocky built, with fine yellow legs and yellow skin. She laid 140 eggs last year. I cannot tell how old she is, but I do know she is over 2 years of age. She is molting now, and has not a feather in her tail, yet today again she laid an egg. The best season here for raising chickens is December to and including March."

F. M. Chesbro, Mongo, Ind., writes: "In August issue of A FEW HENS you

give your 6 months' report of eggs. I see your Wyandottes did the best in egg production, and a very good record it is. But I have done a little better. I commenced last January to keep an egg record. I had 18 Rose Comb Brown Leghorn pullets, 12 Barred Rock pullets, 20 Barred Rock hens—making 50 in all. January I got 158 eggs; February, 262; March, 567; April, 931; May, 1056; June, 728; total, 3,702 eggs for 6 months, or an average of a fraction over 74 eggs each. During this time we set 11 Barred Rock hens and 2 Leghorn pullets. The eggs sold for \$55.40, besides what we used and set. I sold a few sittings for \$2 for 15 eggs. Feed cost \$17.38; shell and blood meal, \$2.50; lice paint, \$2. Total, \$21.88. This leaves a net profit of \$33.52 for 6 months. In July they laid 985 eggs, and 836 in August. This then would make a total of 5486 eggs in 8 months, or an average of over 109 each."

About Broilers and Roasters.

Pointers that May Act as Reminders—Asparagus Chickens—A Legal Decision on How a Fowl Should Not be Carried.

Aim to improve.

Breed for full breasts.

Market the poultry dressed.

Have regular shipping days.

Keep posted on the market.

Gain a gilt-edged reputation.

Tame chickens give best returns.

A too-fat fowl makes a poor roaster.

Market the surplus fowls as roasters.

Neatly dressed carcasses command attention.

Gain the respect of your commission man.

Have the shipment as near alike as possible.

Beware of the bogus commission merchant.

The best broilers are raised and fattened in runs.

Never ship live poultry to market unless on order.

White breeds are most popular for market purposes.

Some of the broiler plants have started for the season.

The helter-skelter poulterer receives bottom prices.

Thoroughbreds make the most profitable market poultry.

For stamina in market stock, introduce new blood annually.

The slow-growing broiler lacks the juicy, good flavored meat.

We are satisfied that the Rhode Island Reds will make fine broilers.

Learn the art of mating and feeding so as to secure plump carcasses.

Private trade generally wants the head and feet removed from the carcass.

Some shippers are more tricky than they claim for the commission merchant.

Remember that the quality of feed has much to do with the color of the skin.

Overcrowding must be avoided in keeping and preparing fowls and chicks for market.

Don't forget that the commission man knows the trick of mixing bad stock with the good.

Be particular about the quality of the fattening food—it has much to do with the flavor.

The Langshans make as fine roasters for eating as one could wish—but the black pin feathers hurt the sale in market.

The three sizes of roasting fowls—small, medium and large—can best be secured by the Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks and Brahmas, respectively.

The Barred Plymouth Rock chickens make excellent broilers, says the *Rural World*, and should be fattened at the age of from 10 to 12 weeks.

Robert H. Essex, Toronto, Canada, in the *American Fancier*, says: Broilers of the Mediterranean class are *non est*; sometimes a cross is made with good results, but crosses are not to be considered here.

As broilers the Wyandottes fill out a little earlier than the Rocks, says Robt. H. Essex, while the extra pound or so on the Rocks at maturity balances this, especially as so many old layers will be disposed of annually.

“Asparagus chickens” are large enough to broil with early asparagus. They are hatched in late July and August, pushed along till November, then killed and put in cold storage for the winter. They are taken out and eaten in spring.

The *American Agriculturist* says: For a number of years the Plymouth Rock has been a general favorite with the farmer, but is fast giving way to the Wyandotte on account of the Plymouth's high comb, dark pin feathers and thin, wedge-shaped breast.

District judges in Chicago have been differing on the legal question of carrying live chickens. The Humane Society arrested several pedlars for carrying live chickens by the legs, heads down. The offenders were discharged, the judge holding that this is the customary manner of carrying the birds, and is not cruel. Another judge has reversed this decision, holding that, as chickens were constructed to hold their heads over their feet, the reversal of this is legally a cruelty. The chief of police has issued an official warning that carrying fowls heads down is illegal, and persons interested threaten to go to the Supreme Court for a further decision.

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

Nitrogenous and Carbonaceous Rations—Floored and Unfloored Pens—Effect of Age Upon Egg Production—Linseed Meal—Gluten Meals—Trap Nest Trials—Test in Size of Flocks for Profit—Rhode Island as a Poultry State—Downfall of the Turkey Industry—A Statement of Investigations.

The principal experiments as recorded in Bulletin No. 60, West Virginia Experiment Station, are:

1. The effect of nitrogenous and carbonaceous rations when fed to laying hens.
2. Floored vs. unfloored houses for poultry.
3. The effect of the age of fowls upon egg production.

In regard to the first, an experiment was planned in order to study the effect of those two classes of food upon the health of the fowls, the cost of the ration, the egg yield, the fertility and vitality of the eggs, and the strength, vigor and size of the resulting chickens. Three breeds were selected—White Leghorns, Light Brahmas and Rhode Island Reds. Each breed was divided into two similar lots, which were placed under exactly identical conditions except the food supplied them. Both lots of fowls were fed each morning a ration of ground feed, mixed either with boiled potatoes or steamed clover hay. The grain mixture for the nitrogenous lot consisted of brown middlings, oil meal, ground oats and corn meal, in varying proportions. The carbonaceous lot received cornmeal chiefly. At noon, the nitrogenous fowls received a ration of ground fresh meat and bone, which was fed daily at the rate of from 5 to 8 pounds per 100 fowls. At night, both lots of fowls were fed all the whole grain they would eat clean, consisting of corn, oats and wheat screenings, the corn predominating for the carbonaceous lot.

Tables are given for each of seven 30-day periods, showing the amount and kind of food consumed by the different pens, also the weights of the fowls in the different pens at the beginning and end of the experiment. The weights were very nearly the same at the beginning, but a surprising thing is that, while the nitrogenous fowls gained in weight 354 pounds, the carbonaceous lot gained only 34 pounds. The former gained in weight more than 10 times as much as the latter. To sum it up, the nitrogenous fowls gave more than four times as much net profit as the others.

In regard to the effect of the different rations upon the hatching of the eggs, the per cent of infertile eggs was more than twice as great from the carbonaceous fowls, while the fertile eggs did not hatch so well as those from the nitrogenous lot. It was observed, too, that the nitrogenous eggs hatched from 6 to 12 hours quicker than the carbonaceous eggs under the same conditions. The chicks were, also, stronger and more vigorous. The eggs from the carbonaceous fowls were found to be smaller than those from the other lot, after the experiment had progressed for some time. Both lots remained healthy and vigorous. The same experiment was duplicated the following year, using White Leghorn pullets and hens, with practically the same results.

Comparative tests of fowls kept in floored and unfloored pens showed the best results from the latter. This is surprising in view of the fact that the ground was a damp clay. The only explanation is that the unfloored were warmer than the floored houses. It is recommended, however, that if floors be not used, the houses be filled in and made dry underfoot.

In the tests to show the effect of age upon egg production, White and Brown Leghorn hens 3 and 4 years

old were used to compare with pullets of the same breeds. The pullets did not quite equal the hens in egg production, but they gained 143 pounds in weight, while the old hens gained 84 pounds.

The following pointers are taken from the 14th annual report of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station (Orono):

Linseed meal is made by grinding flaxseed from which the oil has been more or less completely extracted. “Old Process” contains more fat and somewhat less protein than “New Process” linseed meal.

Gluten meal and gluten feeds are by-products left in the manufacture of starch and glucose from Indian corn. Corn consists largely of starch. The waste product from the manufacture of starch or sugar is relatively much richer in oil and protein than corn. Many factories are removing part of the corn oil from the waste, so that some gluten meals carry but little oil, *e. g.*, Chicago Gluten Meal, which a few months ago carried 7 to 9 per cent of fat, now has from 2.50 to 4 per cent.

The Maine Experiment Station gave the trap nests a trial, so as to be able to determine the eggs produced by each individual. Several appliances and patented devices were examined, but all seemed open to the objection, that while they might indicate to an extent the producer of the egg, the lack of certainty would be so great as to render them of little value for their purpose. So they constructed a nest that proved satisfactory, and which they describe and illustrate in their 14th annual report.

One experiment which has been undertaken, and which requires a long period of time in preparation, is the attempt to establish families of hens that shall excel as egg producers. To do this, reliance upon the laws of inheritance and transmission must be coupled with selection. Selection will depend upon the actual production of the birds taken for foundation stock. From offspring of the foundation stock will be selected—by use of the nest boxes—the greatest yielders of desirable eggs.

The male birds will be bred from dams of known capacity and quality. Only by use of nest boxes and leg bands can we expect to control the work. Two hundred and sixty females, from three distinct breeds, are undergoing tests for the foundation stock. One year's time will be required in the selection. From among them it is hoped may be found a few birds that are suited for the founding of the families. The breeds employed are Barred Plymouth Rock, White Wyandotte and Light Brahma.

To obtain data relative to the number of hens that can be kept in a room of a given size, and the receipts from the same, the Maine Experiment Station made a test with 15 pens of birds, of two breeds.

In the Station poultry building were 15 pens, all alike in size and arrangement. Each pen was 10 x 16 feet on the floor. It was 5 feet high at the back and 11 feet high at the front. Each pen had the same amount of window surface in the south side. The roosts, gravel, bone and water dishes and nests were arranged the same in all of the pens. The entire floor space of 160 feet was available to the birds, as the walk was elevated above the floor so as not to interfere with its use. Equal yard space was attached to each room.

The birds employed were all of the same age—hatched May 24—except those in pen No. 1, which were hatched April 16th. Care was exercised in selecting, to have all of the birds in the pens of a group as nearly alike in size, form and vigor as possible.

Group 1—Pen No. 1 had 15 Brahma pullets; Pen No. 2 had 20 Brahma pullets; Pen No. 3 had 25 Brahma pullets; Pen No. 4 had 30 Brahma pullets.

Group 2—Pens Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8 were duplicates of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Group 3—Pen No. 9 had 15 Barred Plymouth Rock pullets; Pen No. 10 had 20 Barred Plymouth pullets; Pen No. 11 had 25 Barred Plymouth pullets; Pen No. 12 had 30 Barred Plymouth Rock pullets.

Group 4—Pens Nos. 13, 14 and 15 were duplicates of Pens Nos. 9, 10 and 11.

The birds in all the pens received the same quality of food. All food was distributed among the pens of a single group in proportion to the number of birds each one contained. The birds in group No. 2 were not so well developed as those in other groups, and were fed according to their needs. All birds in a single group were fed the same quantity. Uniform care and treatment prevailed. Two birds were lost by accident during the winter. A good supply of dry straw was kept on the floors at all times, and the birds were induced to exercise freely.

It was intended to carry the test through the year, but the building was destroyed by fire early in May, thus terminating the test at six months. For the purpose of this test only, it may be that the period from November 1st to May 1st represents better the influence of the floor space than would be the case when summer runs were added.

The uniformity of the results in every group are such as lead to the conclusion that as we increase the number of birds above 15 on a floor space of 160 feet, the egg yield diminishes as the number of birds increase. This testimony is emphatic, as among the four groups there was not a single exception to this conclusion.

The tables given show the following totals in each pen of each group:

Group 1—Pen 1, 15 birds, 1,260 eggs for the six months November to April, inclusive, or an average per head of 84 eggs.
Pen No. 2, 20 birds, 1,274, or an average per bird of 63.7 eggs.
Pen No. 3, 25 birds, 1,370, or an average per bird of 54.8 eggs.
Pen No. 4, 30 birds, 1,234, or an average per bird of 41.8 eggs.

Group 2—Pen No. 5, 15 birds, 906, or an average per bird of 60.4 eggs.

Pen No. 6, 20 birds, 1,154, or an average per bird of 57.7 eggs.

Pen No. 7, 25 birds, 1,052, or an average per bird of 42.1 eggs.

Pen No. 8, 30 birds, 1,151, or an average per bird of 38.4 eggs.

Group 3—Pen No. 9, 15 birds, 1,007, or an average per bird of 67.1 eggs.

Pen No. 10, 20 birds, 1,251, or an average per bird of 62.6 eggs.

Pen No. 11, 25 birds, 1,395, or an average per bird of 55.8 eggs.

Pen No. 12, 50 birds, 1,227, or an average per bird of 40.9 eggs.

Group 4—Pen No. 13, 15 birds, 1,016, or an average per bird of 67.8 eggs.

Pen No. 14, 20 birds, 1,155, or an average per bird of 58.8 eggs.

Pen No. 15, 25 birds, 1,319, or an average per bird of 52.8 eggs.

Egg yields when all pens containing the same number of birds are combined: 45 birds, 15 in each pen, gave 2,929 eggs; per bird, 65.1

80 birds, 15 in each pen, gave 4,830 eggs; per bird, 60.4.

100 birds, 25 in each pen, gave 5,136 eggs; per bird, 51.4.

90 birds, 30 in each pen, gave 3,612 eggs; per bird, 40.1.

The table which follows shows the most profitable number of hens in a flock in these experiments:

Pens with 15 birds each, gave a value in eggs at 2 cents each, of \$19.52; cost of feed, \$7.50; profit, \$12.02.

Pens with 20 birds each, gave a value in eggs of \$24.16; feed \$10.00; profit, \$14.16.

Pens with 25 birds each, value in eggs, \$25.64; feed, \$12.50; profit, \$13.14.

Pens with 30 birds each, value in eggs, \$24.06; feed, \$15.00; profit, \$9.06.

From the above table it will be observed that pens containing 20 birds did not give as much profit per bird as did pens of 15 birds, but the pens containing 20 birds gave a greater total net profit per pen than did those containing any greater or less number of birds. Pens with 25 birds gave slightly greater net returns than did the 15 bird pens. The pens that had 30 birds each gave very much less net returns than did any of the others.

These tests show that when 20 birds were confined on 160 feet floor space, they yielded more profit than did 15 birds when kept in a similar room. This is a matter of considerable consequence, for the cost of buildings, for the proper housing of birds during the cold winters of our climate is the greatest item of expense to which the poultryman is subjected.

* * *

In the 11th annual report of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, the director reports that Rhode Island's poultry problems are receiving much needed attention and study. "This State can lead, if it will, in all lines of poultry culture. Some of our poultrymen are already recognized as leaders and guides throughout America. On thousands of farms of the State land and water fowl constitute a considerable, and often the most profitable, portion of

the live stock. Moreover, thousands of neglected acres of the limited area of the State, which now yield little except taxes, are well adapted to the keeping of land fowl, while numerous bodies of water, as yet not utilized, may readily and profitably be used as adjuncts in rearing geese and ducks."

A former very important and lucrative branch of poultry farming has practically disappeared from Rhode Island. Where thousands of Narragansett turkeys were yearly raised, now few or none are successfully grown. Apparently, two of the chief reasons for this destruction have been operative, viz: carelessness in breeding, and the disease known as "black head." The removal of the first-mentioned cause is sought to be accomplished by the teaching in the college poultry school of the true principles of breeding as applied to fowls.

An investigation of the second cause has proved that the disease is due to an intestinal parasite, which, in one of its stages, as a minute worm, buries itself in the intestines and produces disease. There is no doubt but that this most detrimental creature needs further investigating. Considering the importance of turkey raising to Rhode Island, the expenditure of a sufficient sum of money to carry forward the investigation, systematically and thoroughly, is warranted. This would involve an attempt to study out, if possible, the intermediate stages in the life cycle of this destructive organism, its hosts and habits, and experimentation to determine the effect of varying conditions upon the birds in health, and when attacked by the disease.

Unfortunately this parasite is one of a class most difficult to study, and apparently beyond the reach of remedies after it has once entered the body of its victim. Probably the most hopeful line of experimentation will be found in seeking means to prevent these intestinal parasites entering the birds. Here, then, is an obstacle to turkey raising which should be removed, and which, for its removal, if it be possible, calls not for a "quack" doctor's ready-made remedy, but for study and work by experts, involving perhaps the expenditure of many thousands of dollars, which, unfortunately, are not yet available for this purpose.

The lines of investigation which have been planned for the poultry division, and which have in some degree been followed during the past year, are the following:

1. Brooder Ventilation and Heating. An investigation into several methods of heating and ventilating brooders and brooder houses for the rearing of chickens. An attempt to secure, without injurious draughts, a continuous and sufficient supply of fresh, pure air delivered to the chickens throughout the day and night at a constant and suitable temperature.
2. Ventilation of Fowl Houses. An investigation and testing of various plans for ventilating poultry houses.

3. Development of a Breed of Poultry. An attempt to breed the so-called "Rhode Island Red" fowls to a standard, having chiefly in mind their utility as a farmer's fowl, for the profitable production of eggs and flesh.
4. Continuation of the Experiment in Goose Breeding and Feeding. A comparison of pure breeds of geese for market production.

Geese for Profit.

Valuable Pointers Taken From the 1897 Report of the Rhode Island Experiment Station.

- Breed only for pure breeds.
- Send the crosses to market.
- Success will come, if care and patience are exercised.
- Crosses in geese are very fruitful in vigor and vitality.
- The more freedom geese have the better they are likely to thrive.
- Ganders and geese once mated may be kept 7 or 8 years without a change.
- P. H. Wilbur gives the average product per goose for 8 years, on his farm, at \$7.48.
- Three geese to one gander of the common domestic breeds is about the right proportion.
- Let the breeding birds be as nearly perfect specimens of their breed and type as can be obtained.
- Some breeders contend that even for market it is better to breed pure-bred geese than to cross-breed.
- More care is necessary, and more difficulty is experienced, in the mating of wild than domestic geese.
- Geese delight to rest on a sunny side-hill after their swim and exploration of the pond or brook.
- The number of eggs laid by a goose measures, to a large extent, the profit obtained from her keeping.
- All experiments seem to limit the advantages of crossing the various breeds of geese to the produce of the first cross.

In breeding mongrel geese, where the wild gander is mated to a domestic goose, there must be as many ganders as geese.

A comfortable shelter in the most severe weather of winter will doubtless help to increase the egg production later in the season.

Any changes in the mating of geese should be made in the fall, or certainly before January, if the best results are expected.

The Jews, as a race, are large consumers of geese, the fat supplying in some measure the place of lard, which they never use in cooking.

In the keeping of Canada geese, a natural body of water, pool, pond or stream appears to be quite essential to successful breeding.

Goslings are not usually sold until the long flight feathers of the wings have made sufficient growth to reach the tail, and they are 9 or 10 weeks old.

The short green grass of the upland is relished by geese, and promotes more rapid growth than the coarser and less nutritious grasses of the swamp.

P. H. Wilbur, upon the homestead farm of about 200 acres, on the Sakonnet river, in Little Compton, raised between 1,500 and 1,600 goslings in 1897.

Geese dislike confinement, and the successful breeder endeavors to so locate his colonies of geese as to have them realize their confinement as little as possible.

A goose two or three years old is undoubtedly better than a young goose, as she will lay more and larger eggs, and the young will usually be more vigorous.

One should not forget that in buying breeding stock he is purchasing for several years to come. It will therefore pay to exercise care in the choice of stock.

As the profit from goose breeding is almost wholly in the number and market value of the young birds produced, the quality of large egg production is an all important one.

If, for any reason, it is desirable to separate birds already mated, they

should be removed from each other's company, and so far moved that they cannot hear one another.

No kind of poultry keeping can be carried on at so little expense for buildings and equipment as goose raising, because of the hardiness of the birds, and their desire to remain in the open air.

Old geese, changed from their home surroundings to a new locality, will seldom do as well the first season as afterwards, unless, perhaps, the change has been made in the summer, after the close of the breeding season.

By arranging with some goose breeder at the early part of the season—May or June—breeding stock can be selected from the number raised during the season, and in that way better birds obtained than later in the season.

If the young geese can be brought to their new home in the autumn—they will become well accustomed to their surroundings and feel at home before spring, and there will usually be no difficulty in mating.

A piece of low swampy ground in which pond holes exist, or may be artificially made, is an excellent place for geese, and when a piece of dry upland can be also utilized for the same flock, it makes an ideal location.

In purchasing geese in the market, the Jews, for some reason, always look for a bird with a yellow or orange bill, and a large wholesale poultry breeder states that it is almost impossible to sell a Jew a black-billed goose so long as he can find one having a light colored bill.

Egg production is affected by care and feeding, and may be increased by attention to the selection of both ganders and geese from noted egg laying strains. This is only possible by keeping an accurate record of the eggs laid by individuals in the flock, and how few goose breeders do this.

Geese are very hardy, subject to no diseases and few enemies, excepting dogs and foxes, and, aside from the breed-



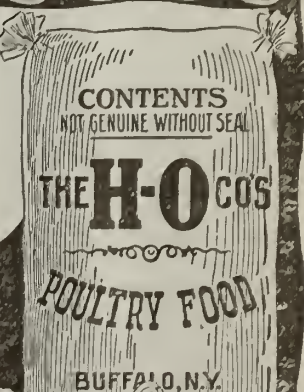
Unequaled Egg Maker.

The prime object in keeping hens is to secure an abundance of eggs. Almost any kind of feed will keep a hen alive, but it requires a special kind of food to secure the best results in eggs. Eggs consist more largely of albumen than any other substance. This being true the best results will be obtained from feeding foods rich in albumen. Nothing available as poultry food contains more albumen than oats except

THE H-O CO'S Poultry Food.

It is a compound largely of the concentrated essence of the oat. It leads all foods therefore, as an egg producer. It makes fertile, sure-to-hatch eggs; it makes thrifty, early developing broilers; it makes a strong and early layer of the pullet; it shortens the molting season and imparts "fine feathers" to show birds and others. Should be fed as a morning mash. Conditions the bowels and imparts constitutional vigor. Equally good for all kinds of fowls at all ages. We also make the famous H-O Co's Scratching Food. Send for samples, prices and printed matter.

The H-O Company, 58 Fulton St., Buffalo, N. Y.



F.B.W. Co.

ing season, require less care than cows, sheep or hens, while the income from money invested is perhaps greater than any other farm industry can show. One goose breeder in Rhode Island raised, one season, from four pairs of geese, 61 mongrels, which sold for \$1.49. Another season he had 37 sheep, ewes, from which 37 lambs were raised and sold at \$5 each. The same season 10 geese paid better and ate less.

It is always well to have some shelter, as an open shed or cellar, into which they can go in the severest weather. A rough shelter of poles, thatched with straw, and provided with a bed of dry straw, serves a good purpose, and is all that they require.

In many mild climates, where snow remains for only a short time on the ground, and where the temperature does not often go below zero, geese will frequently ignore any shelter whatever, requiring only barrels or boxes in which to make their nests.

We believe that many more geese would be kept by farmers if better opportunities were provided for the sale of the young birds alive, as the operations of fattening, dressing and marketing are such that the breeder of a few goslings cannot economically do the work. Aside from the limited number of those who grow mongrel geese, which are destined almost wholly for the Thanksgiving and Christmas trade, and which cannot be so well fattened until cold weather, comparatively few goose raisers fatten and market their own birds.

So few geese, aside from those intended for use as breeding stock, are kept into the winter by those who grow them, that it is often difficult to obtain good birds for breeding, unless they are ordered during the summer season before the young geese are killed.

A colony of geese may often be confined in a field fenced with an ordinary stone wall. Fences, however, must be tight at the bottom, that they may find no openings through which to crawl, as they are more likely to creep out than to fly over a fence or obstruction.

The goslings raised in Rhode Island are usually sold alive at the door, to the agents of a few men engaged in the business of fattening and marketing green geese and other poultry. As high as \$2.00 each for well grown, very early goslings, four weeks old, have been paid.

Having determined upon the breed or breeds which are to be kept, secure well developed, perfectly formed, healthy, vigorous stock, and it is well to get the geese from one breeder, and the gander from another, who has an entirely different strain of stock, so that the two shall be entirely unrelated.

A man beginning goose breeding is more than likely to get undesirable stock when buying old geese, and it is much the safer way to purchase young birds, and take time enough for them to get accustomed to the locality, and to get of sufficient age to show what they are really capable of doing,

before expecting the best results from them.

While a pond, brook or stream of water large enough to provide a permanent supply throughout the season makes the most desirable place for keeping geese, they are not entirely dependent upon it. Water may be supplied in tubs, or barrels, sunk in the ground during the breeding season, and through the fall and winter a supply of water in pails or shallow tubs to serve for drinking, will be sufficient.

Rankin says: "I am going to tell you of one experiment I made with a pair of African geese. I let them run separately, fed liberally, to see the best they could do. The goose laid 51 eggs, and I only succeeded in getting 37 goslings. A horse got loose and killed one, and one died, leaving me 35 for market. I sold them for \$81.47; so one goose gave me more profit than a cow and two hogs. Yet I did not feel satisfied with my hatch, which was under the average. One of my neighbors beat me."

We have heard the following course of procedure given when it is desirable to remove a goose from a wild gander and substitute another for a mate toward the beginning of the breeding season. The goose and gander are first confined in a yard for a little time; the gander is then removed to such a distance that he cannot hear the sound of his mate's voice; the new goose is then confined in the pen with the old goose—the former mate of the wild gander. They are kept together for perhaps two weeks, until they become accustomed to each other and the new goose learns the notes of the old one. After two or three weeks the old goose is removed entirely out of sight and hearing, and the wild gander is returned to the pen. He will generally accept his new mate after a little time.

Rhode Island Red Males

Are Just the Thing

for crossing with different pure breeds, or for grading up common mixed stock into a uniform and profitable flock. They impress their characteristics on their progeny very strongly, no matter what you breed them with. Fair quality rose or single comb cockerels delivered, \$3 each singly. Several \$2 each. **Positively no low-priced males sold in winter or spring.** Circular and price list free to all who apply.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.

BEEF SCRAPS, Ground Bone, Millet, Broken Rice, Buckwheat Feed, Grit, Shells, Charcoal, Sunflower Seed, Wheat, Barley, Rice, Meal and Buckwheat Feed. C. H. REEVE, 119 West St., New York.

ONLY THE WHITE KIND

White Wyandotte hens and young Cockerels at \$1. M. B. EVERHAM, Madeira, Ohio.

POULTRY SUPPLIES

MAKE A HEN COMFORTABLE AND SHE PAYS.

We carry a full line of everything needful in the poultry yard and hen house. All improved foods, grits, insecticides, medicines, &c. All improved appliances—Incubators, Bone Cutters, Clover Cutters, Vegetable Cutters, Drinking Fountains, &c.

CUT CLOVER HAY

the great winter food, made from best second crop clover, all ready to feed, \$1.75 per 100 lb. sack. Write for what you want. We have it. Large Catalogue Free.

HARVEY SEED CO.,
35 Ellicott St., Buffalo, N. Y.

The Sanitary Poultry Drinking Fountain

SUPPLIES for POULTRY.

50 lb. bag Clover Meal, \$1. 100 lb. bag Pure Beef Scraps, \$2.25. 100 lbs. Meat Meal, \$2.25. 100 lb. bag Mica Crystal Grit, 75 cts. 100 lbs. Oyster Shells, 75 cts. Lambert's Death to Lice, 25 cts. Lee's Lice Killer, 1-2 gal., 50c., 1 gal., 75c. Ground Charcoal, 5c. lb. Greeley's Roup Cure, 25 and 50 cts. Price list for the asking. FRED. F. KELLY, Palmyra, N. Y.

FORD BROS., Specialists in

BUFF ROCKS:— COCHIN BANTAMS.

Bargains in old and young stock. Write what you want for Rocks address N. D. Ford, Medway, N. Y. For Bantams address E. E. Ford, Oak Hill, N. Y.

WHICH WAS CREATED FIRST—

The Hen or the Egg?

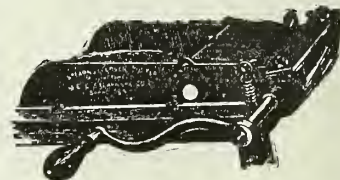


Stearns Clover Cutters and Grit Crushers are a necessity to every poultry yard.

To the poultrykeeper who will send us a short essay, giving us his opinion of the much debated question, and the best argument in support of that opinion, before January 1st, 1900, we will give, **absolutely free**, the best machine ever made to increase the production of eggs—a Webster & Hannum

Green Bone Cutter

selected from our catalogue, not exceeding \$25 in cost. Write us anyway, as our free treatise on poultry feeding and catalogue of Bone Cutters, Clover Cutters, Grit Crushers, etc., is worth dollars to any poultryman. Write to-day.



E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box G, Syracuse, N. Y.

Hatch CHICKENS
WITH THE
EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher.

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

WITH THE
Wooden Hen

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing Catalogue Free. for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Pointers on Roup—Catarrh—Distemper—Leg Weakness—Swelled Head—Cankered Mouth and Throat—Is Croup a Constitutional Disease?—Some Ideas on Cholera.

Catarrh is not roup.
Dampness causes catarrh.
Cleanliness disgusts disease.
Learn the causes of diseases.
Overfat causes diseased egg organs.
Note the condition of the droppings.
A little stimulation assists moulting.
Have the houses free from bad odors.
Moulting season develops a fowl's weakness.
Scald the drinking vessels at least once a week.
Disease in poultry is a penalty for some neglect.
The strong, rugged fowls pass through moulting safely.
Every case of catarrh should have prompt attention.
Starving hens to reduce fat may lead to a worse condition.
Exposure to a drenching rain is a good starter for catarrh.
Roup is a purulent catarrhal affection of the air passages.
Rusty iron in the drinking water is an excellent fall tonic.
Catarrh can be caused by some irritant as air-slacked lime.
Fall is a season that seems to point out the weakness in a fowl.
Leg weakness attacks cockerels more frequently than pullets.
Dr. Sanborn says roup is a filth disease, and not caused by "taking cold."
Ammonia arising from manure or droppings has been known to cause catarrh.
Generally the chicken afflicted with leg weakness is otherwise in good health.
Constitutional weakness will produce leg weakness even without a too-rapid growth of the body.
Dr. Sanborn says a severe case of roup, if left to itself, may be expected to die in from five to twelve days.
A house that is cleaned out only once in a while, especially if damp, is a good place to look for catarrhal diseases.
Sheridan's Condition Powder, every other day, in the mash, will ward off much sickness. It is unexcelled as a fall medicine.
Everything should be done that can be to prevent disease, and when that is done the poultryman has done about all he can do.
There is no better time to know whether disease of the breathing organs is developing than at night when the birds are on the roost.
Distemper and catarrh are usually confounded with roup, although in our opinion not related to it at all, says Editor Drevenstedt.
Inbreeding, unless always done with strong, vigorous birds, has a tendency to weaken vitality and furnish a constitution favorable to disease.
The best book on poultry diseases is Dr. Sanborn's "Farm-Poultry Doctor." It will be sent postpaid for 50 cents, by addressing either the publishers or the editor.

We will doctor if necessary for lice and mites in chicks, but we are not much troubled in this way since lime and kerosene are so cheap, says Iowa *Homestead*.

If the hen is a valuable one and has been pretty sick with some of the well-known diseases, and is finally cured, she will never be what she was before her sickness.

For swelled head, *Reliable Poultry Journal* recommends painting the swollen part well with tincture of iodine. If taken in time one application will cure in one single night.

Dr. Sanborn, in *American Poultry Journal*, says catarrh differs from roup in that it has the tendency to get well without treatment, while roup seems inclined to progress to a fatal end.

For cankered mouth or throat, paint the cankers with a 4 per cent. solution of nitrate of silver. Use a camel's hair brush, and run well down the throat to reach any cankers that may be around the windpipe, says a correspondent in *Reliable Poultry Journal*.

It holds good of poultry diseases as those of the human body, that the more dangerous to life the larger the number of the sure cures advertised, says *American Poultry Journal*. Nearly every writer on roup offers a different remedy. How often they fail!

As roup is a contagious disease, it is well to look after the buildings. Disinfection is of vital importance. Burning sulphur is excellent, but a thorough spraying with whitewash and chloride of lime by means of a force pump will purify a building completely. Before placing hens in a building it is well to see that they are healthy.

Judge Drevenstedt says: We are more and more inclined to believe roup to be a constitutional disease, *i. e.*, certain races of fowls are more liable to it by inheritance. The well-known tendency of certain delicate breeds to roup proves that their constitutional vigor has been impaired by unnatural conditions and too close in-and-in breeding. Such breeds when allowed unrestricted liberty on farms seem to improve greatly in respect to hardiness.

Unless a chicken is very valuable as a heirloom, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*, or from an antiquarian point of view, it will not pay to interfere with nature, when sickness overtakes it, for if cured, which is doubtful even in cases of rapid recovery, it is not worth as much as the medicine and labor required. It is a pretty safe economic plan to decapitate all sick chickens who refuse to get well in 48 hours after the first outset of the disease.

The *American Fancier* says a simple and successful treatment for distemper is to place the affected fowls in a dry room where the temperature can be kept about 70 degrees. Feed principally vegetable food and very little grain. A teaspoonful of kerosene oil poured on a gallon of water should be given as a drink. Swelled head should be bathed with hot water twice a day. A 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid is good to clean out the nostrils with, and as a wash around the eyes.

In the beginning of catarrh, says Dr. N. W. Sanborn, in *American Poultry Journal*, when you notice the watery discharge from eye or nostril, bathe or spray eyes, nostrils or throat with a solution of sulphate quinine, 20 grains to 2 ounces of warm water. Do this two or three times a day, and if not checked within 48 hours, proceed to treat as if you had roup—which it probably is. Catarrh among brooder chicks is commonly due to insufficient heat or crowding, and is better prevented than cured.

Texas Farm and Ranch says cholera is not caused by filth; it is an infection from a specific bacillus. Filth aggravates the disease by affording the germs a suitable soil in which to germinate and spread. Many people profess to cure cholera who never saw a case. There has been no specific for this disease yet discovered. Provide against infection and there will be no cholera, remembering that it is difficult to spread infection on clean, well-kept fowl yards.

Poultry, England, says, for leg weakness the best remedy is to give each chicken daily four grains of citrate of iron, or five or six grains of phosphate of lime, put in the drinking water and given in pellets of meal. A good supply of nourishing food must also be offered, and it should be of a kind calculated to produce flesh and not fat—worms, ground raw bones, or chopped meat being very acceptable. Plenty of fresh green food should also be given. Let the chickens have healthy exercise and do not overfeed them or give them food that causes the formation of fat.

FOR RENT—Duck and poultry yard.
J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Centre, N. Y.

CUT CLOVER in sacks, \$1.25 per 100 pounds.
J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Centre, N. Y.

WANTED—Incubator, second-hand Monarch and Cyphers machine. E. F. Miller, Box 764 Seymour, Ind.

WHITE WYANDOTTES, White P. R., S. C. B. Leghorns. Fine young stock for sale. Write your wants. Benj. Crossley, Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

CLOSING OUT SALE. Everything must go. Great laying brown egg strains, farm raised. Light Brahma, White Wyandotte and Barred P. R. cockerels and pullets at \$1 and \$1.50. Yearling hens 75c., yearling cocks \$1.50. First come, first served. Otter Creek Poultry Farm, Vergennes, Vt.

1200 CHOICE POULTRY. All pigeons and the mammoth German hares cheap. All described in a natural colored descriptive 60 p. book, 10c. J. A. Bergey, Telford, Pa.

POULTRY Supplies

of every description. Illustrated catalogue free.
THE I. F. SCHOTT CO., Box 194,
New Pittsburg, (Wayne County), Ohio.

Steyer's Lice Powder

destroys lice on poultry, live stock and house plants. Large sample mailed for 15 cents. For sale by first-class dealers. A. F. STEYER & CO.,
2805 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

NIAGARA

White Wyandottes,

Mammoth Pekin Ducks,

Are bred for utility. \$1.50 each.
White Holland Turkeys, \$2.00 each. Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. Green Cut Clover, \$1.50 per 100 lbs., \$7.00 per 500 lbs. Prices to trade. Poultry Supplies.
W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.
Circulars. Endorsed by Editor Boyer.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

The Never in the history of Outlook. poultry culture—that is, to the best of our knowledge—has there been a better outlook for a big fall, winter and spring trade in the sale of both stock and eggs than right now. Despite the fact that the cold-storage systems promised to hurt the fresh egg industry, prices have been good. Good prices for market poultry and eggs creates a demand for good breeding stock, and in that way the poultry breeder is benefited.

Naturally, with this healthy condition of the market comes the influx of beginners—and *they are the buyers*. To reach the beginners, then is a question that demands attention. How can we do it? There certainly is no better medium than the King of Poultry Papers for Beginners—A FEW HENS. We teach the young idea how to shoot! And, incidentally, we remind the veterans of many things they have forgotten, and some that they never knew.

One of the best testimonials we could offer of the value of our columns for advertising purposes, is the fact that each year we are increasing our business in that line, and those who have been with us last year have come again.

There is an air of confidence in the mercantile world, and this confidence gives us prosperous times.

Talking of prosperity calls to mind a very able editorial as found in the last issue of the *American Poultry Journal*, from which we make the following extracts:

"Prosperous conditions are reported from every portion of this country. The criterion of trade is the demand for structural materials. If there is call for products of mine and forest, the reason is easily found; there is need of larger quarters for manufacturing and transporting the necessary wares. So when we read that building is being delayed, even to the point of postponing the work until another season—when railroad and steamboat lines are unable to carry the quantities of freight piled in storage for shipment, and cannot construct new cars and boats fast enough to comply with contracts, the evidence is before us to prove that business is at full tide. In fact, the commercial reports simply express the opinion that

the volume of business now in sight is phenomenal—and do not attempt an explanation of causes.

"Those of us who have gone through 'hard times,' can well afford to wear a new suit of broad smiles. Prosperity is here, and it is here to stay for a reasonable length of time. No one can account for these conditions on any known theory of politics, nor can we attribute the improvement to any administrative conduct. The people realize that there is no longer cause to be afraid of some big bugbear or other, and so have 'restored confidence.'

"It takes a seventh son of a seventh son of a Ehaldean astrologer to tell just what 'confidence' is, or where it goes when we lose it. But now it has come out as chipper as a summer girl, and as frisky as a Leghorn cockerel. And we embrace the dear old thing!

"Subscriptions are the red copuscles in the veins of a poultry journal, let us tell you! Advertising contracts are the bone and muscle, but subscriptions—real, paid for, ordered-because-you-want-it subscription—are the oh-be-joyful of the trade.

"In these good days, when one can go to work with energy and hope, we should encourage the poultry business. There is no possibility of overdoing the market."

But, to make "a long story short," as the wits have a habit of saying, we wish to remind advertisers of the fact that no journal offers better facilities to reach the buying public than A FEW HENS. "A trial will convince the most skeptical." Advertisements in A FEW HENS need not be large to be prominent. We have a way of making an advertisement, be it large or small, prominent.

Our rates are lower than those offered by any other paper, considering the size of circulation. We have both quality and quantity. We can bring business right to the doors of our advertisers. There is no better season than right now to plant the seeds for a future big crop of prosperity.

Covers We have received a great The Field. many compliments that have given us much encouragement, but the following from Mrs. Mary Thorp Munroe, of Dryden, N. Y., makes us feel that we have not labored in vain:

"Your August number has just been received, and I have read it through. I do not see why you ever need publish another number. There seems to be no spot of ground that you have left untouched. If A FEW HENS do that, I am afraid we could not digest a whole flock; I would respectfully suggest that you reprint this number from month to month—no one need to know anything more, than he can find out in the August issue, to make a success of poultry keeping."

A Good Frank E. Kenyon, Half Dozen. Dover, N. H.: "I take several 'hen papers,' but I prefer A FEW HENS as a *multum in parvo* to the rest."

Albert W. Olmstead, Worcester, Mass.: "I have had your paper for the last year, and like it so much that I would not be

without it. Of the five poultry papers I take I think the most of yours, as I am just starting in the business and your paper just hits me, and gives me what I want to know most—and that, too, in a nut shell."

Willie Mitts, Raymond, Ills.: "A FEW HENS is a dandy."

L. F. Burgess, Bridgewater, Conn.: "I have for a year past read your paper with much profit and pleasure. I find A FEW HENS invaluable to me."

W. H. Nugent, Yonkers, N. Y.: "I want to renew my subscription to A FEW HENS. My last paper came in June. I did not know the time had expired, or I should have seen to it, as I cannot lose such a spicy, interesting and instructive little paper. Send July, August and September issues, as I must have them all."

P. T. Eggleston, Elgin, Ills.: "I enjoy your paper very much, and learn something new from every issue."

The A special from St. Missouri Hen. Louis to the New York *World* says

the Missouri hen brought better returns than did wheat, corn, oats and hay. State Commissioner Rixby reports that over 70,000,000 pounds of poultry, and nearly 36,000,000 dozen of eggs were handled by transportation companies last year, the aggregate cash returns for which were \$8,298,232.

The gross value of Missouri's shipments of poultry and eggs in 1898 exceeded the combined shipments of wheat, corn, oats and hay, and the combined value of the shipments of lumber, logs, cross-ties, piling, cooperage and cordwood.

George Reeder, Muscatine, Iowa, writes: "Enclosed I hand you a clipping from the Sunday issue of the *Chicago Times-Herald*. Thinking perhaps you would be interested in what the Missouri Hen can do, as well as the Iowa Hen, I send the same to you for A FEW HENS' benefit."

Following is the clipping referred to: "The farmer and grain shipper of the northern and western states have been wont to crown corn as king of the agricultural products; in the South cotton is given that title and in some of the southeastern states tobacco is vested with kingly robes. But conditions have changed and the patient, unassuming, oft-neglected, but always persistent Missouri hen has won the commercial race and the right to be crowned queen of the wealth producers, so far, at least, as this state is concerned.

"After crediting to each county all of the commodities of whatever kind shipped by the railroad, express and boat companies during 1898, Commissioner Rixley has compiled a summary of the total of all of said products for the whole state and has computed their value at the average current prices which prevailed during last year—which, by the way, were lower in many instances than the prices current today. To more fully realize the importance of this "infant industry," compare its achievements with some others.

"Group together the total value of all of the shipments of coal, nickel, iron ore, pig iron, tripoli, charcoal, stone,

sand, gravel, fire-clay, lime and cement, brick, tile, sewer pipe and stoneware, then add the pig lead and spelter and then the hen will beat the aggregation and have \$500,000 to spare.

"Here is another comparison: Combine the value of the shipments of corn, oats, flax, hay, timothy and clover seed, cotton, tobacco, broom corn, castor beans, pop corn, buckwheat, apples, peaches, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, fresh fruit, dried fruit, molasses, game, fish and feathers—and Missouri's new queen will be several thousands to the good.

"But the last comparison is the most amusing 'cackle' of all: Missouri has outranked the world in the production of lead and zinc. Aggregate the value of the combined tonnage of lead and zinc ores loaded on the cars during 1898 and the hen will have earned the right to crow first."

* * *

Poultry The *Fanciers' Monthly*, of Truists. San Jose, Cal., has this to say of poultry trusts:

"About every business from peanuts and chewing gum to cotton mills and iron works, is being gathered up into 'trusts' with gigantic capital to control the whole production of this or that article. But the humble hen is beyond the grasp of the trusts. Individually so insignificant, yet poultry and eggs surpassing all the other great products in aggregate value, though one hen may be 'cornered' never all of her tribe. It is a business impossible to monopolize, so when the trusts have driven out of other employment millions of workers, there will, in spite of all, still remain open to the most needy the modest avenue of poultry keeping."

Very true, brother, but A FEW HENS is not scared one bit—the American hen is simply out of the reach of these money trusts.

About a month or so ago, the daily newspapers told us that a Goose Trust was being formed in the West or Southwest (we cannot now recall just what location it was). Later on the New York papers referred to the antics of Armour and Swift, of the Beef Trust, who were buying up butter, eggs and poultry in the West and rushing them into Greater New York, selling to jobbers at a lower figure than the regular wholesale produce dealers could give. But let that scare no one. If farmers and poulterers will combine and refuse to sell to these hucksters, and instead create their own markets, no Trusts can hurt them. There are too many individuals in this country owning fowls for the Trust's satisfaction and benefit.

* * *

Inbreeding. Geo. E. Pryor, in the *American Fancier*, has this to say: "Editor *American Fancier*: What am I? I am all twisted up. Have just been reading this in the champion utility paper, A FEW HENS: 'About Mating—W. H. M.: You can mate the cockerels with the pullets of the same hatch. It will not be inbreeding, as the chances are that the hen that laid the egg from which the cockerel hatched did not lay the eggs from which the pullets hatched, so there could be no inbreeding.'

"I always supposed I was a fancier, with only a sharp eye on the business end of my hens, but if this is utility breeding then I guess I must be an ultra-utility breeder. One thing is certain—I should hate to take chances on such close breeding as this. It seems to me this would be inbreeding with a vengeance. How Uncle Mike can write this and in the same number warn his readers against buying 'standard-bred' males to mate with their own unrelated females is too much for me. Where am I at?"

If that would be the extent of the inbreeding practiced by fanciers, there could be no harm resulting. It is where *the sire is mated to the daughters* that trouble arises. In order to retain certain characteristics of the strain, fanciers are almost compelled to thus mate parents and offspring.

* * *

A Fancier's As we have repeatedly Testimony. stated in these columns there is no fancier in

this country more consistent and sensible in his views than judge and editor J. H. Drevenstedt. Mr. Drevenstedt has been both a fancier and market poultry breeder, and knows just how far a good thing can be taken without crippling it. The following selection from a recent issue of his paper, the *American Fancier*, should be preserved by every champion of the utility cause:

"The price on a bird is no criterion of its value as a show bird. *A prime show bird is frequently apt to be a poor breeder.* It is the aim of every fancier to produce an ideal show bird, but in all parti-colored birds the ideal birds are not always mated together for the best results, and a breeding yard is quite different from an exhibition pen.

"*The economic qualities of a thoroughbred fowl, while desirable, are not considered of any surpassing importance by the genuine fancier.* The latter wants the symmetry and the plumage first, last and all the time. *This is an art that no mechanical tuition will enable a man to acquire, but it requires the inborn love and peculiar knack, or call it genius if you like, of the natural fancier.*

"Such as the latter will seldom part with a bird simply for the money it may bring. A true fancier is often a most liberal and generous man, and it is safe to say that some men give away more birds than they sell."

The *italics* in the above are ours, as we wish to call special attention to the remarks thus marked.

In the first place Mr. Drevenstedt says: "A prime show bird is frequently apt to be a poor breeder." That's gospel. We have always preached that to get birds in show condition too close breeding must be resorted to. The vitality is taken out of the stock. The Standard is too exacting. Who would want to breed from a flock that are up to the required show weight? Who would

B. Langshans, 75 cts. P. Shepard, New Era, Pa.

White Wyandottes, fine yearlings and pullets. Hunter and Mack strains. Also a fine Sable and White Collier, 9 months old. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

White Wyandotte and B. P.R. pullets (Hunter), full grown, \$1. R. I. Red (Cushman) pullets \$1 and \$2. latter laying. W. W. and R. I. R. cockerels, \$1.50 to \$3; grand birds. CLARKE & CO., Waquoit, Mass.

TRAP NEST.

The RECORD has no superior. Patent applied for. Send for a circular. S. A. McWILLIAMS, Jr., 3456 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

BARRED P. Rocks, White Wyandottes. Pedigreed from leading strains. I breed them for business, beauty and profit. Cockerels \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00. Are sold cheap. E. W. HARRIS, North Acton, Mass.

BIG MAIL for Poultrymen. For 10 cts. we will insert your name in our poultry Directory, which will bring you hundreds of sample copies of poultry papers, incubator and poultry supply catalogues, etc., etc. POULTRY DIRECTORY CO., Department 4, Box 763, Goshen, Ind.

Maplewood Farm Poultry

Woodstock, Vt.

Young Breeding Stock now on sale. Highest quality. White Wyandottes, Golden Wyandottes and Barred Plymouth Rocks, males, \$3.00 to \$5.00. Females, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Eggs of best strains for hatching, \$2.00 per setting. Incubator eggs, \$6 per 100. Send orders now for present or future delivery.

Nothing Under the Sun

will Make Hens Lay and keep them in healthy condition all the year round like

BANNER EGG FOOD and Tonic.

Thousands can testify to its excellent merits. A trial will convince you. 1 lb. can 25c., 5 cans \$1. For the month of November only, we will sell a 1 lb. can 15c. or 7 cans \$1. Now is your chance to lay in a supply of this Food, and you will have plenty of Eggs when cold weather comes. Our immense illustrated catalogue free. Address

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City. W. V. RUSS, Proprietor.

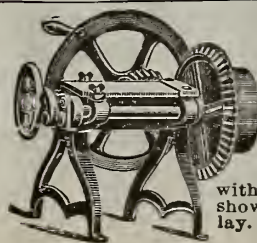
When writing kindly mention this paper.

UP-TO-DATE POULTRYMEN are discarding all others and using

The Star Incubator.

It requires no moisture. Positive directions for ventilation, regardless of location. Stronger chicks and more of them the result.

Our \$10 Star Brooder is unequalled. Illustrated catalogue free. STAR INCUBATOR CO., 22 Church St., Bound Brook, N. J.



25 CENTS A DOZEN FOR EGGS That's what every dozen of your eggs will bring if you have them at the proper time. Green Cut Bone makes hens lay in winter, when eggs are worth most money. The best way to prepare the bone is with

The Dandy Green Bone Cutter with or without gear. They cut fast, cut fine, and only take a little power. Machine here shown is for hand power; cuts 25 lbs. per hour. Makes little chicks grow, makes big hens lay. A dozen styles to select from. Get free catalogue before buying.

STRATTON & OSBORNE, BOX 32, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA.

want to breed from stock that have delicate constitutions?

Mr. Drevenstedt says that the ideal show birds are "not always mated together for best results." No doubt he has reference to such breeds as Banded Plymouth Rocks. Matched in the breeding pen as they are in the show room, would soon produce a family of very dark Rocks. But besides the point of color, the average standard-bred fowls are not mated for best results. No attention is taken of their value as layers, or their general economic qualities. The first and most important thought for the fancier is to have them matched or mated that they may produce the most desirable "points" according to the show-room way of thinking. No wonder we have such poor averages in the laying of many of the best thoroughbreds.

Mr. Drevenstedt's testimony is to the point and true. He says "The economic qualities of a thoroughbred fowl, while desirable, are not considered of any surpassing importance by the genuine fancier. The latter wants the symmetry and the plumage first, last and all the time." Now can the utility man be blamed for not wishing "standard-bred fowls" when there is no guarantee that they will give them good results? It but goes to prove that A FEW HENS is right—*thoroughbreds* but not standard-bred poultry for the poultry farmer.

There are certain poultry journals which, in a mistaken idea that they are furthering the interests best of poultry culture, make light of the utility cause. They want all beginners to become fanciers. No greater harm could come to the fancy than overcrowding the ranks of a branch of poultry culture than can be mastered only by those strictly fitted for the work. Fanciers like poets are born and not made. Mr. Drevenstedt again adds valuable testimony to that fact: "This is an art that no mechanical tuition will enable a man to acquire, but it requires the inborn love and peculiar knack, or call it genius if you will, of the natural fancier." How many of these beginners have that "peculiar knack?" We have seen men fail as fanciers and build up a good business as market poultry men. The reason is plain, they were better fitted for the latter than the former. Because the parents of the child want the son to become a professional man will not make him one unless he is cut out for it.

Sankey and On Long Island, in the the Ducks. neighborhood of East-

port, Speonk, etc., are located many duck farms—Hallock's, Willcox's, Pye's, and others—an industry worth, it is said, \$100,000 a year to that section. Right in the midst of these enterprises Ira D. Sankey owns land that he purchased for speculation. The sale of this land is in the hands of Gilbert W. Raynor, a real estate agent.

Sankey is the man who made Moody famous—or Moody made Sankey famous—we don't know which. But anyway, Mr. Sankey wanted to grow rich by speculation, and naturally he staked much on the prospects of a land boom.

But the coveted boom failed to materialize. It was discouraging; it was heart-rending. So Mr. Raynor, the

agent, made up his mind that because Eastport raised ducks, there could be no such thing as a land boom, and he presented a complaint to the Town Board, protesting against the duck farms. The complaint was signed by Ira. D. Sankey.

Now some of these duck farms were in existence, and earning an honest living, long before Mr. Sankey ever dreamt of speculating with Eastport soil—yes, long before Mr. Sankey came out as an Evangelist. No wonder the whole town was aroused, and the duck farmers to a man denounced all concerned.

Mr. Sankey, in his complaint, said that the duck ranches were a menace to the good health of Eastport. But before the Town Board meeting Dr. Rogers said Eastport was a healthy place, and did not think it advisable to throw a \$100,000 industry overboard to gratify the selfish interests of one man. The Town Board agreed, and the complaint was promptly dismissed.

Green Following are two good argu- Bone. ments in favor of feeding green cut bone to hens. They are sent us by Frank B. White, and should be read by all who would help the hens to produce winter eggs:

"Something for nothing you can't take."

Cockerels at \$1. S. C. B. Leghorns. Send for one this fall. W. H. STONEY, JR., Barre Centre, N. Y.

Rhode Island Reds and White Wyandottes. Write for prices. C. S. Buchan, Andover, Mass.

FORD BROS. have a few Buff Rock cockerels with too much black, and eight off-colored pullets at 75 cents each. No less than two sold. See ad.

WANTED. Bloodhound Puppy, male. No fancy price. F. H., Box 576, Westfield, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES, Bred for eggs and meat, from a 213 egg strain. Vigorous Cockerels \$2 up, if taken at once. They will please you. Dexter E. Coggeshall, 555 Broadway, Everett, Mass.

THE BEST

of nest boxes is what you want if you have any. Editor Boyer at the close of his trial said that the best of all was the

Cuckoo Nest Box.

Write for circular to the
DUNLAP SUPPLY CO., Yardley, Pa.



PHOTO. FROM LIFE

Silver Wyandotte Cock

1st Hagerstown, 1898.

1st West Chester, 1899.

A few Cockerels, sons of above, for sale.

WM. H. CHILLD, Hatboro, Pa.

The most of us are beginning to realize the truth of this trite saying in regard to most things about us. It is a poor farmer who does not realize that he cannot take grain from his fields year after year returning nothing to them, without some time, sooner or later, getting to the end of his string, and finding his land run down and bankrupt. But some poultry men have not discovered that the same principal holds good in regard to hens. You can't get something from nothing there, either. If your hens are to lay eggs, they must have something to work with; they must

R. I. REDS. Cockerels for sale at \$1 to \$2 each. S. E. Bean, Davisville, N. H.

Make Your Hens Pay.



You can't afford to feed hens all winter without some adequate returns. Hens will lay just as well in winter as in summer if they are fed properly.

EVAN'S... Vegetable and Root CUTTERS

come to the relief of all poultrymen at this point. They cut all roots and vegetables into fine poultry food. Relished by all fowls and is profitable as to results. Beats dried clover, clover meal, &c. Machines greatly improved this season. Remember, it will double the

egg this winter. Write for catalogue prices, &c. EVANS MFG. CO. Dept. R. 231 River St., Detroit, Mich.

All from Heavy-Laying Stock.

S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels, half grown, \$1.00. White Wyandotte Cockerels, \$2.00. Light Brahma Cocks, year-old, \$2.00. White Plymouth Rock, year-old cocks, \$2.00.

Come early and get the choice.
MICHAEL K. BOYER, - - - Hammonton, N. J.



Empire State Brooders, complete, \$5.00; Summer Queen Brooder Stoves, .90 and \$1; Reliance Brooder Stoves, .65, 1 L. 2 in.; Compressed Wicks, for Stoves, per doz., .25; Tested Brooder and Incubator Thermometers, .30 and .40; Crushed Oyster Shells, 500 lbs., in sacks, \$2.50; Oyster Shells by ton or car load to trade, very low. Lice Killing Paint, 1 lb. makes gallon, per lb., .25; Lambert's "Death to Lice," .10, .25, .50, \$1. Best makes Oil Stoves at Half Price. Illustrated Circular 2 ets. Write us.

EMPIRE STATE BROODER CO.,
Hall's Corners, N. Y.

A Record
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The

Prairie State Incubators and Brooders
have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome colored plates.

We warrant every machine.
Prairie State Incubator Co.,
Homer City, Pa.

get egg forming elements from some source or other.

In recent years the practical poultry man has been able to double his egg supply in the winter by a careful study of egg producing foods. Prominent among these must be placed green cut bones, a food that is easily and cheaply obtained and that is undoubtedly the greatest egg-producer ever fed to hens. The bone, when finely cut while it is still green, supplies that element of animal food so needed and so relished by fowls, taking the place of the bugs and worms which the hens devour so greedily upon the range. Moreover the bone supplies the mineral matter needed for egg formation, the lime, the phosphate, the magnesia and is, in short, an ideal egg food.

When we consider how cheaply the bones can be procured and how little trouble it is to prepare them for the fowls, it is difficult to understand why any poultry man neglects their use.

FRANK B. WHITE.

We are often prone to lay to "the perversity of Nature" things which are largely our own fault. We often complain of bad luck, or calmly accept it without complaining, feeling that we must take "the inevitable," when the truth is, if we look about us a little, that we might very easily remedy that which troubles us. It often seems to be a hard provision of Nature that our hens should lay plentifully in the summer when eggs bring 10 cents a dozen, and go back on us completely in the winter when eggs are worth from 25 to 50 cents a dozen. But the truth is that it is the fault of neither Nature nor the hens. The whole trouble is that we do not get our hens into the proper condition to lay eggs. We are not fair to the hen.

When we send a man to do a piece of work we are usually careful to select a man who is in working condition and not a man who ought to be in the hospital. Somehow or other we never seem to think about that with our hens. Anything that wears feathers and goes on two legs seems good enough to us to lay eggs, no matter what its condition. Here is where we make mistake No. 1.

Then, when we send a man to do a piece of work, we are apt to see that he has the tools to work with. We are not like Pharaoh in demanding bricks without straw. But how about our hens? Do we not demand eggs without proper food? We do that very thing, over and over again.

If there is one fact established in Henology it is that the fondness of fowls for bugs and worms is not an unnatural taste. The animal matter thus secured supplies a most important element in the fowls' food. And it is largely because the hens cannot procure this food in winter that they cease to lay eggs.

Another reason for few eggs in winter is that the hens are not only not in the best physical condition, but the food they get does not contain the proper elements for egg making; and, as has been hinted, a hen cannot make bricks without straw. Food containing the necessary elements must be supplied if we are to have full egg baskets.

It is for this reason that the feeding of green cut bones has become so popular among money-making poultry men and women. Green cut bone supplies this needed elements as does no other food, and at a less expense than grain can be fed. It keeps the fowls healthy, it makes eggs, and is in short an indispensable food. No person who keeps fowls, be they few or many, can afford to be without a green bone cutter.

L. A. WORTHINGTON.

Big Egg Shipment. Dr. J. H. Casey, Kansas City, Mo., writes: "You may think the West is asleep, but kindly peruse the enclosed clipping, and then you can judge of the 'expansionists' of this great country. Talk about prosperity! If all our other live stock would get a hump on them and do as well as the biddies, we would soon all be running our automobiles. A FEW HENS is better than a bottle of Mumm's Extra Dry."

Following is the clipping referred to: "Seventy carloads of eggs will be shipped from Topeka, Kans., to a syndicate of Eastern produce merchants within the next week. This big deal in eggs was closed this afternoon and announced at the meeting of the Kansas and Oklahoma association of produce merchants at the Midland hotel. It is a record breaker for this season of the year.

"The men who will furnish the 10,000,000 eggs required for this shipment are John Stewart of Concordia, J. A. Brewer of Abilene and T. F. Seymour of Topeka. The sale was made by J. A. Shannon of Topeka and the price obtained is sixteen cents a dozen. This will make the wholesale value of the shipment \$22,400. The eggs will retail in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other Eastern cities for twenty and twenty-two cents a dozen.

"Kansas is the greatest egg-producing state in the Union. Hundreds of carloads of eggs are annually shipped East from there. This is the largest summer shipment yet contracted for, however,

and three special trains will be required to carry the eggs, which are now in storage."

Trap Nests. Our decision in the trap nest trials seems to have met with approval both by our readers and those competing, as the letters following will testify. We have only one regret to express at the result, and that is the location of the successful one. Almost any location but Hainmouton would have looked better, for the reason that some might think that a fellow townsman was favored. Such, however, was not the case, as many of our out-of-town visitors could testify.

While these trials were going on, we have had almost daily visitors. In every case we asked them, after seeing all the nests in operation, which they deemed the most practicable, and in every instance they favored our choice. Among these visitors was a representative of the Dunlap Supply Co., of Yardley, Pa. The gentleman was himself at work upon a trap nest, but when he saw the Cuckoo, he decided that his invention was nothing compared to the Cuckoo.

W. Rock and S. C. W. Leghorn Cockerels, \$1.50, or will exchange for W. Rock pullets. E. MARQUAND, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Free range, farm-raised, brown egg young stock of superior quality. Do you wish any? Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

The TELL TALE

Picks the layers out of any size flock. It needs no attention. Directions for building, 50 cents in silver. J. H. WOODHEAD, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

Prairie State Incubators

at bargain, if taken soon. Four 300-egg; one 400-egg; two Special Duck, 288 eggs; 80 ft. Brooder System. All good order. Marybrook Ranch, Fannettsburg, Pa.

ROCKY HILL GRIT

THE BEST ALL-ROUND GRIT KNOWN.

PRICE }	One ton,	\$7.00
	One-half ton,	4.00
	100 lbs. (1 bag),	.50

By selling for cash, we have no losses, and can sell to consumers at manufacturers prices. Club together and buy at wholesale price. Low freight rates. Terms cash. Better than oyster shell. Go twice as far. ROCKY HILL GRIT WORKS, Milford, Mass.



HOW MANY EGGS

do you get? No matter, you will get twice as many if you feed the hens **Green Cut Bone**. It doubles the egg product in every instance. It makes hens lay in cold weather when eggs are worth the most money. It makes early and long layers of the pullets.

MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTERS

"beat all." They make the hen business sure and profitable. Mann's Clover Cutter—made entirely of iron and steel. Mann's Swinging Feed Tray beats the hen that wants to scratch or roost in the rough—prevents waste. Mann's Granite Crystal Grit is all Grit—no dirt. Cash or installments. Illustrated catalogue free. F. W. MANN CO. Box 67 MILFORD, MASS.



The Egg Basket

will be full to overflowing winter and summer if you feed the hens on green cut bone.

THE ADAM GREEN BONE CUTTER

prepares bone in the best way because it is the best bone cutter. It runs easiest because it is the only bone cutter made having ball bearings. So constructed that it can't choke on bone, meat or gristle. Cleans itself. Cuts on the shear plate plan—leaves a fine shaving of bone easily consumed by chick or fowl. It makes money for the hen man or for the broiler man. Catalogue No. 1 free. W. J. ADAM, JOLIET, ILL.



F.W. Co.



He went home and reported what he saw, to the Dunlap Company, and at once a correspondence was opened with the manufacturer, Mr. John P. Geishaker, with the result that, before the September number of A FEW HENS was circulated, a deal was made by which Mr. Geishaker disposed of all his rights in the nest.

In the meantime the September number of A FEW HENS reached its readers, and the orders for the trap nest began pouring in, and these had to be turned over to the Dunlap Company for attention.

A letter from the above company, just received, says they have added some improvements which makes the Cuckoo better than it was, but more expensive to manufacture. They write: "It can now be used anywhere that any trap nest will work, and traps anything from a quail to a goose, and is absolutely accurate. One of the improvements is that the trap may be so arranged, when set up, to allow of removing the hen and egg from front, top or back of the nest, as the operator desires. It will come knocked down, and so arranged that no mistakes can be made in setting it up. Boxes are set up and tested, and then taken apart and packed to ship in small space."

Now while the Cuckoo has been pronounced the best of those competing, we want to state that the four next best ones are the Reliable, Ideal, Uneeda, and "A FEW HENS" trap. We shall have these as well as the Cuckoo, in operation upon our farm. All four of these nests have done accurate work, and we feel safe in using them.

F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Maine, writes:

"In the September issue of A FEW HENS the reference to my Ideal nest box contains the statement that "it cannot be used under the dropping boards."

"As the Ideal was especially designed to be used under the dropping boards, or anywhere else in the pen, and as it has been in constant use ever since it was devised, under the platforms in my pens, and in that location has proved as convenient both for the attendant and the fowls as any trap nest could possibly be, one can readily understand that the statement that it could not be used under the dropping boards came as a great surprise to myself and family.

"Both my wife and my son have been obliged to attend to these nests when I have been absent from home, and had they been in the slightest degree inconvenient, I would have heard from it with no uncertain sound long ago.

"When used under the platforms the nest boxes are to face the wall and the hen and egg removed from the rear door, which really is the front of the nest, as far as the attendant is concerned. What difference does it make if all work is done front or back, provided that part of the box is towards the attendant? A space, of course, left between the nest box and the wall for the passage of the hen.

"When these nests are placed in a row under the dropping boards, one nest is left out at the end, or any desired point, to admit the hens to the passage way between the nests and the wall.

"The first nest box that I sent you was exactly such a nest as I use myself. The second one I made considerably larger and higher for your Brahma pen where, I understand, you do not use dropping boards.

"You give as one of the points of superiority of the Cuckoo that it takes up the least room. The first Ideal sent you is, I believe one foot square: would a nest smaller than this be large enough for the American or Asiatic breeds?"

"I am not finding fault with your selection of the nest that pleased you; all of us could not win; but wish simply to correct your error in regard to the use of the Ideal under the dropping boards.

"I feel that you will gladly make this correction as you certainly do not intend to be unjust to anyone. I thank you for your courteous treatment, and the kind words you have written regarding my nest box. The result of the contest seems to show that there are several good trap nests, and that I may modestly claim the Ideal to be one of them.

"In regard to ventilation, isn't that a question in which men might honestly and reasonably differ? Ought not winter weather in Maine be considered as well as summer weather in New Jersey? In this climate the trouble is not so much to keep the hens cool in summer as it is to have them warm in winter; and it would seem that a fairly close nest would be more comfortable in winter than the more open ones, to say nothing of the fact that hens will undoubtedly be more quiet and not so likely to break or eat their eggs in a semi-dark nest. My hens have shown no indication of suffering this summer even when confined several hours.

"Air is not a patentable commodity, and it should be a self evident fact that any trap nest can be ventilated as much as the maker desires, and as opinions would differ so much as to the proper amount of ventilation (and light) to supply, why should that factor be made arbitrary in a nest box, instead of being left entirely to the discretion of the person using it?"

J. H. Woodhead, Leicester, Mass., writes:

"I see by the September issue of A FEW HENS that in using the American Trap Nest, you say it cannot be used under the platform. It can be used under the platform, and used all right. But you had the box turned wrong end foremost. The front end of box was intended to be turned away from the light; the back door is not for the hen to be taken from, as she comes out of the front end. The back door is to be used to get the egg. I place the nest box half way under the platform and there is no trouble to let the hen off. I have had no trouble with the tramway getting clogged with nest material. I have sold hundreds of plans, and have had no complaint as yet, but instead all speak in praise of it."

We have not the room to give an extended reply to these letters, but would state that the front entrance of a trap nest should face outward, so that the attendant can at once see if the nest is occupied or not. It is undoubtedly the proper position. In reply to Mr. Wellcome's queries would say that one foot square makes too close quarters for a hen of the American or Asiatic breeds. 2d, a ventilated nest is preferable in all climates. If the house is warmly built, a hen will feel the cold no more on the nest in day than she will on the roost at night, when the temperature is several degrees colder than day. We have had several close nests in the contests, and came near losing a hen penned up in one of them for about an hour during a very hot day this summer.

100 Cockerels, early farm raised, noted strains. White, Buff, Silver Wyand., Barred, White P. Rocks; S. C. Wh. Leg., \$1.50. Wh. Hol. Turkeys, \$2. Maple Shade Poultry Farm, Stanfordsville, N. Y.

Vigorous W. Wyandottes, W. Leghorns, B. P. Rocks, pullets, cockerels, yearling hens and P. ducks; farm range, utility bred; cheap to make room. LIBERTY POULTRY FARM, Harrington Park, N. J.

WHITE Wyandottes (Andrews strain), **WHITE** Plymouth Rocks (Empire strain). Farm raised. Cockerels \$2.00 and \$3.00 each. **S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels**, \$1.00 each. J. A. JOHNSON, Briggs Corner, Attleboro, Mass.

BLACK MINORCAS bred for 10 years for heavy layers. Yearling hens at low price. Mrs. GEO. E. MONROE, Dryden, N. Y. Member Black Minorca Club.

ON TRIAL

OUR NEW PREMIER... INCUBATOR

Not One Cent to be paid until tried.

Any responsible person can get our machine on trial and send money after trial. Get it, put it in competition with any other machine made. Descriptive catalogue mailed for 5c.

Merits

A child can run it. **AUTOMATIC.** Five minutes attention a day will run it. Ten cents worth of oil will make a hatch. No expensive buildings needed for it. Can be run under a shed, attic roof or anywhere out of rain and wind.

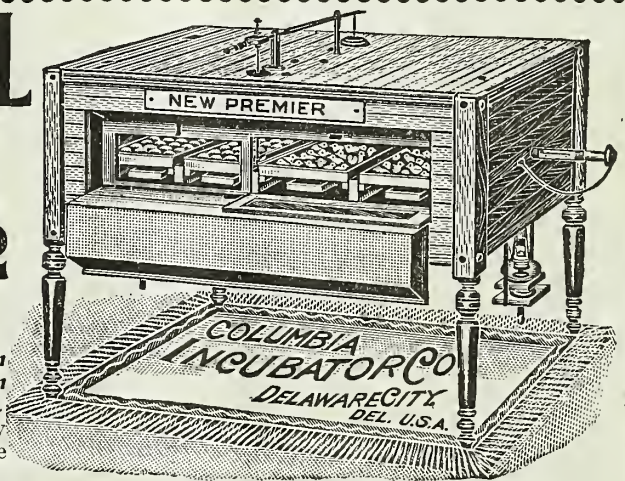
Diplomas and Medals

World's Fair, Chicago, 1893
Toronto Exposition, Canada, 1894
Tennessee Centennial, 1897
Trans-Mississippi Exposition, 1898
Can be run with or without moisture.

SET OF PLANS FOR POULTRY HOUSES, 25c.

We are also Exclusive Manufacturers of the Von Culin Simplicity and Columbia Incubators.

COLUMBIA INCUBATOR CO.,
23 Adams St., Delaware City, Del.



Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints That May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Don't keep 50 hens where 25 can scarcely live.

By proper care is meant personal, intelligent supervision.

Cleanliness is a great trouble preventative in the poultry yard.

Houses should be built solid enough to make them warm quarters.

Fresh, clean water at all times in the poultry yard is a *desideratum*.

Kindness is never lost on anything, no matter how small the object may be.

The roof should be made of some first-class roofing paper, and not shingles. Shingles are cold and not weather or rain proof for any length of time unless painted.

If you have not separated the sexes, it would be best to take the ragged hens out of the flock.

A patent roof can be made both rain and weather proof with a 12 or 18 inch pitch, which is a great advantage.

Dry earth of some sort is an absolute necessity to every poultry keeper. It is necessary for the fowl's sun bath.

Work now, work tomorrow, and the day after. Each day brings its duties, each season has its appropriate labors.

In establishing any business of a commercial nature, it is of great importance that the right locality be chosen.

A shingle roof requires an exaggerated slant, which simply means increasing the height of the building to no purpose.

Quality brings best prices, but feed will not give quality unless the breed is used to utilize food to the best advantage.

A few castor-oil plants in an enclosure where there are no bushes, make a fine shade and are not interfered with by the hens.

If the water is heated and putrid, it will nauseate the fowls and occasion illness among the flock, when the real cause is unsuspected.

Change the water often during the summer days. If your fowls are pent up in close quarters this provision is especially needful for their health.

Earth floors should always be raised a foot or more higher than the surface of the ground on which the poultry house is placed, to insure dryness.

I. K. Felch says he does not believe in any artificial heat; build against freezing only, for fowls can stand dry, cold weather much better than dampness or summer heat.

Fowls drink a great deal in proportion to their size, as compared with what is imbibed by large animals. If they have it fresh and cool in hot weather it does them good.

While the breeders have done more to fix the characteristics of the breeds than the farmers, says *American Stock-Keeper*, yet the breeders have made some grievous mistakes in exacting too much.

Poultry Farmer says the word "thoroughbred" is usually applied to a certain breed of race horses, but by common consent it has become in use as

meaning purebred in all kinds of stock and poultry.

Fowls that have been bred in line for at least six generations, says *Poultry Farmer*, or where purebred individuals have been always kept on both sides, are thoroughbred, and they will have general characteristics and qualifications.

The real value of a breed is the production of eggs and meat, says the *American Stock-Keeper*, and the greater the reputation of a breed as a layer and market fowl the greater the demand for it by the people.

It is not the cost of production, nor the difficulty of rearing, nor the prices realized that make the raising of market poultry unprofitable (when it is unprofitable), but the lack of management and the inroads made by disease.

An egg has been pronounced a master piece of creation, but is no more so than a feather. The covering of birds combines in a wonderful manner, lightness and complete ventilation, is a first-rate non-conductor of heat, and repels dirt.

The skunk is the meanest of vermin; one skunk has been known to kill 300 young chickens in a few hours by biting them just back of the ears, apparently for pure amusement or meanness, as none of said lot were mutilated or carried away.

Poultry culture is a dignified work, says *American Poultry Journal*. Dismiss at once and forever the delusion that it is "small" and unworthy your attention. Statistics prove its magnitude, and the character of those who have engaged in it demonstrates its fitness as a pursuit.

If the poultry keeper finds fault with his business for being on a small scale, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*, he may rest assured that the same rules which made him successful with a few fowls will, if strictly adhered to, enable him to realize greater profits in more extensive operations.

FOR SALE. 260 capacity Successful Incubator, used one season. Also 100 capacity Prairie State. Price low. C. H. KELLUM, Hop Bottom, Pa.

Poultry keeping is a healthy and engrossing pursuit; it is a pastime, pleasurable as well as profitable; it affords amusement and well repays for the time and labor spent while engaged in it; but it should never be undertaken by any but those who take an interest in it and find pleasure in the work.

Thoroughbred fowls are not always Standard bred, says *Poultry Farmer*, but all the Standard bred fowls are thoroughbred. Fowls of a certain breed may be said to be thoroughbred when they have been bred from the best or purest blood of their breed, and kept so for at least six generations.

A leak in the roof? Of course you intend repairing it the first chance you get. But one thing after another occurs that delays you, and all the while the leak grows, the penalty for which is a damp house and sick chickens. It would have been much easier to have repaired it in the start than now.

American Agriculturist says it is an encouraging sign that the principal advocates of some of the new breeds are laying great stress on the practical qualities of the fowls, producing strains famous for eggs and meat, rather than for feathers. Such a pol-

FOR SALE. S. C. White Leghorn cockerels; fine stock; 75c. each. J. A. Ainge, Dover, N. J.

R. I. REDS. Prolific layers. Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. St'k in season., E. S. Piper, Camden, Me.

American Trap Nest Box Picks out the business hen, and will prevent and cure egg eating. Plans \$1.00. Circulars. J. H. WOODHEAD, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

6000 FERRETS. Pure blood, furnished not akin. Finest strain in the land. Bred from good workers. Small, medium and large birds. Trained. Will kill rats and hunt rabbits. Price low. Safe arrival guaranteed. Book "Care and Working" free. S. & L. Farnsworth, New London, O.

THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR

Hatches Chickens by Steam Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free.

Catalogue 4cents. **GEO. BRTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.**

FOUR Poultry Papers For \$1.15.

None Better; None as Good for Practical Poultrymen.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly,	Price \$1.00
INTER-STATE POULTRYMAN, monthly,	.50
POULTRY KEEPER,	.50
A FEW HENS,	.25

You Save \$1.10 Cold Cash, and get the Cream of Poultry Knowledge.

The four papers one year, all sent to one address, post-paid, for \$1.15. Send all orders to us. The combination cannot be changed or filled as above, unless all ordered at one time.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.

icy tends to gain the confidence of the farmers and practical growers.

The following is from the *Poultry Keeper*: "We often hear of the large profits derived from hens and large yields of eggs yearly are given as proof. In ordinary cases one may take out 90 days of the moulting season, during which no eggs will be laid. This will leave 275 days, and if the hen lays an egg every other day the product would be 137 eggs, but the hen must be given time for hatching a brood and raising them, during which she lays no eggs, and this time must be taken out, so that 120 eggs yearly is a good average, and in a great many instances this number is not reached."

American Stock-Keeper says: We have kept fowls and cared for them a good many years, and know very closely the cost of raising a chick or procuring a dozen of eggs. And we know that, during all the year for fowl flesh, and most of the time for eggs, the price to be had for each is largely above the actual cost of raising and marketing. The farmer may, from some untoward cause, have to sell his hay, wheat or hogs at a sacrifice, or at best at a very small margin above actual cost of production, but his fowls and eggs are always salable at a fair to high profit. P. H. Jacobs says the best way to enjoy keeping fowls is to have a small book into which should be inserted all the receipts and expenses. It is an excellent mode of learning what can be done and how to economize. A large profit can be made from a very small flock; that is, while the receipts may not be large, yet the profits on capital invested will be surprising. A small flock pays because it consumes so much waste material that would otherwise give no return, and a home market always exists as long as eggs are used in the household, and, it may be added, fresh eggs will be had instead of the candled stock usually sold as such.

Regarding the improving condition of poultry in the West, the *New York Produce Review* gives the following: A fancy poultry shipper of Ohio came through with a car of live poultry, and has been studying the situation here for some days. In speaking with a representative of this paper he said that farmers in the West, and particularly in his section, were steadily improving their poultry. "They find that it costs no more, if as much, to raise a thoroughbred fowl, and the poor birds are rapidly weeded out. Shippers are paying particular attention to turkeys and have improved the standard of their flocks wonderfully. The fowls are all thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rocks and Brahmans, and it is the finest car I ever brought to New York."

It is said that while the American army was beleaguering Santiago, one of Gen. Shafter's staff officers stumbled one day over a little worn, starved Reconcentrado, too weak to keep up with his party of refugees. The officer took him to camp and after he had recovered the General placed him on a small captured mule and started him after his family. A few days later he

returned, pulled from his ragged blouse a small, dilapidated chicken, his one earthly possession, which he had brought to present to the General as a token of deepest gratitude. When Shafter was busy issuing orders, sending dispatches and reports, the chicken remained perched on his shoulder, and when he came North it traveled in state in a parrot cage. "That chicken stays by me as long as she lives" says the conqueror of Santiago, "the only proof on record of Cuban gratitude."

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

MATING.

F. V. A.: The cockerel can be safely mated to the hens in the flock from which he sprung, as there is only one hen in that flock that is related to him; she is his mother.

J. C.: In making up your breeding pens, do not crowd any more in the flock than the house space will conveniently and comfortably hold. There is nothing gained by an overcrowded condition, while, on the other hand, there will be much risk attached to such matings.

E. W. B.: Be sure that the stock you are mating have never been sick, and that they are strong, hardy stock, if you wish to establish a family of profitable and healthy qualities.

H. L.: In mating for utility, hens are picked out according to their individual records, and the sire is chosen from a flock of fowls famous for their egg producing qualities. In mating for Standard qualities, hens and males are selected according to the extent of their outside markings, paying no attention to their practical qualifications.

J. W.: To grade up a flock of mongrel hens, mate them with a thoroughbred male bird, and never use any of the crossbred roosters. Next year mate the pullets of the cross with another thoroughbred of the same variety.

SPORTSMEN ATTENTION! Two fine Pointers for sale cheap, or exchange for thoroughbred poultry. F. M. CHESBRO, Mongo, Ind. Also R. C. B. L. and B. P. Rocks for sale cheap.

CURTAINS

For Scratching Sheds. Waterproof Sheeting Made up any size, 3 cts. square foot. Not made up, 20 cents square yard.

C. N. TILLOTSON, 361 B'way, N. Y.

SHULL'S White Leg., 'Dottes., Rocks are well matured, strictly thoroughbreds. Bred for eggs. Five entries at Maryland State and Talbot Co. Fair, Easton. Won 2 firsts, 2 seconds, 1 special, in hot competition, Sept., '99. Pekin ducks and drakes (Rankin str.,) deep keeled, broad backs, look like geese. On account of change in plant will sell 300 young birds, including my prize birds. No culls sent out. Now is your chance for first-class stock at one-half price. R. R. SHULL, Henderson, Md.

Linden Poultry Yards

Buff Rocks. Buff Cochins.

We haven't all the best stock to be found, but we have some of it. A pleasure to send our circular if you mention A Few Hens. Ten fine Buff Leghorn hens and a 400-egg Reliable Incubator for sale. C. B. CROWELL, Brattleboro, Vt.

BROODING.

Mrs. L. W. C.: Your trouble comes chiefly from overcrowding in the brooder. No more than 50 chicks should be kept in any brooder, especially during more or less mild weather, as the chicks sweat and soon get a good dose of bowel trouble.

G. M.: Where chicks are run out on the colony plan, shade can be provided for them by erecting trellises, or skeletons of roofs on four posts, and covered with brush.

BREEDS.

A. S. D.: Do not condemn a breed because the strain you have did not prove satisfactory. There is as much difference in strains of a breed as in breeds themselves.

WHITE LEGHORN

Eggs command the highest price in New York. Why raise brown ones? April hatched cockerels, \$1.50 each. G. E. CHALFANT, Hammonton, N. J.

ATTENTION Utility Men! Look at these prices on first-class laying and broiler raising stock: White Rock cockerels, \$1.25 each. Buff Wyandotte cockerels, \$1.50 each. Brown Leghorn pullets, \$1.00 each. Brown Leghorn cockerels, \$1.00 each. Brown Leghorn yearling hens, \$2.00 each. Brown Leghorn yearling cock, comb trosted, \$2.00. Order now. Sat. guaranteed or money refunded. The first ones ordering will get the pick of the lot. THOMAS T. OSGOOD, Randolph, N. Y.

Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street, and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

CLEAR GRIT, OYSTER SHELLS, MEAT MEAL, cheapest and best on the market; also B. P. Rocks, White Wyandottes, White Indian Games, Brahma Bantams and W. C. Black Polish. As good as the best. Can please the most exacting. Write for list. D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES, ONLY.

Entire time given to breeding for eggs and meat. Large, vigorous March cockerels, sired by a 10-12 pound cock, mated to 9 pound unrelated females.

We have some Beauties for \$2.00.

Eggs from same mating, \$2 per 13.

We will try to please.

HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.

Dulany & Branin,

(Successors to Haines & Branin,)

Commission Merchants,

Philadelphia Poultry; Broilers, Roasters, Fancy Capons, Squabs and Eggs.

Nos. 41, 43 and 45 Hewitt Avenue, West Washington Market, NEW YORK CITY.

Poultry Printing

I make a specialty of poultry printing, having cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything you want in that line you will save money by asking for prices.

UNION PRINTING CO., Anthony, R. I.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmans, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.

Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of September—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	22	18	20
Philadelphia Roasting Chickens,	20	18	19
Broilers.....	20	18	19
Fowls.....	13	12	12 2-3
Ducks.....	16 1-2	14	15 1-2
Turkeys, spring, fancy	20	17	18 1-2

PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	19 1-2	16 1-2	18
Hens, live.....	12 1-2	10	11 1-2
Hens, dressed	12	11	11 1-2
Roasting Chickens, live....	13	9	11 1-2
Roasting Chickens, dressed	15	14	14 1-2
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 1-2
Old Roosters, dressed	8	7	7 1-2
Ducks, live.....	11	10	10 1-2

BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	25	22	23 1-2
Eggs, Eastern,	21	18	19 1-2
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	21	18	19 1-2
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	18 1-2	16	17 1-2

NORTHERN and EASTERN.

Chickens, dressed.....	20	18	19
Chickens, live.....	12	10	11
Fowls, dressed	14	12 1-2	13 1-3
Fowls, live.....	11	10	10 2-3
Roosters, live.....	7	6	6 1-2
Broilers, nearby.....	14	14	14
Ducks, dressed	16	14	15

WESTERN.

Turkeys,	15	11	12 3-4
Turkeys, old toms.....	12	11	11 2-3
Broilers.....	12 1-2	12	12 1-4
Fowls.....	12	11	11 2-3
Old cocks	8	7 1-2	7 3-4
Chickens, roasting	13	12	12 1-2

CHICAGO.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	16 1-2	14 1-2	15 3-5
Chickens, hens, scalded....	9 1-2	9	9 1-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	9	8	8 2-3
Spring chickens, scalded....	11 1-2	9	10 2-5
Spring chickens, live.....	11 1-2	8	9 5-7
Roosters, old, live.....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Roosters, young, live.....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Roosters, dressed	6 1-2	6	6 3-4
Ducks, live, old.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Ducks, live, spring	8 1-2	7 1-2	8
Ducks, dressed, old.....	10	7 1-2	9
Ducks, dressed, spring....	9	7 1-2	8 1-3
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$6.50	\$5.00	\$5.75
Geese, dressed, old.....	9	7	8
Geese, dressed, spring....	12	12	12
Turkey hens, dressed:	10	8 1-2	9 1-3
Turkey gobblers, live.....	9	8	8 1-2
Turkey hens, live.....	10	9	9 1-2
Turkey gobblers, young... ..	12	10	11
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	9	8	8 1-2

BUILT FOR BUSINESS!

That's the idea. Nothing fancy; nothing foolish; just straight, practical, honest, lasting.

The Cyphers Incubators

positively warranted to last TEN YEARS, without repairs. Guaranteed to **OUT-HATCH**, during three trials, any other incubator on the market. **THIS OR YOUR MONEY BACK.**

Circulars and price list free. 136 page (8x11 inches) Cyphers' Treatise on Incubation, Catalogue and Guide to Poultry Culture for 10c in stamps—worth dollars. The Cyphers Incubator Co., Box 29, Wayland, N. Y.



M. N. B.: In our experience we have found the Partridge Cochins better layers than any of the Cochin family. For beauty, probably the Buffs would be preferred.

B. W.: To breed out the leg feathering on the Brahma would be to take away its trade mark. Leg feathering is characteristic of the Asiatic class.

G. H. J.: The utility qualities can be increased in any breed by proper selection and mating.

T. R. E.: The Crevecoeurs like the Dorkings do not thrive well in our climate. In their native country they are considered hardy, but our changeable weather seems to be too much for them.

INCUBATION.

Mrs. L. W. C.: Start the incubators in January if you want to have broilers that will be in season for the best prices.

J. A. J.: It is always best to fill the incubator lamps in the evening, so that there will be a steady flame during the night.

H. G. F.: The directions that will successfully work with one make of incubator, will not, necessarily, do for another. Study well and follow closely the directions as given by the manufacturer.

MY Buff Rocks and Wyandottes have won many prizes. Old and young stock for sale. J. F. DAY, Shushan, N. Y.

EGGS.

C. V. B.: Your friend is wrong; a week's age to an egg does not improve its hatching qualities. The fresher it is the better.

O. P. B.: A neat circular, telling how you feed and care for your poultry to secure the best of eggs, coupled with a guarantee that none will be delivered over three days' old, would soon establish a valuable retail trade among the wealthy citizens of your town.

H. H. R.: It is just as possible to feed hens for flavor in eggs as to feed cows for flavor in milk.

L. K. J.: The entire Mediterranean class lay a white egg.

J. G.: Irregularly shaped eggs are caused by a more or less overfat condition of the hen. Soft shelled eggs are often caused by a lack of lime in the food. Feeding clover hay has a strong tendency to overcome that trouble.

WHITE WYANDOTTES bred for eggs and meat. Cockerels and Pullets \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. E. SCHAAF, Box 121, Woodbury, N. J.

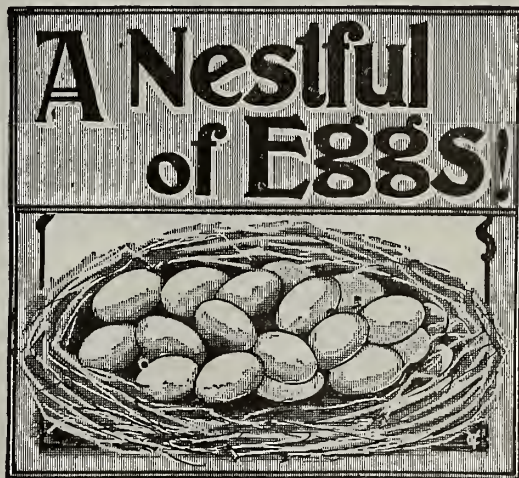
FOR SALE. MAPLE TREE POULTRY FARM.

12 room house, large barns, scratching shed houses for 300 layers, incubators, brooders, 400 B. Rock and White Wyandotte pullets, beginning to lay. For particulars apply or address A. ELY, Maple Tree Poultry Farm, Wyckoff, N. J.

FOR SALE. No. 1 "Dandy" green bone cutter, \$7.50, cost \$10.00. Four Cornish Indian hens, 2 pullets, \$5 for the lot. 7 W. Wyandotte and B. P. Rock cockerels left, at \$1 each. Mar. hatch. C. N. TILLOTSON, Boonton, N. J.

You Do and You Don't!
WANT

You do want every day, a nestful of eggs from September to April, when they will command the highest prices per dozen in the large markets and are in great demand.



You don't want your hens to lay much from May to Sept. when eggs sell for only about what it costs to raise them. Your hens better rest until fall or winter.

Getting eggs when you want them is a matter of choice. You can have them or not. It depends wholly upon the care, feeding and management. **Four essentials** are absolutely necessary to succeed, as follows:—
1st. Hatch your chickens in the months of March, April and May.
2nd. Keep them growing so the pullets will mature early and lay by Oct.
3rd. Help your hens over the molting season, so that all will lay early.
4th. Follow the example of successful Poultry-raisers, who by the use of

Sheridan's Condition Powder

in the mash food, as directed, are doing all of the above, and increasing their profits yearly. It is a powerful food digestive. Therefore no matter what foods you use in the mash, mix with it daily, Sheridan's Powder; it assures perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to form new plumage; to make pullets mature early; to make hens lay when you want eggs.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy. **IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST.** We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

L. L. Gross, Petaluma, Calif., is the patentee and manufacturer of an anti-lice roost hanger that is a good thing. Send to him for circular.

The *Poultry West*, Topeka, Kans., purchased the *Nebraska State Poultry Journal*, Auburn, Neb., and combined it with their journal beginning with the September issue.

W. M. Lloyd, inventor of the Uneeda Trap Nest, Tuckahoe, N. Y., has added an improvement by attaching an extra button for setting the nest. It makes the work more convenient.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Ills., sends us the announcement that on or before December 1st they will issue a large book of about 100 pages, on Wyandottes. The book will sell for 50 cents.

An error was committed in the advertisement of E. Schaaf, breeder of White Wyandottes, as found on page 46 of the September issue. The address should have been Woodbury, *New Jersey*, instead of New York.

The Cousius Egg Tray Co., Warren, Pa., are manufacturing an automatic egg-turning tray for incubators that, according to descriptive circulars sent will prove a valuable article to those engaged in artificial incubation.

The *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y., has entered its 13th volume. This is one of the substantial poultry publications of the day, and one which has not lived in vain. Editor Drevenstedt is giving the poultry world a valuable and influential weekly.

The Puritan Poultry Farms, Stamford, Conn., send us a new circular they have just gotten up giving half-tone illustrations of their farm, buildings, yards, etc., and describing their feeds and other specialties. It will be sent free to all who write, mentioning A FEW HENS.

F. H. Valentine, associate editor of *Rural New Yorker* for past 11 years, assumed editorial charge of the *Poultry Monthly* with the October issue. Mr. Valentine will have his headquarters at 103 Fulton Street, New York City.

Mr. Holmes could not have made a better selection, and A FEW HEN'S good wishes are hereby extended.

The Electric Temperature Indicator, is a new device offered for sale by the Wilder Manufacturing Co., of Springfield, Mass. It is an attachment for incubators and brooders. It is a thermostatic wafer working by expansion and contraction, and is placed in the incubator directly over the eggs. For further information and prices address the company as above.

The Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City, the New York and export agent for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders, have just issued a very neat 12-page circular fully describing these goods. W. V. Russ, the proprietor, is one of the greatest hustlers in the poultry business to-day, and for reliability he has the full endorsement of A FEW HENS.

The Von Culin Incubator Co., Delaware City, Del., has been re-organized under the name of Columbia Incubator Co. They claim for their machines that they are fire-proof, 5-inch double walls packed with non-conductors, egg chamber is heated by radiation, machines are built of kiln-dried lumber, moisture arranged according to location, simple in construction, and no clock-work attachments to get out of order.

Since last issue, A FEW HENS received the 1900 Prairie State Incubator catalogue complete. This by far beats any former efforts in that line, and never in the history of this company have they given such attractive offers as this year. The book is replete with colored lithographs and half-tone portraits, and should be in the hands of all poultrymen. It will be sent free by addressing the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa.

The Star Incubator and Brooder Company, Bound Brook, N. J., writes that they are having an exceptionally good trade, although the season has hardly begun. The Star is a top heat, hot air machine. The manufacturers claim that by their method of circulation every particle of heat is utilized, and every part of the egg chamber is heated exactly the same degree, allowing no cold corners. On points of regulation and ventilation, the Star seems exceptionally strong. This firm also manufactures indoor sectional and outdoor brooders. Send to them for complete catalogue for 1900.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, breeder of Rhode Island Reds, Pawtucket, R. I., writes A FEW HENS as follows: "I shall sell cockerels at half price from now until cold weather—that is, those for crossing and grading—for \$3 each, or three for \$6. But when cold weather comes will kill

most of that grade not sold, and will keep only those I feel are worth \$5 and over. No birds (males) for less than \$5 after November 15th. Have many now for \$3 each, or three for \$6. I have over 800 Rhode Island Reds raised on my West Mansfield farm, and over 2,500 to select from raised on my partner's large farm. The latter are from my eggs, males or matings. About every thing is marked to show which of my 16 different matings it is from. Trade is commencing in good earnest. Orders for African geese are plenty. My flock of 125 selected ones will not last many months."

The Prairie State Incubator Co. has just issued a new book of 48 pages, which they send out to all customers. Among the many good things to be found in it are hints on the care of the lamp, setting eggs, temperature, ventilation, moisture, cooling, hatching, why chicks die in the shell, testing, duck eggs, big hatches, the kind of eggs to set, how to feed, the dry feed method, how to feed young ducks, marketing, how to prepare broilers for market, construction of brood houses, care of heater and pipe system, how to raise chickens in outdoor brooders, how to feed laying hens to produce good, fertile eggs, raising chicks in a brood house, feeding young chicks, temperature of brood houses, heating poultry houses, etc.

WHITE Wyandottes

GOLDEN EGG STRAIN.

Several cockerels just right to use in raising eggs and meat, at very reasonable prices. Better ones at higher prices. Will spare a few breeding pullets. My customers are saying very pleasant things of my treatment of them.

WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

33 Ribbons Boston and New York.

Mr. Boyer recommends my stock and myself. My Rose C. Brown have a record of over 220 eggs to a hen in '98, '99. S. C. Browns and Rose, second to none in the world. White and Barred Rocks, Bradley & Thompson stock. Pekin Ducks, 10 lb. stock. Buff Leghorns, Wh. Leghorns, (Whiting). Wh. Wyans., (Dustin). Bl. Langshans and Minorcas. Stock all of best blood. Cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets for sale. A Buff Cochlin cock, \$3.50.

W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

LICE AND BAD LUCK

Keep your poultry free from lice and you will have no trouble with other diseases.

PIKE'S LICE DESTROYER

will kill the lice and mites or money refunded. Send for circulars and prices.

SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO.,
218 South Water Street, Chicago, Ill.

If People only Knew

what strong, vigorous Cockerels and Pullets we have for sale and ready to enter the breeding pen, they surely would buy some. Considering the quality and vigor of the stock, we claim to have as good and cheap as any one. If you are interested in Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Guinea or Chickens, send for my catalogue, it fully describes the 23 varieties I breed. It is now time to inquire about incubator eggs. We can furnish them by the 100 or 1000. Prices quoted on application.

D. A. MOUNT,
Pine Tree Farm, Jamesburg, N. J.

IF YOU WANT

a nice, strong, vigorous WHITE Wyandotte Cockerel, write me. I have over 100 for sale.
D. LINCOLN ORR, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- - 25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	- - 25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- - 50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	- - 50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- - 25 "
Total,	\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.) New Jersey.

The Cuckoo Won

The Cuckoo Trap Nest, in the severest test carried out at A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, won first as containing the most good points. It is a double door nest, well ventilated, makes a handsome appearance, and does the work accurately. Price \$1.00. JOHN GEISHAKER, Hammonton, N. J.

A nowise unimportant part of the work of the various experiment stations of this country has been to seek out and combine those various stock foods so as to produce the very best obtainable results. This combination has resulted in what is known as a balanced ration, which means that natural grains have been mixed together in proportion to their special food content to produce specially desired products. For instance—it is a well known fact that one particular balanced ration if fed to a cow will increase the flow of milk and the consequent yield of butter; if the same animal is fed another balanced ration, she will take on flesh rapidly and become practically worthless for milking. Now if these things are true of dairy cattle and also true in feeding other kinds of live stock, why may they not be equally true in the poultry yard? As a matter of fact they are so, and hens may now be fed balanced rations with the same certainty of desired results as are assured the live-stock feeder. The H-O Company, whose advertisement appears elsewhere in this issue, are making such a food. It consists of a number of grain substances combined in just the correct proportions to produce the desired results in eggs, growth of young poultry, development of pullets, etc. Every sack of the H-O Poultry Food contains a guaranteed analysis of the actual food content of the package. You thus take no risk in buying as you know absolutely in every case exactly what you are getting.

H-O Poultry Food is best fed as a morning mash. Write them for circulars, prices, etc. Address according to the advertisement.

A Few Cockerels and Pullets, R. I. Reds, farm raised, good stock. Pairs \$5 up; trios \$7 and up. P. R. PARK, 195 Lowell Street, Methuen, Mass.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY

Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,

Produce Commission Merchant,

No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

IF BOTH PAPERS

We Will Make the Price as Follows:

A FEW HENS one year, 25 Cents.

FARM-POULTRY one year, 75 Cents.

BOTH \$1.00.

This saves you 20 per cent, the regular price is \$1.25.

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Relieves Every Form of Inflammation;
INTERNAL as much as EXTERNAL.

Originated in 1870 by a Family Physician to cure asthma, abscesses, burns, bruises, bronchitis, colds, coughs, croup, catarrh, chaps, sore throat, la grippe, muscular soreness. The real danger from every ailment of mankind is caused by inflammation. Cure the inflammation and you conquer the disease. Inflammation is manifested outwardly by redness, swelling and heat. Inwardly by congestion of the blood vessels, pain and fever.

EVERY MOTHER SHOULD Have it in the House

For many common ailments which will occur in every family as long as life has woes. Suffering children love it dropped on sugar. There is not a remedy in use which has the confidence of the public to a greater extent. Could a remedy have existed for nearly a century except it possess extraordinary merit?

Our Book on INFLAMMATION sent free.

The Doctor's signature and directions on every bottle. Sold by all druggists. Price 35 cents. Six \$2.00. I. S. JOHNSON & Co., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

PARSONS' PILLS. ONE A DOSE. Physicians say they are Best Liver Pill made for Biliousness, Sick Headache, all Liver troubles. Price, 25 cts. Book mailed free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.