

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Winter next.
 Thanksgiving.
 Kindness wins.
 Try a trap nest.
 Order new blood.
 Study and practice.
 Now for winter eggs.
 Get down to business.
 Exercise the breeders.
 Don't crowd the pens.
 Pick out the breeders.
 Molting is about over.
 Quality then quantity.
 Are the pullets laying?
 Band or mark the hens.
 Avoid close relationship.
 Poultrymen are workers.
 How slick the hens look.
 Apply practical methods.
 Holiday trade is nearing.
 Have matters convenient.
 Throw leaves in the runs.
 Market the surplus stock.
 Did you gather the leaves?
 Cruelty should be criminal.
 Comfort is a key to success.
 Don't delay house cleaning.
 Watch the night ventilation.
 Mongrelism is objectionable.
 Trees make dangerous roosts.
 How is the road dust supply?
 Empty the fountains at night.
 Where are the fowls roosting?
 Those new feathers are pretty.
 The Utility cause is increasing.
 Discouragement causes failures.
 "Handsome is as handsome does."

Experimental Farm Notes.

Thoughts Upon the Approaching Season—Doing the Odd Jobs on the Farm—Some Changes in the Stock, and Improvements that Are Being Added—The Egg Yield and Prices for the Month of September.

With the approach of November, one is forcibly reminded of the fact that no time must be lost in getting the stock into winter quarters. At this time of the year there is always a lot to do, and as the days and weeks fly swiftly, it does not take long to be right in the midst of a season, and very often before one is really ready for it. At this writing we are rounding up our stock, and getting everything in readiness to mate up our pens.

We are a little short of pullets in Brahmas, but still we will have as many as last year. Our hatches seemed remarkable for cockerels, more than we really wanted, but as they are good ones we are fast finding a market for them.

Our egg crop has made a decided drop. The breeders have gone into moult, and the pullets are not far enough advanced to begin work. Next year we shall try the experiment of using pullets hatched in February, March and April to give us eggs in the fall. We believe that plan will do it. Our family trade for table eggs is increasing and we must devise some means to meet it.

At this writing the leaves are nearly all off the trees, and our man is busy raking them up and dumping them in the runs. We prefer using these leaves in the runs, and bedding the floors of the scratching sheds with swamp straw, a tough article we buy by the load from a shore farmer. All the pens on the place are receiving an overhauling, cleaned up, repaired, etc., and all the hurried jobs about the place are being taken care of.

Generally we have no snow in this locality until after the holidays, and then, as a rule, it does not amount to much. But last year was blizzard year, and the storm we had in November took us unawares, as our readers will remember. We look for a rather mild winter this year, but still we are not going to

rely upon that belief. We do not want to be caught napping again.

We have concluded to make the White Plymouth Rocks one of the working breeds on the farm, and in order to give them the needed room, will farm out our White Leghorns. They will be raised for us on a separate farm, in the care of a man who is a noted Leghorn man. Of course this will keep the Leghorns out of our farm experiment, but they will be continued in our general poultry business.

We do not think any less of the White Leghorns, but we find that our trade will make the White Plymouth Rocks more profitable for us. The fact is, our home trade—table eggs and carcasses—calls for a breed different from the Leghorns. The population of Hammonton is largely composed of New Englanders, and they have a great preference for a brown egg. We must cater to their whims.

As the cold weather approaches we have again looked up the matter of feed. That is, the cooker has again been put in place, a new lot of cut clover hay ordered, and a supply of Animal Meal, and feed of all kinds stacked up.

The curtains on the scratching sheds, which have been hung up all summer, are again in place, and the window sash placed over the wire netting to keep out the cold. There seems to be no end of the odd jobs on the place, and our man is working like a Trojan.

Another improvement will shortly be inaugurated on the farm. The Long Distance Telephone Company, which have lines through Hammonton, have gained permission from the town to run a local system. We were among the signers, and probably before this appears in print, the farm will have the Long Distance System attached to it. We do not expect to do much long distance talking, but where we see the benefit is in being able to talk to our feed man, our grocer, our butcher, and to all the business people with which we have more or less dealings. This will save us a lot of time. We will not be compelled to go for our feed. A telephone order will bring it.

We are glad to see the season of broody hens over. There seemed to be no end of the fever. After we were through hatching, we broke them up by placing them in a new run, the house having neither roosts nor nests. In a few days they seemed to change their mind. We do not intend to bother much with sitting hens next year, unless occasionally to test an experiment. If nothing prevents we will start our incubators in January, and run them, more or less, until warm weather. We have in mind a number of experiments, especially in broiler raising, and hope to do a lot of good, both to ourselves and our readers. Experiments will also be made in mating, testing individual hens' ability, of the different breeds, etc. We want to fill each issue of A FEW HENS, during the coming year, brim full of good, practical experience.

During the month of September our Wyandottes laid 132 eggs; Brahmas, 84 eggs; Leghorns, 93 eggs; White Plymouth Rocks, 117 eggs. This made a total of 426 eggs for the month, or a daily average of 14.6. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 18, and the lowest number 6.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received during the month was 23 cents, and the lowest 20 cts.; average, 21 cts.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

*Hints that You Should Remember—
Excellent Records—The Egg Crop—
The Most Profitable Layers—Early
Hatched Pullets—The Use of Eggs.*

Feed for eggs.

Force the pullets.

Start the egg factory.

Keep over your best layers.

Don't overcrowd the layers.

Business hens are steady layers.

The laying hen is always hungry.

The heavy layer is a heavy drinker.

Get the trap nests in working order.

Get the pullets into winter quarters.

The laying hen must not be neglected.

Indifferent treatment makes poor layers.

Are the pullets' combs and faces reddening?

Lazy hens are not interested in the egg crop.

Get the scratching shed in working order.

Domestication has increased the egg records.

Have you taken a lesson from last year's experience?

Late hatched pullets will hardly lay before February.

Egg production means over-exertion to the too-fat hen.

Provide for the hen's comfort this year if you want eggs.

It is said that New York is the largest egg market in the world.

Good feed, good housing, and good care is a trio that makes eggs.

Strictly fresh eggs fit for the highest consumptive trade are always in demand in New York city.

England imported last year more than \$20,000,000 worth of eggs, but almost none of them came from this country.

Mr. Van Dresser figures that it costs about 35 cents to produce a laying hen, from the egg to the point of laying.

The value of the eggs handled in New York city last year was upwards of \$18,000,000, at the average retail value of 20 cents per dozen.

There seems a good outlook for the fruits of the labor of the American hen, both for domestic and foreign consumption, says F. H. Valentine.

Last year's egg receipts in New York city were over 90,000,000 dozens, but the receipts for the first half of this year showed a falling off from last year.

Fair Customer: "Are these eggs strictly fresh?" *Grocer:* "Yes, Mum. The chickens that supply me with eggs don't lay anything but fresh ones."
—*Philadelphia Record.*

It has been left to the American breeder to produce the general purpose fowl and to individuals to increase the egg production of that class by selection of breeding stock, says Robt. H. Essex, a Canadian poultryman, in *American Fancier.*

Robt. H. Essex, in *American Fancier*, says nobody denies that the Spanish have deteriorated in egg production by reason of the excessive striving for white faces, and the large combs of the Minorcas have also been obtained at the expense of utility.

Under date of September 23d, W. J. Leacock, of Chicago, Ills., writes A FEW HENS: "From 11 Brown Leghorn hens I got 259 eggs in April, and there was but one hen in the lot that was over 9 months old. I have one hen that has laid 62 eggs, and is now raising her third brood of chicks for this year."

The *American Agriculturist* says the egg specialty is particularly desirable for farmers living at a distance from market. The product is highly concentrated and a big basket of eggs in November will bring almost as much as a load of hay, and is much more easily taken to town. An advantage over retail milk raising is that the product need not be taken to market every day.

Ed. C. Weeks, Eldon, Mo., sends us this excellent record: "March, 24 hens, 265 eggs; April, 23 hens, 450 eggs; May, 14 hens, 330 eggs; August, 19 hens, 311 eggs; September, 19 hens, 272 eggs. I began to keep the record the first of March, and during June and July had nearly all of my hens hatching and brooding, so did not keep a record for those two months. The first 20 days in October 20 hens laid 185 eggs. This makes 1628 eggs for 20 hens for 5 months. Each hen laid 81.4 eggs average. Monthly average, 16 eggs per hen."

Rev. W. E. Dean, South Jacksonville, Fla., writes: "In the year 1898 I lived in Ashtabula county, Ohio. I kept a flock of 40 crossbred hens. I got 6131 eggs in 12 months, or over 150 eggs on an average for the whole flock for the year. Florida is the best state in the south for the poultry business. Last week 5000 head of poultry and 4200 dozen eggs were shipped from Huntsville, Ala., to Tampa, Fla., on a

poultry car. Eggs are 20 cents a dozen here all summer."

L. S. Richards, in *American Agriculturist*, says: "I have been repeatedly asked, 'Won't pullets hatched so early that they lay before September, lay one litter and then shed like an old hen?' That notion has been cuddled by most farmers and some quite extensive poultry raisers for years. It's a false notion. In my experience of quite a number of years in raising early pullets, I have not had over three or four out of a hundred that would moult less than a year and a half from the time of hatching, and I have had some early pullets lay in June."

"I am of opinion that the most profitable egg laying fowl will be found in a white or buff variety of the American class," says Robt. H. Essex. "As a class they will beat all comers. I single out a buff variety for the one reason that as a table fowl the attractive yellow skin is being indelibly stamped upon it. I have to choose between the Buff Wyandotte and the Buff Rock. I have bred both varieties for more than five years, and find them equal layers, and I throw in my vote to the Rocks on account of their size, choosing a strain that has been developed for egg production."

It is said that the calico printers use more than 40,000,000 dozens of eggs annually, says *Rural New-Yorker*, and that the coffee roasters, the photographic trades, the cracker and biscuit combines, and the chemical trades consume more than twice as many. Large quantities are also used in the leather trades, for tanning, etc. They are, also, largely used in the preparation of many patent foods, and the liquor trade takes no inconsiderable number. For many of these uses, inferior grades of eggs are used—not because they are better, but because they are cheaper. One biscuit company in the city buys 4,000 eggs every week. Numerous substitutes for eggs have been put forth from time to time, but the genuine hen fruit still holds its own.

"My experience is that selected strains of the American class will equal the Mediterranean in profitable egg production," says Robt. H. Essex, in *American Fancier*, "especially when we consider the latter handicapped by a nervous disposition (the slightest change or fright affecting them), that they have a predisposition to feather eating, that they are discounted when confined to a house or run, and that egg eating is another unfortunate trouble which frequently crops up. I acknowledge there are counter accounts, such as a loss of time while the birds of the American class are broody, but even this can be bred out. I know of a flock of Barred Rocks that have not developed this characteristic for years, except in individual cases. I believe also that colored eggs find a more ready sale than white eggs."

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About Broilers and Roasters.

Pointers on Fattening, the Proper Food, How to Make Fattening Pens—How to Properly Scald Poultry—Valuable Suggestions Regarding Capons, by an Expert—Points of Value in Market Fowls—Broilers.

Get ready for hatching broilers.

Overscalding makes an unattractive carcass.

It is said that the demand for capons exceeds the supply.

T. Greiner says the capon industry is growing at a rapid rate.

Healthy, strong and vigorous breeding stock is necessary for quick growing, profitable market stock.

The scalding of poultry is something that must be done with considerable care if best results are produced.

If a bird is killed with a full crop, the flesh is liable to become a bad color and to smell strongly.

In Surrey, England, there is a great poultry fattening establishment, which annually sends about 30,000 fowls to London.

When the birds are fattened up to the necessary point, they must be fasted for some hours to give them time to digest the last meal.

It is not necessary to confine the birds after caponizing, nor to feed them with any special food. It may be well to give soft food for a while, but it is not absolutely necessary.

A chick is a broiler at from 1 1/4 to 2 pounds, usually being about 1 1/2 pounds, and it is prepared for the table by being cut in two and broiled in halves. Later on it becomes a spring chicken.

It will not be many years before capons and capon-making are as common here as they have been in France and other parts of Europe for hundreds of years, says Mr. Greiner, in *Farm, Field and Fireside*.

Do not keep fattening fowls in the pens too long—to days will be sufficient, generally. Watch them carefully, and if you find one losing its appetite and going wrong, it will be best to kill that one at once.

Among the best fattening foods are barley-meal, ground oats, oatmeal, etc., to which add suet, fat, or dripping, mixing the whole with milk, which is a very valuable addition. The food must in all cases be well mixed, crumbly and not sloppy, and given warm.

Any country-reared person, says *Rural New-Yorker*, will not be likely to call for "chicken" more than once at the average city restaurant or moderate-priced hotel. After being handled so much, and exposed in the markets for several days, poultry seems to lose its fine flavor.

In attempting to raise early broilers for market it is an object to select a breed that makes a quick growth and matures early, says *Kansas Farmer*. There is quite a difference in breeds in this respect, and, as earliness is important, a breed that grows fast will give much better results than a slow-growing breed.

It has been stated, says *Farm and Home*, that about one-third of all the poultry raised in the United States is owned in cities, towns and villages. Some of the most expert poultry keepers are townspeople. It is so easy to raise poultry on farms that few farmers study the business enough to understand it thoroughly.

The directions which are being sent out by most dealers in or manufacturers of caponizing instruments are not calculated to make the operation very popular or successfully performed by the new beginner. In the first place, let no one undertake it without good instruments. Many of the tools offered by the trade are rather clumsy, says T. Greiner.

"I usually give to the caponized birds their full liberty, and let them get their food with the rest of the fowls," says Mr. Greiner. "In a general way the caponized birds are easily cared for, can be housed in large flocks and fat on any kind of wholesome food. They are peaceable and tractable and a pleasure to have around. My sales last winter were made at 20 cents a pound, dressed in regular capon fashion. It pays."

P. H. Jacobs says the larger the bones and coarser the fowl, the greater proportion of offal. Breast meat is always desirable, but the breast meat is greatest on those birds that fly and have small bones. The small bones and prominent breast bones of the Dorking and Games render them the best of all the breeds for the table, and they also possess fine grain of flesh. These breeds are not easily raised, as the chicks feather rapidly, but crossed on Brahma or Cochin hens the produce is a hardy and superior table fowl.

The *New York Produce Review* gives this method of scalding poultry: The water should be just to a boiling point, but not actually boiling before birds are immersed. In performing this trick it should be borne in mind that the operator must hold the bird by the legs and head and then lift up and down in the water three or four times, when all feathers and pinfeathers should be removed very cleanly without breaking the skin. One dealer says it is essential that the scalding water be of uniform temperature to insure fine appearing stock; where there is a wide variation in the temperature of the water there is not apt to be a uniform appearance of the birds. All scalded poultry should be "plumped" after picking by dipping for about two seconds in very hot water—just under boiling point—and then thrown into cool water of the natural temperature, where it should be allowed to remain for 15 to 20 minutes.

Success in Poultry gives these dimensions for fattening pens. They can be arranged around a room in double rows. Each compartment should be about 18 inches high, 12 inches wide, 15 or 18 inches deep. The partitions and front half of the floor are made of wood. The back half of the floor must be constructed of wire rods or netting, to allow the droppings to fall through into a tray which is placed

underneath and filled with earth. The fronts should also be of wire rods, with a hole large enough for the bird to put his head through, so as to allow him free access to the feeding trough, which must be placed along the front of the pen. The fattening room should be warm, well-ventilated, but nearly dark, as the birds are thus more contented and sleep more, warmth and sleep aiding the process of fattening very much. The greatest cleanliness must be observed, and the place kept thoroughly sweet, and no scraps of food must be left lying about. Look well after the pens, trays for droppings and feeding troughs.

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Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Sunflower Seed—Marsden Food—Animal Food—Clover—Crimson Clover—Variety in Food—Feeding Grain.

Start the winter bill of fare.

Sunflower seed act as a laxative.

Marsden food is, practically, ground corn stalks.

Sour or musty food is sure to start bowel trouble.

Variety is required for producing eggs in winter.

Occasionally charring a little of the corn will do good.

Keep up the supply of grit, oyster shell and charcoal.

Raw green bone takes the place perfectly of insect food.

Feed sunflower seed sparingly, through fall and winter.

An occasional feed of boiled oats at noon should be given.

The new ration for poultry will have Marsden food as a basis.

The best commercial meat meal we have tried is Bowker's Animal Meal.

For animal food, fresh, juicy, lean meat and cut green bone are preferred.

Clover has proved itself to be a most excellent bulky food, rich in nitrogen.

Frozen ground affords a poor chance for the hens to secure the required supply of grit.

Sunflower seed give the fowls a glossy plumage and keep them in good condition.

In very bitter, cold weather the grain food should be warmed enough to take the chill off.

The boiled pressed scraps of rendering works have lost about all the goodness they ever had.

Feed the hen for eggs as the cow is fed for milk—cornstalks (Marsden food) and clover hay.

Animal food goes hand in hand with vegetable food, to supplement and fortify the grain ration.

Rural New-Yorker says Mr. Greene thinks the ground wheat better for the growing stock, and middlings better for laying hens.

The production of eggs in winter depends upon having the hens properly housed and cared for, and, of course, provided with suitable food.

The grain supply for supper should be scattered in the scratching shed, which should be liberally supplied with dry, clean litter, frequently renewed.

Do not imagine the proper way to supply the hens with water in winter is in ice and snow form. See that they have plenty of water, and that it has been heated sufficiently to take the chill off.

G. O. Brown says: When the farmer realizes what profit can be made from a flock of well-kept hens in winter, he will thereafter have a patch of crimson clover pasture for them to run on at that season.

A study of the habits of hens shows that they do best when allowed to select a portion of their daily allowance, says the *Baltimore Sun*. Close observation will further show they are fond of nipping white clover leaves, green weed seeds, young grass

shoots, and various other kinds of food of a bulky nature. They will leave grain for insect food. These facts should teach the poultry keeper how to make a balanced ration for egg production.

H. J. Patterson, Director Maryland Experiment Station, says: "As to the use of the Marsden food as a base for a poultry food, I have made a number of tests of rations of this character, and find it very valuable for this purpose. Particularly so for hens that do not have much of a range of food of the nature of forage. Hens given a ration with Marsden food base gave more eggs than hens treated the same and receiving the same foods without the Marsden base."

To use dried clover chop it finely, steam by covering with boiling water and wrapping it tightly to retain the heat for several hours; then after draining off the surplus wet, we have a dainty winter appetizer that all poultry delight to honor, says M. S. Perkins. All the so-called roots—turnips, potatoes, etc.—come into use in the regular morning mash, as they are boiled and mixed with grain. Every cultivator of these crops has "seconds" of little value that he can save to feed to his fowls, and parties who raise nothing of the kind themselves can purchase their supplies at a low figure every fall.

The idea that corn, if it is fed liberally, is all-sufficient for winter egg food, is a very erroneous one, says Geo. O. Brown. Corn has been called the lazy man's poultry food. It is little trouble to throw out corn to the hens, if it is already shelled from the cob, and, if not, as a farmer was heard to remark: "Why, I just chuck out a few ears and let 'em work the grain off. They get exercise in doing it." This is true—they generally get more exercise than corn. A diet of whole corn in winter will furnish the hens plenty of heating and fattening food, but unless other food is allowed with it, after a time comparatively few eggs will be laid by hens thus fed.

The majority of fowls get far too much grain, such as corn, oats, wheat, bran, etc., to the exclusion of animal substances and green or vegetable foods, such as clover rowen, grass, cabbages, beets, turnips, etc. The grain bin is usually well filled and handy of access; so the feeder, being in a hurry and despising "bother," just takes what grain he wants and throws it to the fowls, and that makes an end of the matter. This is not the best policy, writes M. S. Perkins, in the *Poultry Monthly*. Grain is a very heavy, hearty, heating and concentrating staple of diet, and was never intended to be fed stock without other addition. We see this fact quite clearly when we consider that every plant has more weight of stem and leaves than of seed.

Poultry Printing

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Avoid the causes.

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Neglect bears its usual fruit.

The most common and prevailing disease is roup.

Pay no attention to the people who tell you the poultry house needs lots of ventilation.

A human being cannot sleep in a draft without catching cold; why should we expect a fowl to do it?

Bought six 250 egg Premier and two 250 Egg Von Culin Simplicity Incubators. All made by Columbia Incubator Co. Guaranteed in every particular. Have room for only six. Will sell two, either Simplicity or Premier, for 20 per cent. less than they cost me. Write T. B. HEISEL, Delaware City, Del.

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If one takes ordinary precautions, sickness among fowls need never be known, or, at worst, be but slight.

The windows should be arranged so as to close up tight. The time for fresh air supply is in the daytime, not at night.

Roupy birds, even if cured, are dangerous to breed from; hence all the more reason for trying to keep the flock healthy.

Roup is troublesome, annoying and dangerous, but one need not have roup in a flock if due precautions are observed, says *Country Gentleman*.

If the poultry droppings are allowed to accumulate—a plan neglectful persons follow—the odors naturally create the impression that ventilation is necessary.

The house should be free from dampness, and with windows that will allow the needed supply of fresh air and sunshine, which are the true disease dispellers.

The main thing to consider in the poultry house in cold weather is how to keep it warm enough—not how to let in additional cold through unnecessary ventilators.

Fowls out of condition, overfed, or over-fat, naturally contract disease much more readily than those in perfect health. Many times a roupy fowl is found to be a fat one.

If your houses are kept clean and free from lice, and your fowls are given plenty of fresh air without drafts, there will be little sickness and the dreaded roup will be unknown.

A clean house in winter will not require other ventilation than that which it will get during the day, and even then there are bitter cold days when the windows should not be raised.

Wholesome food, composed of a varied diet, and strict and thorough cleanliness are requisites that no poultry raiser can ignore at any season without increasing cost and inviting various ailments.

The winter returns from a well-kept flock of healthy hens, when all the proper conditions are intelligently observed, will be very encouraging and will prove there is considerable profit in poultry keeping.

Hens kept in small yards for several generations are likely to weaken in vitality, says *American Agriculturist*. They may lay well, but are poor breeding stock. Fresh blood from farm-raised fowls should be introduced every year.

If the roosting shed or house is open back and front or on both sides with the fowls in the middle, they are in a direct draft. If a little pinhole is near their head and the cold air blows on them all night, they will have a cold in the morning, says *Country Gentleman*. Better have the whole front of the shed wide open than a little drafty pinhole.

When the sudden changes from warm and pleasant weather to cold rains and high winds, that are sure to prevail in fall, there come many complaints from poultry raisers, says G. O. Brown. These come mainly from the farmers, for the reason that the expert poultry raiser's experience has

taught him that he must anticipate these changes and be prepared for them.

The man who has been resolving he would attend to the needed repairs of the poultry house before fall set in, but never did it, is now confronted with roupy fowls. The roosts near the broken window panes, the wide cracks between the sides and ends of the house and the leaky places in the roof have become prolific sources of ailments. Inquiries are then sent out to get information regarding remedies.

The man who lets his fowls roost in trees and on the fences when the Fall changes come, is the one who complains of having sick hens. He finds some of them sniffling and sneezing, some with matter exuding from their nostrils, some standing around in places where they can find protection from the winds and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine. They will stand there humped up, with pale combs, showing every symptoms of sickness.

G. O. Brown says: One man declares his flock has a "mysterious disease;" another has fed "all the corn they would eat, but the fowls will get sick"; another admits the hens have been compelled to find their own living the entire summer and are almost naked, but cannot understand why they should be ailing. In the latter case common sense should proclaim the fact that lack of proper nourishment prevents the hens from being dressed in a new fall suit.

I. L. Irwin, in *Agricultural Epitome*, gives this treatment for scaly legs: Fill an empty tin can about two-thirds full of water, and then pour in two or three tablespoonfuls of kerosene.

Hold the fowl firmly in the hands, and dip its legs in the solution and hold there for a moment or so, or until the mixture has time to penetrate beneath the scales. Two applications were all that was ever found necessary, and the worst cases were entirely cured.

The man who imagines his fowls can "pick up" all the food they need during the summer, also begins to be troubled with mysterious diseases among his fowls. His calculations were based on theory, not actual facts. He did not stop to consider that a molting fowl requires a varied diet of wholesome food. The flock,

Announcement

The Poultry Food business, formerly operated by the York Chemical Works, will hereafter be conducted under the title of American Poultry Food Co. All communications should be addressed to

American Poultry Food Co., Box 943, York, Pa.

Send for samples and new price list.

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 Cochon cock, \$3.50.

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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.
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No expensive buildings needed for it.
Can be run under a shed, attic roof or
anywhere out of rain and wind.

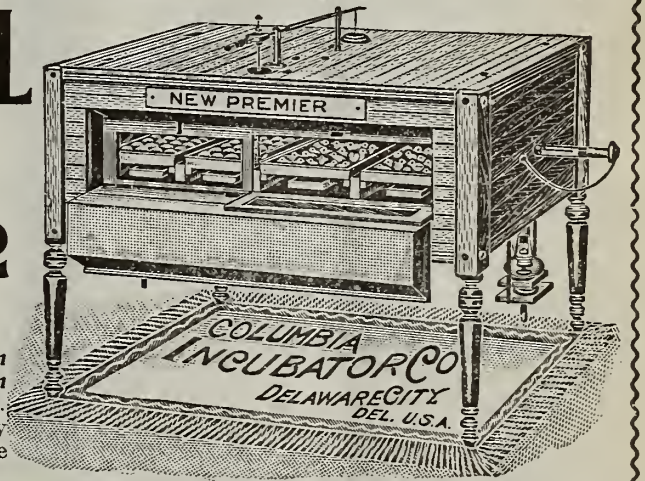
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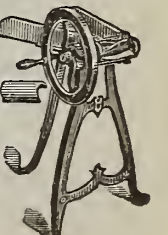


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If you can only get enough of them at the lowest cost. GREEN CUT BONE solves the problem. It doubles the egg product. It makes hens lay in the dead of winter when eggs are worth money. It keeps the hen laying. It makes chicks grow fast and mature early, and makes early layers of the pullets.

MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTERS
prepare bone in the best way. Cut fast, run easy, last long. Mann's Clover Cutter, Granite Crystal Crit and Swinging Feed Trays are all necessary to highest success. Cash or installments. Illustrated catalogue sent free.

F. W. MANN CO., Box 67 MILFORD, MASS.



if it is a large one, will soon exhaust the natural food supply other than herbage, and fowls cannot be expected to thrive on green food alone.

Chicks will have weak legs when kept on damp ground, or when they are on a damp place at night. But when chicks are apparently healthy, have good appetites, and grow rapidly, weak legs may be caused by forced feeding, their growth being so rapid that the legs are incapable of supporting the bodies. In such cases no danger need result; in fact, it is a favorable indication, says *Mirror and Farmer*. Simply feed less, giving bone meal and plenty of finely chopped green food, and using millet seed in the litter so as to induce them to scratch.

The *Country Gentleman* says the inexperienced frequently invite roup by doing stupid things—for example, by closing a house up tight at night in winter when the weather is very cold, and letting it remain closed all the next day. This creates a moisture which generates a dampness, and the whole house will feel like a vault. The dampness which fills the house at night, and which usually comes from the fowls' breath, can easily be dispelled in the daytime by opening all the windows wide. Nothing will dispel dampness so quickly as fresh air, especially if it be dry. It must be remembered also that fresh air never made a fowl sick yet, and it matters not how cold the outside temperature may be, it will benefit your fowls.

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

Notes on Roup in Fowls, by John Barlow, B.S., as Taken from the 11th Annual Report of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station—Negligence in Breeding.

"The term Roup, as applied to disease in fowls, is scarcely scientific. To what disorder the term was first applied is not known, and the origin of the word itself is uncertain; it is, possibly, a variation of *Croup*.

"But little scientific work has been done to ascertain the cause of the disease. Future investigations will increase our knowledge on this point, and probably the disease which we now call roup will prove to be a class of diseases having at least one point in common, viz., catarrhal inflammation of the mucous membranes of the head.

"It usually affects young fowls. It is not, however, confined to young chickens, though they suffer most. Full grown fowls are subject to its ravages. The progress among the old hens is slower, but by it they are made useless as layers, and it is doubtful if they ever regain their full strength. It is much more prevalent in the fall and winter. This is probably due to the cold weather.

"The first symptoms which are apparent, without careful examination, are moping, ruffled feathers, poor appetite, and 'going light.' These are followed by inflammation and

watery discharges from the nose and eyes.

"If, however, a fowl be very carefully watched from the outset of the disease, these symptoms will be found to be preceded a number of days by the appearance of minute patches of white exudate in the throat and nasal passages, and by a rise of temperature of one or two degrees Fahrenheit.

"It is usually 10 or 12 days from the inception of the disease until the well marked symptoms make their appearance. At the outset the exudate is a watery secretion possessing scarcely any odor, and the inflammation is rather local. It may be one eye or one nostril, which begins to swell and exude.

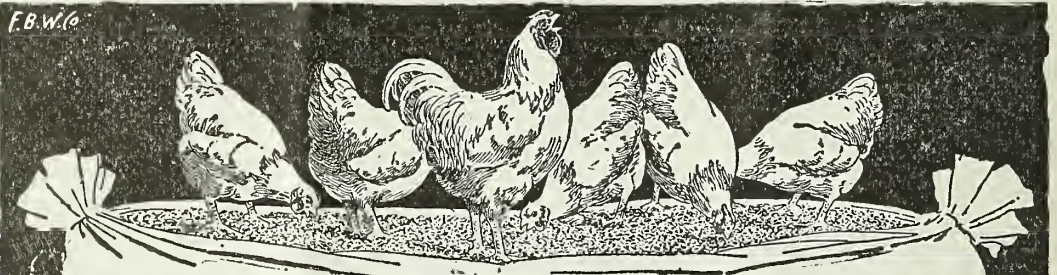
"As the disease progresses the secretion undergoes a change; it becomes more vicious, and resembles pus, also, either from coagulation or drying, it hardens into a crusty mass. This mass adheres very tightly to the surface and can be scraped away only

with difficulty. Its removal from the throats of some fowls leaves bleeding spots in its place. The adjacent membranes become greatly inflamed and swollen.

"The secretion continues and accumulates, sometimes filling the eye, and drying on the surface prevents the natural removal of the secretion. This results in the formation of a spheroidal mass of yellowish, cheesy matter which closes the eye completely.

"Where the lining or the air passages is affected in this way, the mass collects within the nasal chambers, increasing the inflammation and causing large swellings below the eyes. Bacteria collect in this mass and putrefaction takes place, resulting in the production of very foul smelling gases. After this encrustation has remained adherent to the mucous membrane some time it is sloughed, carrying with it the superficial layers of the epithelium.

F.B.W. Co



The Most Egg Money

other things being equal, comes from feeding the hens the proper food. Many substances contain the requisite food elements, but they are not combined in the correct proportion to produce the best results. If a fixed combination will increase the butter yield when fed to a cow—and it does—there is no reason why a fixed combination should not produce eggs when fed to a hen. The facts are that it does.

THE H-O CO'S Poultry Food

is a carefully combined lot of substances which contain a large amount of albumen—the leading constituent of eggs. The effect of feeding them is to induce a greatly increased egg production without the loss of any vitality to the hens. Indeed it imparts and increases constitutional vigor; makes eggs fertile, and sure to hatch; makes broilers grow and mature early; makes hens lay in the middle of the winter and makes an early and strong layer of the pullet.

The H-O Co's Scratching Food—an exerciser, is a whole grain food—is unequalled as to quality and results. Sample, prices, &c., FREE.

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THE ADAM GREEN BONE CUTTER

This is the Bone Cutter
—and indeed the only one which is equipped with ball bearings. That's why it runs so easily. It cuts on the shear plate principle. No gouging, crushing or breaking of bone into pieces or dangerous bone splinters.

Leaves a Shaving of Bone,
fine and easily consumed by fowl or chick. Easiest to clean—cleans itself. Feeds at will of operator. Strong and durable. Large capacity. Made in various sizes for hand and power. Write for our illustrated Catalogue No. 1, prices, etc.

W. J. ADAM, JOLIET, ILL.

"Where the mass has dried tightly to the lids of the eye so that it is not removed, the diseased mucous membrane is prevented from healing, and thus the eye is permanently closed. In some cases this affects both eyes. In the nasal chambers the secretion is often held in this way.

"All these lesions are accompanied by a permanent rise of temperature, varying from one to three degrees. The digestive system is very much affected, the appetite is small, and the fowl grows very light, has difficulty in finding its food, especially when both eyes are affected, and death is probably due in many cases to impaired nutrition.

"The cause of the disease is obscure. Many poultry raisers maintain that it is only the result of a cold which has developed into catarrh, and is in no way contagious. They hold that it is the result of exposure to cold draughts and damp weather. Their position is sustained by the great improvement noticed in affected fowls as soon as they are placed in warm quarters and well supplied with food. It is also noticed that fowls which are accustomed to open air and wide range are seldom affected.

"On the other hand there is abundant proof that the disease is due to bacteria. Fowls in localities never contaminated by the germ are doubtless subjected to as many draughts and other exposures as in places where the disease prevails. And instances can be cited where flocks previously entirely free from the disease have produced numerous cases after some infected fowls were put with them.

"In speaking of the cause of the disease we indicated that the disease is easily communicated from flock to flock, and from individual to individual. Numerous cases have been reported where healthy flocks have been infected by adding to their number one or more fowls affected with the disorder.

"Experiments abundantly show that the disorder is conveyed by contact from fowl to fowl. Dr. Stevenson, of London, Ontario, has given the matter considerable attention. He reports that the disease may be conveyed by confining the fowls for three or four hours together in a bag.

"With a view to definitely determining the method of the contagion, I recently performed several instructive experiments. A fowl was selected, perfectly healthy and strong, and to its eyes was applied the discharge from the eye of a fowl afflicted with the disorder. The fowl was kept and watched with care. After 10 days the disease manifested itself.

"Again, to determine the method by which the disease was conveyed ordinarily from one to another, two well fowls, a hen and a cock, were confined in a small pen with a chicken badly affected by the disease. The three fowls were obliged to eat and drink from the same dishes, and were seen to sit together upon the roost. After 21 days the disease made its appearance in the healthy hen, and several days later the cock also contracted

the disorder. These experiments, repeated in various ways among poultrymen have established the point that the disease is conveyed by contact.

"When any additions are made to the flock they should at first be quarantined for many days, until it is certain that they are free from the disorder before they are allowed to mingle with the other fowls.

"In addition to this, *fowls once affected should never be used for breeding*. It is by no means certain that the disorder is hereditary, but the appearance of the disease among very young chickens leaves ground for suspicion on this point. But more important than this is the inevitable weakening of the vitality and the consequent weakened offspring.

"The therapy of the disease consists in placing the chickens in comfortable quarters, and seeing that they secure an abundance of rich food. It is reported from Washington, D. C., and Raleigh, N. C., that many cases of the disease were cured by the use of these means alone.

"Kerosene is often of use as a local remedy. Hege (Bulletin No. 152, N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station) recommends the use of Epsom salts as a purgative dose; others recommend oil or turpentine for this purpose.

"When the exudate collects in the eye it should be carefully removed, and the eye washed with an antiseptic solution, *e. g.*, Peroxide of Hydrogen, 3 per cent. aqueous solution. Where a swelling indicate the collection of matter in the nasal chambers, they should be opened, and usually a large amount of a putrid mass may be removed. All these pieces should be burned, as they are the means of contagion.

"Mr. Wilcox, a successful poultry raiser of Kingston, R. I., reports that he has had no deaths at all from roup for many years. His method is to remove any exudate which may be found either in the eyes, throat, or nasal passages, and to keep the fowl free from exposure."

In the same report of the Rhode Island Station, Prof. A. A. Brigham says:

"One matter already mentioned needs to be strongly emphasized. This is the frequent neglect of the fundamental principles of breeding in the management of poultry. Careless-

ness in this respect has doubtless paved the way for destructive diseases, like roup, blackhead, etc., to work their disastrous results. The practical poultry breeder of today must seek to know, as thoroughly as possible, the workings of heredity, atavism, prepotency, variation, and correlation, in their relations to the development of fowls.

"Further, the requisites in successful breeding of poultry may be summarized as follows: First, Health and good constitution. Second, Good pedigree (a long line of good ancestors). Third, Good conformation and color. Fourth, Good temper and docile disposition. Fifth, Favorable environment and management.

"It is in the requisite last-named in the list, the favorable environment and management, that the breeder has the greatest opportunity for influencing the development of his fowls. Heredity is in these times coming to be considered by some biologists as a less important factor than environment in developing the characters of animals.

"When more of our poultrymen have come to be strongly grounded in the principles of breeding, probably the most helpful investigation and experimentation which can be undertaken will be in relation to some of the phases of environment. Location, food, shelter, and all the conditions that surround the life of the bird, have their influence.

"One point further needs special emphasis here. The birds have lungs for the purpose of breathing in the air to gain its oxygen. These lungs in their size, their coatings, and their rapidity of respiration, are adapted to an atmosphere of pure air, containing in its bulk about 21 parts of oxygen to 79 parts of nitrogen. This is essentially the composition of pure air. If these proportions are materially changed, or if other gases are introduced, disorder and usually disease results."

BUFF Brahma, Cochin, Wyandotte and R. I. Red cockerels for sale. We lack room, so write quick. Maplemont Stock Farm, Albany, Vt.

BARRED and **BUFF P. ROCKS, BUFF** Cochins, Wh. Wyandottes and Houdans. Large, vigorous cockerels bred from prolific layers, \$2 up. Year-old cocks, \$2, \$3. Few year-old hens. 200-egg hot water Reliable incubator, good order, low. W. H. SCOVIL, Box S, East Lebanon, Maine.

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W. V. RUSS, Proprietor.

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When writing kindly mention this paper.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

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By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

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PUBLISHERS.

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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.

Early Trade. Both poultry breeders and fanciers agree in the assertion that the Fall trade is not only larger this year than for years back, but considerably earlier. The growth of the market poultry industry has made a great demand for stock, and breeders are compelled to hustle to keep up with the orders. The prices for both poultry and eggs in market have kept up right along, and the more "trust" that is mixed with beef, the greater the call for "hen fruit."

America has set the pace for utility poultry, and foreign countries are now "catching on." Nearly every prominent poultry breeder can boast of foreign orders this year. A letter just received from I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., says: "We are very busy just now. Business opened earlier than it has for some years, and a lot of it. We received an order yesterday from Russia, and have another from Honolulu, and one from British West Indies—not to mention negotiations pending with a party in Central America and Chile."

There is a moral in all this. It is the "early bird catches the worm." We have been advising our advertisers to start in for the Fall trade early in September. Those who heeded that advice have reaped a rich harvest. But the season is not yet over. There will be buyers clean up to Summer. A six months' advertising contract will include the best months in the year.

Of course, it goes without saying that the paper that can give the best returns for the least money is A FEW HENS. You will give us that testimonial after giving our columns a trial. Examine our advertising columns and ask yourself the question, "Would these prominent poultrymen advertise in this paper if it did not pay them?" No, indeed. They are in the business for money. They cannot afford to scatter it about recklessly. When a thing don't pay them they drop it. That's business.

Have you ever stopped to figure what an advertisement costs in A FEW HENS? We give you the rate at the head of this column: 15 cents per line for each insertion for transient trade, or 10 cents per line if the order is for six months or more. About 7 ordinary words make one line, and 14 lines of solid matter go

in an inch. Sit down and write out the advertisement. Say all you want to say. Then go over it and cut out the unnecessary wording. Then count your words, divide by 7 to find the number of lines it will make; then multiply with the rate per line, and you will have the whole cost.

You no doubt have noted how A FEW HENS has grown in size. How it started July, 1897, as an 8 page sheet, and how it grew until we had to permanently double the number of pages. It went even beyond that when the rush of advertising was the greatest. Now we could not have done that if it were not for the fact that our subscription list was multiplying so rapidly. We passed the 10,000 mark a year ago, and we are fast closing on the 20,000 figures. That is for *boni fide* subscriptions—does not include the thousands of sample copies we send out each month. Those who have tried our advertising columns are surprised at the territory we cover. We have thousands of subscribers North, South, East and West, and we go to every foreign port. There is probably no paper in existence that has as large a list of beginners. Advertisers know that the beginners are the ones that give the best orders.

* * *

Explains Itself. The way to increase the influence of A FEW HENS is to show it to your friends.

Now if each one of our readers will show the paper to a visiting friend, we know they will be able to secure the subscription for us. We have received thousands of subscriptions in just that way. The more subscribers we have, the better can we afford to give an improved paper. A big circulation not only gives a more firm basis for the publishers to work on, but it encourages the editor, and he works all the harder to get out a better paper.

Here is a letter from N. D. Ford, Medway, N. Y., the Buff Plymouth Rock man, which might be used as a sample: "I noticed in an 'Editorial Hint' (October 15th): 'Introduce us to your friends.' Accordingly I introduced A FEW HENS to Mr. Elwood Griffin, Medway, N. Y., and he immediately gave me a subscription for one year, to commence with October 15th issue. A FEW HENS does its own talking."

Now there is another way in which you can introduce us to your friends. Send us the names and addresses of all in your neighborhood who keep poultry. We will send the sample copies, and that will bring them. Every time we send out a lot of sample copies, our mailing clerks begin to roll up their sleeves. They know what is coming. Will you do us that favor?

* * *

More Praise. Prof. A. A. Brigham, Kings-ton, R. I.: "I enjoy your nice little paper exceedingly, and wish you the best of success in all your efforts for the promotion of poultry culture."

Ed. C. Weeks, Eldon, Mo.: "I have been a subscriber to your paper for 6 or 7 months, and do not miss a word. You can judge by that that A FEW HENS interests me."

Rev. W. E. Dean, South Jacksonville, Fla.: "A FEW HENS is just the thing."

Mrs. L. D. Hayford, Rhineland, Wis.: "A FEW HENS is the cream of the five poultry papers I take."

Thomas T. Osgood, Randolph, N. Y.: "I cannot speak too highly of A FEW HENS. It is absolutely the best poultry paper I ever saw. May it long continue to be so."

James D. Davis, Tionesta, Pa.: "Enclosed herewith find 25 cents to pay for my third year's subscription to your dainty little journal, whose value is in inverse ratio to its size. Kind regards and best wishes for the continued success of your best of all poultry journals."

F. S. Bullington, Richmond, Va.: "Your little paper is the finest on earth. I subscribe to fourteen, but yours for practical chicken talk is far ahead."

Grant Stanley, Nisbet, Pa.: "I am a reader of your valuable paper A FEW HENS, in connection with several other poultry papers, but am compelled to say that I always break the wrapper on your paper first when receiving more than one in the same mail."

* * *

Poultry Literature. C. M. Davidson, of Chicago, Ill., read an interesting paper before the National Fanciers' Association, at the regular monthly meeting, October 4th, on the subject "Poultry Literature—Its Growth and Influence." Among the many good things he says that the general awakening to the possibilities and importance of the poultry industry was in the early '50s, when the first exclusive poultry journal made its appearance March 1, 1854, being published weekly at London, England, and termed the *Poultry Chronicle*. Previous to this numerous books on poultry were published, works principally by English authors.

Those early writers saw great possibilities ahead, though they were very skeptical in their views as to the prospect of poultry ever bringing to the investor financial success. The idea of depending on the raising of poultry for a livelihood was looted and cried down as an impossibility. Even as late as the year 1880, we find Chamber's Encyclopedia speaks of poultry culture as a very subordinate branch of rural economy, pursued chiefly where agriculture is in a somewhat primitive state; the skillful and enterprising farmer deeming it beneath his attention, looking upon the feathered inmates of his farmyard almost as a nuisance.

The Encyclopedia Britannica credits the first publication of this style to the *Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Bulletin*, issued in New York, in 1869.

Like the development of electricity, poultry culture and poultry literature have been crowding time, and as we look back over the comparatively brief period covering this remarkable growth one can but marvel what the future has in store.

In this country alone there are over 90 journals devoted to the feathered tribe, and I venture the assertion that the better score or so of these are far superior to any published in foreign

lands. In point of typography, paper, presswork and illustrations, they stand in a class by themselves.

It is an admitted fact that the technical class or trade papers in America show excellence that is nowhere equaled, and the poultry papers can clearly claim the very front ranks in this class. In no stock papers are the typical and ideal specimen so clearly, artistically or freely represented by illustrations as in poultry papers.

The art of rearing poultry by artificial means was handled by the early writers as you might be tempted to pass a strange horse. Not caring to test the beast's kicking powers and knowing he possesses that power, you get out of reach as soon as possible. Thus they passed the subject of incubators, that great wooden beast of usefulness that has done so much to make it possible to operate extensive poultry plants successfully. Having mastered the incubator, largely through instructions published in our journals, men find the subject so interesting and of such recognized value that they write whole volumes on the subject.

Considering the ridiculously low price we have to pay for our poultry literature, too much cannot be expected from the editorial room, but long theoretical articles are no longer in demand. The poultry student wants only to be told plainly in a few brief words just what to do, and as poultry literature is more eagerly sought after now than a few years back by both beginners and those established in the business, the poultry journal may be honestly called on to cover a larger field of usefulness.

Poultry journals and poultry books are tools carrying with them instructions how to cultivate your poultry plant. We are all students of poultry.

The poultry breeder for profit is no longer looked upon as a person of leisure. He must learn his trade as surely as the professional in any other line of work, for it is a profession to be learned and requires as much thought and attention as any known profession.

Poultry culture is no longer a dream, poultry literature has made of it a reality. It is no longer a hobby, a mania, for poultry literature has brought it to the view of an enlightened age and placed it among the leading industries of the world.

Market and Fancy. All the branches of poultry culture can be allied to each other.

All poultrymen cannot be fanciers, but there is no excuse for all fanciers not taking up a part of the market branch—that is, where they have sufficient time and territory.

Probably one-half of the fanciers are in the business more for pleasure than profit, and hardly one-fourth of the entire lot make the work a means of livelihood. Those who do run the business on fancy lines are compelled, to a certain extent, to take up one or more branches of the market part in order that they may find a market for surplus eggs and culls. To become a fancier means years of hard work, and the investment of considerable money. We mean to be-

come a good fancier, and have a good reputation.

Now A FEW HENS advises its readers not to become fanciers, but rather poultry breeders. Breed thoroughbreds. Let the aim be to increase the utility qualities, and then keep as close to the standard requirements as is consistent without hurting the practical work.

The fancier could make more money by carefully following out some part of the market business, than he is now doing. In New England such men as Hawkins, Duston, Nesmith, and others—men who are doing a big business annually—market all the stock they cannot dispose of as breeders. In the case of Duston and Nesmith, they do not send their eggs to market, but instead, turn all into broilers that they are unable to dispose of for hatching. As broilers are always dressed for market, there is no chance for sharpers getting hold of their stock at market rates. Of course, to accomplish this they have to use incubators and brooders. Mr. Hawkins has no use for artificial methods. He advertises in the local papers for broody hens, and has hundreds of them sitting at one time. His culls go to market as roasting fowls. We do not know what he does with his surplus eggs. In New York, Forsyth and others combine market culture with their fancy trade and find it an excellent outlet for surplus stock, and a first-class inlet for money which could be derived from no other source, and which pays the feed bills and much of the other expenses, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*.

H. S. Babcock, in the *Poultry Monthly*, makes a wise suggestion to fanciers. After showing that systematic crossing has its virtues, he advises fanciers not to be hostile against it, but rather encourage the idea, as it would give them a chance to sell their culls at a much better figure than they could get in

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

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

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

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.

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 frosted, \$2.00. Order now. Sat. guaranteed or money refunded. THOMAS T. OSGOOD, Randolph, N. Y.

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 1/2 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.

market. But there is one objection to selling culls in that way, which fanciers see, and that is the possibility of such purchasers not using them for crossing, but instead, yarding them up for breeding purposes and advertising as "Mr. So-and-so's celebrated strain." We know instances where this has been done.

So the only safeguard for the fancier is to take up broiler raising, or grow his birds for roasting purposes. This can be done without the use of artificial methods where only 200 or 300 birds are annually marketed. Where eggs are marketed it would be best to ship them to some place where they could not be recognized, and where they would be apt to go to family trade only.

About Culling. It is not too late to closely cull the fowls, even on a market poultry farm. No one can afford to winter unprofitable stock. Market all the hens that passed their term of usefulness, if you neglected doing so before molting season. Ship all the surplus cockerels to market, and get rid of all pullets that will not be needed for winter and spring laying.

Some years ago we stated in an article we wrote for the *Ohio Poultry Journal* (and we still stick to that doctrine), that we believe in having three separate lots of fowls. One lot to contain the pullets hatched in April or May, and which are not yet laying or just begun; the second lot to contain the yearling hens, to be used more especially for the next April or May stock; the third lot to contain the two-year old hens, only the cream of which are kept over until the following spring. We believe in culling from January to January, but do more heroic work in the fall.

Out of the Spring hatched pullets pick all such as are not likely specimens. The poultryman's eye becomes so trained that he readily sees defects not noticed by the amateur. Watch those pullets during the winter and spring, and again cull out those that do not prove to be good layers. What we call the yearlings are those which were hatched the year before these pullets. They are nearer two years old than one, and make excellent breeders. After breeding pick out of this flock such as are considered unprofitable. What we call the two-year olds are the ones that are going into their second molt. Very often some excellent layers are amongst these, and it pays to keep them, but in this pen we find the closer we cull the better will be our profits.

This culling, however, can only be successfully done by close watching. And there are other birds that from time to time should be gotten rid of. No matter how valuable a hen may be, if she shows herself to be a feather-puller, or an egg-eater, she goes with the lot of culls to market.

WE HAVE HAD
an amazing flood of inquiries about

The CUCKOO NEST BOX.

The mills have not been able to fill our orders, and the printers have sadly disappointed us. But we will forget all of our troubles when we get caught up with our orders. Send for circular to THE DUNLAP SUPPLY CO., Yardley, Pa.

Small Farms. "Big business on a small territory," is the motto A FEW HENS believes should be adopted by all who start in the poultry business. There is more money in a small flock well managed than a large one with only indifferent care. It is not the amount of work a man does that counts, as the way in which he does it. Here are two letters just received, which illustrates the matter:

E. R. Reid, of Nordhoff, N. J., writes: "As I consider myself a pupil of yours, per A FEW HENS—and today received my first pullet egg—I send you herewith a 10 month record of the pen you reported in July number. I secured 1516 eggs in the 10 months.

Month.	No. Eggs.	No. Hens.
January,	30	17
February,	82	17
March,	177	13
April,	255	15
May,	162	10
June,	145	9
July,	169	11
August,	193	12
September,	168	11
October,	135	11

"The difference in number of eggs is explained by some four being killed for table, died, or used for hatching and brooding. Hatched 29 chicks, raised 28.

"I hatched 9 ducklings, raised 8—dog killed one. Killed ducklings at 8 to 10 weeks, weighing 3 1-2 to 4 pounds each.

"Cost of feed, grit and lice killer for hens, 29 young chicks and 8 ducklings (to weeks), was as follows:

"January, \$2.85; February, \$2.64; March, \$3.73; April, \$1.40; May, \$1.90; June, \$2.58; July, \$2.61; August, \$2.80; September, \$3.90; October, \$1.10. Total, \$24.51.

"Sale of surplus eggs and two ducklings:

"February, 55 cents; March, 65 cents; April, \$1.20; May, 20 cents; June and July, 83 cents; August, \$4.70; August (two ducklings) \$1.10; September, \$3.53; October, \$2.60. Total, \$15.36.

"This leaves a difference between cost of food and sales, of \$8.15, for which I have had home use of about 1000 eggs and 6 ducklings, besides 17 cockerels and 11 pullets. So I am well satisfied with the year's work—thanks to your paper. I have just purchased a bone cutter, and have built a lean-to scratching shed, so hope to get some eggs this winter."

Mertie W. Poffenberger, Bakersville, M. I., writes:

"We are succeeding on our two acre farm. Have improved and increased our stock, building and fencing being paid back, all above cost of feed, and have increased from 45 hens and some young stock at time of beginning on two acres (July 1, 1897), and now will have about 300 nice hens and pullets for my next year's trial. Am very much pleased with the success and find pleasure in working for them. I have learned more in the past few years in keeping fowls in a business-like way, than 15 or more years on a farm in the good (?) old way. In A FEW HENS I like 'Food and Feeding.' I find our yards go up and down in egg yield according as feed of different kinds is given or withheld. We keep our hens on the colony plan.

"I miss the Symposium Department; it brought out so many ideas, and was like a convention."

In reply to the last paragraph, would say that we expect shortly to re-start the Symposium Department. It was only temporarily withdrawn to make room for a lot of other matter that was crowding.

Santiago Braidwood, Ills., writes: "A few days after the surrender of Santiago, a Spanish soldier passed through our lines carrying a hen, which he had bought in the city, and was taking it back to camp for some officer. We asked him how much he paid for it, and after much gestulating he managed to explain to us that it cost him one dollar and a half. It was about the size of a small Leghorn, weighing probably 3 1-2 pounds, and very thin. If I had had a few dozen of my large Brahmias there, I would have made money at that time, as they would easily have brought \$10 each. All horses, cattle, pigs and chickens, as well as the natives down there are undersized. I did not see a single specimen of these animals that could compare with the poorest in this country. All told, I saw only about two dozen fowl, and they were in the city of Santiago. I did not see a single chicken in the country surrounding the city, and I was constantly on the lookout for them too. The incident in last number of A FEW HENS (about the chicken given General Shafter) recalled these things to my mind, and I do not doubt the story in the least. Just before and after the surrender, the El Caney road from Santiago was alive with refugees of all colors and it was no uncommon sight to see poor women with half a dozen children from a few months of age to a few years,

struggling along in the sun, the husband being in the army or killed."

Trap Nests. By a misunderstanding, the printer allowed the advertisement of Mr. Geishaker to appear in the October issue, and this caused some new orders, and somewhat confused our readers, who were told in the same issue that Mr. Geishaker had disposed of the trap to the Dunlap Supply Co., of Yardley, Pa.

As we stated in the October number, Mr. Geishaker placed all the orders he received in the hands of the editor of A FEW HENS, to hold in trust until all the

20 Buff Leghorn and 6 W. Wyandotte cockerels for sale. WM. W. FORD, Fords, N. J.

WHITE P. Rock cockerels from utility stock, \$1.50 to \$3. Columbia Poultry Yards, New Haven, Conn.

FOR SALE.—Choice S. C. W. Leghorn pullets. Cheap if taken at once. Box 181, Hop Bottom, Pa.

LIGHT BRAHMA PULLETS, \$1.00 each; six for \$5. WOODWARD M. POFFENBERGER, Bakersville, Washington County, Maryland.

WANTED. From 1000 to 2000 White Wyandotte chicks, delivered at intervals of about six weeks, as ordered. Address Box 112, Waban, Mass.

MANN'S Ten dollar Bone Cutter, Five dollars; or will exchange for W. P. Rock pullets. Maplemont Stock Farm, Albany, Vt.

The Topside Galah Brooder. Heated by radiation from any incubator with its lamp and boiler at the side and not connecting outwardly with a regulator. Easily made, at trifling cost. Printed directions for One Dollar. Address, MRS. S. G. JOB, Hope Farm, South Walpole, Mass.

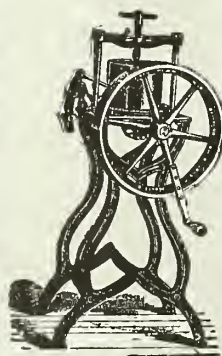
RHODE ISLAND RED (dark) and W. W. Cockerels, \$1.50 to \$3.00. Mateu Toulouse geese from prize stock, \$5.00. CLARKE & CO., Waquoit, Mass.

WHITE WYANDOTTES

I have the finest lot of cockerels I have ever raised. Hatched from brown eggs. Have grown splendidly on free farm range, and will improve most any stock in practical qualities. Mr. J. R. Smith, of Leesburg, N. J., writes: "I am more than pleased with cockerels received. They are the best stock yet seen in this locality; better than I expected, and admired by all." I will try to please you if you will give me the opportunity.

WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

A Good Bone Cutter



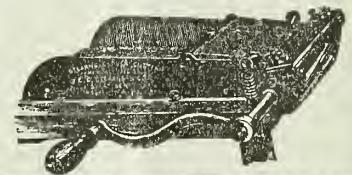
is one that cuts bone fast and fine enough for young chicks, runs easily, cuts meat and vegetables without clogging, and stands wear and tear without breaking. All of these virtues (and more, too), are contained in the WEBSTER & HANNUM GREEN BONE CUTTER.

Bone costs little, and when prepared by the W. & H. Cutter makes the cheapest food, as well as the best.

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

Send your address for treatise on poultry feeding and catalogue of bone cutters, clover cutters and grit crushers—they are free, but may save you half your feed bill.

E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6 Syracuse, N. Y.



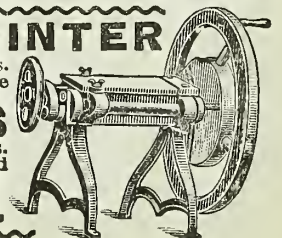
MAKE YOUR HENS PAY THIS WINTER

It's easy when you know how. Winter eggs are worth double the average prices. You will get the eggs in the winter if you feed your hens on green cut bone prepared with our famous

DANDY Green Bone Cutters

They leave nothing to be desired. Prepare the bone exactly right for chicks or fowls. No danger of choking. Makes hens lay, broilers and ducklings grow. Hand and power combined, or either singly. Send for free illustrated catalogue and prices.

Stratton & Osborne, Box 32, Erie, Penna.



necessary arrangements could be made. It took some time to make the deal, then it took more time to have mills estimate and make sample nests, besides the usual red tape to go through to obtain a patent. All this time new orders and inquiries were coming in, so the Dunlap Co. sent out the following postal to inquirers:

"Owing to the many changes we have made in the Cuckoo Nest Box, we have unavoidably delayed our printers. We have it now about as near perfection as we can get it. Just as soon as we get those circulars we shall send you one containing all the necessary information about the box. Those who have seen the new box all say that it is the finest thing of the kind that they ever saw."

The new Cuckoo has a number of improvements, and we have given a personal order for a number to fit up a new house.

But the Dunlap Co. have found it a difficult matter to fill orders at the price Mr. Geishaker charged. The mills charge that much to make them, and there would be no margin. Besides, a number want to build their own, so the Dunlap people have concluded to send a sample and full instructions and right to build for own use for \$3.00. The nest measures about 13 x 15 x 20 inches when put together, and 5 x 13 x 20 when down ready to ship. This making a small, light package, the expressage is very low, even to a distant point.

The following letter just received more fully explains:

"We ask \$3.00 for a sample box with the right to make all one wants for his own use only. The nests are really quite simple, but no plans or instructions that we can devise would enable any one but a skillful mechanic to make them without a working model. With a model almost any one could make them by following the sizes and dimensions of the sample.

"It has been utterly impossible to get them started sooner. The mill prices are high (Geishaker could not have kept out of debt by making them for a dollar each) and they are behind with their orders.

"Our scale of prices will be \$3.00 for the first, \$2.00 each for the next 5, and \$1.50 for all thereafter."

Parties building their own, can, if they wish, buy the doors of the nest from the Dunlap Co., for \$1.00 per set, and hardware used in construction, for 25 cents.

We have given considerable space to this trap nest deal in order to explain any delays in the matter. The Cuckoo having won in a fair trial, and being now improved, with a privilege to be built by purchasers for his own use, we consider \$3.00 for sample box and right, a low figure. The nest will give the best of satisfaction.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

Geese for Profit.

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

Oyster shells should always be provided. Breeding geese should not be frightened or disturbed.

Most breeds of geese lay frequently from 10 to 20 eggs when they want to sit. The more gentle and tame the geese are, the more profitable they are likely to be.

The feeder should always treat the geese kindly, and be on the best of terms with them.

A goose usually covers her eggs whenever possible, and they will be found buried in the straw in the nests.

The nests should contain a sufficient quantity of cut straw or other material for comfort and to protect the eggs.

It is better to have nests enough so that each goose can have one, as it is more convenient when they want to sit.

Toulouse geese are less likely to become broody, and sometimes they will not manifest any desire whatever to sit.

IN EVERY TEST THE

Star Incubator



hatches the largest percentage of chicks—strong chicks, too. That's why experienced poultrymen are discarding all others. Positive directions for ventilation. Requires no moisture.

Our \$10 Star Brooder is unequalled. Catalogue for the asking.

STAR INCUBATOR COMPANY,
22 Church Street, Bound Brook, N. J.

New York Office, 68 Murray St.

All from Heavy-Laying Stock.

S. C. White Leghorn cockerels, \$1.50. S. C. White Leghorn yearling hens, \$2.00. White Wyandotte cockerels, \$2.00. Light Brahma cockerels, \$2.00. MICHAEL K. BOYER, - - - Hammonton, N. J.



Empire State Brooders, complete, \$5.00; Summer Queen Brooder Stoves, .90 and \$1; Reliance Brooder Stoves, .65, 1-1-2 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 cts. Write us.

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

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.

Unless the soil of the pen where they are confined is gravelly, a heap of sand or gravel in the yard is appreciated by the geese.

Geese have been observed to be fond of the army worm, of which they devour large numbers when they have an opportunity.

The number of eggs laid in the second litter is usually smaller than at first, and less are usually laid in the third litter than in the second.

Too early laying is not desirable, as goose breeders generally do not care to have many goslings hatched before grass begins to start in spring.

Some breeders make a practice of allowing the geese to sit at the end of the second litter, while others break them up again, and usually obtain a third litter of eggs.

The flock can be placed upon the grain stubbles, or in meadows after the hay

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.

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 sitting. Incubator eggs, \$6 per 100. Send orders now for present or future delivery.

Hens that Pay are hens that Lay, Bassler's strains are built that way.

Barred Plymouth Rock, Buff and White Leghorn

Cockerels for sale. Improve the laying qualities of your fowls by the introduction of new blood from these choice strains. Price \$3.00 to \$5.00. Address, "Wayside Home" Poultry Yards, W. E. Bassler, Proprietor, Middleburg, N. Y.

Poultry and Small Fruits

make a great combination to bring in the dollars. You can learn all about the practical side of poultry keeping and fruit growing by reading

The Fanciers' Review and Fruit Grower.

A large, fine, monthly paper, at 50c. a year.

Send us a **DOLLAR** and we will send you

The Fanciers' Review & Fruit Grower, 1 yr.
A Few Hens, - - - - - 1 yr.
The Farm Journal, - - - - - 1 yr.
And any one of our 25-Cent Poultry Books.

Value **\$1.50.**

Three Sample numbers for 10 cents.

THE FANCIERS' REVIEW and FRUIT GROWER,

CHATHAM, N. Y.

has been cut, and will pick up from the field many injurious insects or scattered grain.

It is quite difficult to properly care for goslings unless they can have access to tender grass, therefore February or March is considered sufficiently early for geese to lay.

The amount of green food or roots, the variety and quantity of the grain food given, with attention to a proper supply of shells and grit, will largely influence egg production.

Boxes or large barrels make good nests, and should be supplied by February 1st, as geese are quite apt to continue laying in the place which they select for depositing the first eggs.

Where more than one colony is kept, they may be located a little distance apart, and each colony should be fed on its own grounds and taught to recognize that spot as its home.

After February 1st, some beef scraps two or three times a week may be mixed with the morning feed, and a little gluten meal or ground oats will also improve the quality of the mash.

A piece of rotten wood or an old stump gives geese a great deal of pleasure and amusement; they will bite off and eat every portion that is sufficiently decayed to be separated from the rest.

When geese are laying in cold weather, the eggs should be gathered frequently to guard against their becoming chilled; as they frequently lay during the night, it is almost impossible to prevent some from getting too cold.

Ganders occasionally meet and have a battle, but on such occasions there is usually such a commotion and confusion of voices that the owner can soon separate the combatants, and they return, each with his flock, to his own domain.

Feeding has considerable influence upon the production of eggs, and from November to February 1, geese should be fed a sufficient quantity and variety of food to keep them in good health and a thrifty condition without stimulating egg production.

When the ground is covered with snow, so that no grass can be obtained, a few cabbage leaves, apples, or a sugar beet cut in two, are relished by geese. They should always be provided with drinking water, which may be given to them in a butter tub or pail.

If heavy snows or extreme cold weather are liable to prevail, a small, partially open shed, 6 x 8 feet, or larger, is desirable for shelter. This can be provided with dry litter, which will furnish them with a comfortable place in case of severe or inclement weather.

In any ordinary weather, geese will prefer to stay out of doors, and even on a snow bank, to remaining in the building; but if accustomed to the shed, they will utilize it when the weather becomes severe, and it may save them from having their feet frost-bitten, which usually results in lameness.

If possible, geese should have opportunity to roam in the pasture or field, so as to get some exercise, and, as the season advances, pick up some grass and green food. This exercise helps

not only to stimulate the egg production, but a larger proportion of the eggs are more likely to be fertile.

Each colony, consisting of a gander and one to three geese, should be given a location. This may be a yard 60 x 100 feet square, the larger the better; and if so arranged to form part of a pasture, or large lot, where the geese can wander without damage to crops or grounds, so much the better. They should be allowed to think they are not confined, if possible.

After a goose has been a day or two on the nest, and it is desired to break her up from broodiness, she can be taken off and put in a coop, which should be large enough so that she can stand erect. If she is confined here, at a little distance from her mates, she will usually abandon the idea of sitting after 5 or 7 days, and when released will shortly begin laying again.

In handling a goose, it should always be taken by the neck, and when lifted from the ground the body should be turned with the back toward the person handling it. In that position it cannot strike, and will remain quiet and docile. The body can be partly supported by seizing the first joint of the wing with one hand. If the goose is held facing one, it will strike hard blows with its wings or scratch with its feet.

Geese will eat large quantities of wind-fall apples, and where sufficient numbers are kept in an orchard, will keep the ground as free from fallen fruit as a flock of sheep. The benefit to the orchard by the destruction of insects and larvae in this way is difficult to estimate. The late windfalls and second-class apples can be gathered and used in the season for feeding to geese with good results. They eat them raw, without cutting, unless extremely hard.

As cold weather approaches, geese for the Thanksgiving or Christmas market should be shut up and fattened. The breeding geese should receive

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

SOON
PREPARED MEAT
FOR
POULTRY
FROM
JOHNSON & STOKES,
SEEDSMEN,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

100 lbs.
Cracked Corn Meal
JOHNSON & STOKES
SEEDSMEN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

POULTRY SUPPLIES

We are wholesale jobbers for all the best STANDARD POULTRY SPECIALTIES, and want to quote you on large or small amounts.

VIGOR PREPARED MEAT
(IS UNEXCELLED)

VIGOR SCRATCH FOOD
(OUR OWN BRAND)

CYPHER'S INCUBATORS
LEE'S and LAMBERT'S
LICE KILLERS
CLOVER MEAL

and all the rest. Don't buy any of these things until you get our fine illustrated catalogue of Poultry Supplies, and if wanted in quantity, our special prices by letter.

JOHNSON & STOKES,
Seedsmen,
217-219 Market St. PHILA., Pa.

The
Sanitary
Poultry
Drinking
Fountain

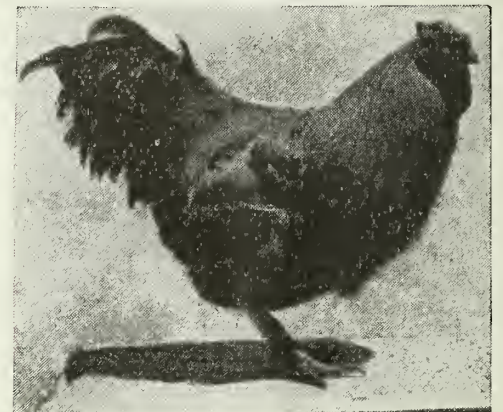


PHOTO. FROM LIFE.
Silver Wyandotte Cockerel
1st Hagerstown, 1898.
1st West Chester, 1899.
A few Cockerels, sons of above, for sale.
WM. H. CHILD, Hatboro, Pa.

HIGH- GRADE INCUBATORS.

DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO. Box 428 Des Moines, Iowa.

WE CAN SUIT YOU IN PRICE AND WE GUARANTEE TO PLEASE YOU IN QUALITY. What more could we do? Our catalogue tells all, and is devoted largely to practical matters pertaining to poultry raising. Has 148 pages; mailed to any address for 6c. No wild and woolly statements, toy outfits, nor prize package lots to offer. Fair treatment, prompt service and full value are what we try to give our customers.

No Fussing with Hens.

No dipping or dusting, no trouble, no bother and yet no lice or vermin. All you have to do is paint the roosts, etc., and the thing is done. That is if you use

LEE'S LICE KILLER

It is "great stuff." It instantly kills every louse, every mite, every bug about the place. You can't have money-making hens if they are lousy. 99 per cent of all poultry troubles come from lice. You may call it roup or cholera or what not, but the probabilities are that it's nothing but lice. Get rid of 'em. Keep them away.

USE LEE'S LICE KILLER the most convenient and the most effective. It does the work. Price, 75 cents per gallon can. Send to Omaha office for free sample, and 64-page book on vermin.

GEO. H. LEE CO., OMAHA, NEB. OR 68 MURRAY ST., NEW YORK.

some grain, but not sufficient in quantity to cause them to become too fat. Turnips, beets or potatoes may be boiled and mixed with wheat bran, and a little Indian meal for the morning feed. At night, whole grain, oats, wheat, barley or corn may be fed to them. It is better that not more than one-third of the whole grain be fed at night should be Indian corn.

It is better for the colony during breeding season, and more of the eggs are likely to prove fertile, if they can have daily access to a pond or brook of water in which they can swim, but if such a place is not available, a large half barrel, sunk in the ground so that its top is on a level with the surface, will answer the purpose. If the barrel is deep, it is well to put into it, at one side, a flat stone, reaching within 5 or 6 inches of the top, upon which the geese can step when getting out. This is particularly important if the barrel remains in the yard after goslings hatch, as they frequently drown from getting into barrels or tubs where they are not able to get out.

For the best results, especially in the breeding of thoroughbreds, each colony should be lettered or numbered, so that a record may be kept of the laying qualities and fertility of the eggs of each bird. This is not a difficult matter when nests enough are furnished so that each goose has her own, and is taught to lay in it. The eggs when gathered can be marked with the name and letter of the colony, and the number of the goose; also the date. In this way it is possible at the end of the season to tell how many eggs each goose has laid, and the date enables one to always guard against keeping the eggs too long before setting. Carefully kept records of the number of eggs produced by the various birds kept will enable one to select for future breeding stock only descendants of good layers of fertile eggs, and, where this system of selection is followed for a series of years, considerable improvement in the stock results.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

C. W.: We feed our chicks the regular oatmeal as used on the table.

G. F. H.: As a rule, hens do not care very much for either barley or oats, especially if they can get wheat or corn. We feed ground oats in the mash, and when we give whole oats, we first soak it for a few hours in hot water. It softens the hulls, and the hens prefer it that way. Barley should be a separate food or the hens will pay no attention to it.

DISEASES.

F. P. P.: Overcrowding and idleness are the prime causes for feather-pulling in both old and young stock.

R. T.: Worms in fowls are often produced by too liberal feeding of raw meat.

S. A. T.: Spongia is a homeopathic remedy for colds in fowls. It can be had at almost any pharmacy.

F. R. P.: A dozen aconite pellets in a quart of drinking water, is an excellent remedy for chicks suffering from colds.

W. F. G.: At one time we too believed in the theory that lice produced gapes in chicks, but since living in Southern Jersey, and raising chickens on sandy soil, we are now firm in the belief that the gape worm comes from an infected soil. We have yet to hear of the first case of gapes in this section.

E. W. A.: The moulting season lasts about 100 days. The process is not attended with any danger if the fowl is a strong and hardy one.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G. M.: You can no doubt secure dressed unbleached muslin waterproof from the Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City.

G. M.: The Mann Clover Cutter is a cheap and handy article.

J. W. R.: We use a Mann No. 4 B-M Bone Cutter on our experimental farm.

M. B.: The paint we use on our buildings is made by mixing up red ochre with linseed oil. It is cheap and yet excellent.

T. F. D.: When kittens are raised among chicks they are not so apt to kill them, especially if the cats are well fed. We have four cats on our farm, and to the best of our knowledge have not had a chick taken by one of them.

Miss V. N.: Having double walls and ceiling in the house will prevent moisture on the walls.

G. E. H.: We understand there is nothing in the report that Ex-President Cleveland is running a poultry plant on his Princeton farm.

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. Standard points and utility combined. Stock for sale. Eggs in season. Young Belgian Hares \$3.00 per pair. CUMMAQUID POULTRY FARM, Box 123, Cummaquid, Mass.

FARM FOR SALE.

A GREAT BARGAIN.

Two and one-half miles to town of ten thousand. School nearby. 1400 peach trees; 1200 baskets last year. Not many this year, but good crop next year. Put \$100 in your pocket and come and secure this bargain. Nice place for poultry; fine markets. Good buildings. 16 acres land; we live on same street. S. N. FOLLANSBEE, Leominster, Mass., Proprietor of Bonniebrae Poultry and Fruit Farm. All kinds of poultry for sale.

L. G. D.: Spratt's Patent address is 245 E. 56th street, New York city.

W. M. C.: Killing knives are manufactured by William H. Wigmore, 912 Cuthbert street, Philadelphia, Pa.

A. O.: Rackham's Poultry Directory, published by Robert Chamberlin, Orange, N. J., price \$1.00, is the most complete work of the kind yet published.

R. P. D.: The address of artist Frank-lane L. Sewell, is New Troy, Mich.

C. F. G.: The editor of A FEW HENS cannot promise to answer all letters by mail. There are too many of them in each day's mail. We aim to answer promptly through these columns all queries that are sent us.

S. S.: In using a trap nest, if the hen has laid, or wants to get out, she will be ready the moment you get to the nest.

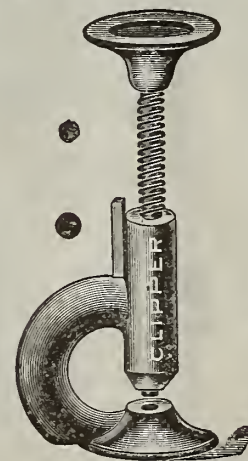
Ninety-six eggs hatched out of a possible hundred, is the unrivalled record of the Prairie State Incubator. More scientifically constructed, more nearly automatic in its operation than any other incubator. The

Prairie State INCUBATOR

practically runs itself. Full descriptions and pictures in catalog; biggest book on incubators ever given away—50 colored plates—free.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR COMPANY, Homer City, Pa.

Poultry Marker.



With the Marker here illustrated, any form of mark may be adopted by punching the web between the toes. A complete record of chicks from different parties and strains can thus be kept, as well as to know your birds wherever they may be. It may save you money and a valuable bird. It costs, postpaid,

25 cts.

Send all orders to us.

FIVE MARKERS

SENT FOR \$1.00.

I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

Hatch Chickens by Steam

with the simple, perfect, self-regulating

EXCELSIOR Incubator

Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other hatcher.

The WOODEN HEN

the most efficient incubator for raising poultry on a small scale ever invented. A perfect hatcher—automatic, self-regulating, thoroughly constructed, fully guaranteed. 50 egg capacity. Catalogs free.

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer 114-122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

S. S.: A well-made trap nest is so constructed that the hen is not likely to break the egg in her effort to get out.

B. B.: We cannot recommend the Von Culin incubator for the reason that we have never tried it. Yet we have no reason to believe that it is not a practical machine.

G. D. H.: We certainly can recommend the \$5 Champion Brooder.

F. H. S.: We have repeatedly said that oyster shell is the poorest kind of grit. It is too soft. There must be something hard and sharp.

C. M. C.: We have very little faith in home-made incubators and brooders, and therefore have no plans for sale.

A. A. A.: The subscription price of the *American Fancier* is \$1.00 a year. It is a weekly publication. Send us a dollar and we will throw a year's subscription to A FEW HENS in the bargain.

D. T. H.: For \$1.00 we will send you A FEW HENS one year, and include our four books, Broilers for Profit, Profitable Poultry Farming, A Living from Poultry and Farm-Poultry Doctor.

T. F. R.: We do not know what judges charge to pass their opinions at shows. You could get that information by writing to J. H. Drevenstedt, Johnstown, N. Y.

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



THE WINTER LAYER
will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal
It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,
Box H, Gouverneur, N. Y.

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

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.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of October—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.....	23	21	22
Philada. Roasting Chickens,	18	17	17 1-2
Broilers.....	20	18	19
Fowls.....	12 1-2	11	11 3-4
Ducks.....	16	14	15
Turkeys, spring, fancy	17	14	15 1-2

PHILADELPHIA.

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

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	21	19	20
Hens, live.....	11	9	10 1-4
Hens, dressed	11	9	10 1-4
Roasting Chickens, live....	10	9	9 1-2
Roasting Chickens, dressed	14	11	12 1-2
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 2-3
Old Roosters, dressed	8	7	7 2-3
Ducks, live.....	10	8	9
Turkeys, live.....	14	10	11 2-3

BOSTON.

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

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	30	27	28 1-3
Eggs, Eastern,	23	22	22 1-2
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	23	22	22 1-2
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	20	19	19 2-3
Eggs, refrigerator	17 1-2	17	17 1-4
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....	18	16	17
Chickens, live.....	10	8	9
Fowls, dressed	13	12	12 1-2
Fowls, live.....	10	8	9
Roosters, live.....	6	6	6
Broilers, nearby.....	14	12	13
Ducks, dressed	14	14	14
Turkeys, young.....	20	18	19
WESTERN.			
Turkeys,	15	12	13 1-2
Turkeys, old toms.....	12	12	12
Broilers.....	12	10	11 1-4
Fowls.....	12	9	10 4-7
Old cocks	8	7	7 1-2
Chickens, roasting	12	9	10 4-5

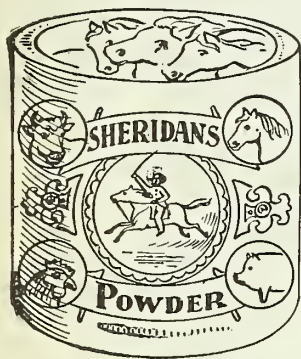
CHICAGO.

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

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	16 1-2	16	16 1-4
Chickens, hens, scalded....	9	7	8
Chickens, hens, alive.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Spring chickens, scalded..	9	8	8 3-4
Spring chickens, live.....	9	7 1-2	8 1-4
Roosters, old, live.....	5 1-2	5	5 1-4
Roosters, young, live.....	5 1-2	5	5 1-4
Roosters, dressed	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Ducks, live, old.....	8	6 1-2	7 1-4
Ducks, live, spring	8	6 1-2	7 1-4
Ducks, dressed, old.....	8	7	7 2-3
Ducks, dressed, spring....	8 1-2	7 1-2	8
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$7.00	\$5.75	\$6.30
Geese, dressed, old.....	8	7	7 1-2
Geese, dressed, spring	12	8	9 3-4
Turkey hens, dressed	10 1-2	9	9 3-4
Turkey gobblers, live.....			
Turkey hens, live.....	10	8	9
Turkey gobblers, young..			
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	9	9	9

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.



They Succeed Best

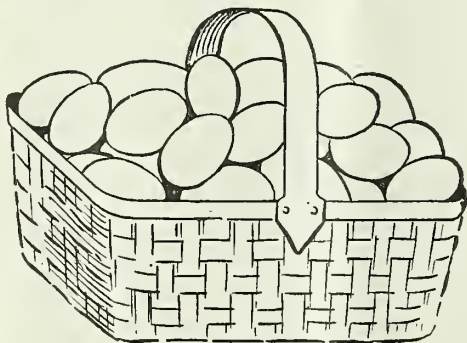
in keeping poultry for profit, who study cause and effect carefully. Many successful Poultry-raisers have learned by experience that the cause of a very bountiful supply of eggs in the fall and winter, when prices rule high is, proper care, feeding and management, which they have learned by experience includes the use in the mash food, once daily,

Sheridan's Condition Powder.

It helps to mature the young pullets early so they will lay when five or six months of age.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

No matter what kind of foods you use, Sheridan's Powder is absolutely necessary to cause the desired effect namely, a well filled basket of eggs daily. It gets old hens over molting period quickly; it develops to laying maturity the young pullets. It causes perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to effect growth, prevent disease and produce eggs.



It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind made like it. In quantity it costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen.

NOTHING ON EARTH WILL MAKE HENS LAY LIKE SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER

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.

Price

Is Right. You Will do Right

To Order at Once the Following FOUR Poultry Papers

For \$1.15. Regular price \$2.25.

FARM-POULTRY,	semi-monthly, one year, price,	\$1.00
POULTRY KEEPER,	monthly, one year, price,	.50
INTER-STATE POULTRYMAN,	monthly, one year, price,	.50
A FEW HENS,	monthly, one year, price,	.25
Total, - - - -		\$2.25

PRACTICAL PAPERS PAY POULTRYMEN.

There are None More Practical than the following:

The Poultry Keeper, Parkesburg, Pa., that leads the world, because the editor, P. H. Jacobs, is the best informed man of this age on poultry subjects. Its cover, printed in two colors, makes it an ornament to any home, and its contents are none the less attractive, as you can see by sending for a free sample copy. Published monthly, at only 50 cents per year.

The Inter-State Poultryman, of Tiffin, Ohio, fifty cents a year, needs no introduction to our readers, its editor being fully abreast of the times. Published monthly.

A Few Hens, Boston, Mass., has been increased 50 percent. in size. It is edited by the well-known M. K. Boyer. Full of good things, monthly. 25 cents a year. Devoted to every branch of market poultry culture. It is a "boiled down" journal, giving the cream of poultry matter.

Farm-Poultry. This paper is published twice a month, and ranks as one of the best of all poultry papers. It pays practical poultrymen, because it teaches facts, not theories. It is a profitable poultry raising guide for all. Each issue is better than the last. Price, semi-monthly, \$1.00 per year.

Until Jan., 1901.

If you order at once, you will get **all four** of the papers from now until January 1st, 1901, all for (one dollar and fifteen cents.) - - - - - **\$1.15**

TAKE NOTICE. If your time is not out for our paper, your subscription will be marked up one year.

The **four papers** one year, after Jan. 1, 1900, for \$1.15. Send all orders to us. The combination cannot be changed or filled as above, unless all ordered at one time. Samples free.

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

People We Know.

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

It is announced that the first issue of the *American Hen Journal*, Keokuk, Iowa, will appear next month.

Fred W. Morton, Newton Upper Falls, Mass., writes that H-O Poultry Feed makes the chicks grow and the hens lay.

Those of our readers interested in sheep, Collie dogs and ferrets, should write Chas. McClave, New London, Ohio, for circulars.

The Dewey Leg Band is a new invention, manufactured and for sale by J. O. Manwaring, Niantic, Conn. It is adjustable; 6 sizes in one.

Those interested in roofing, should write The Asbestos Paper Company, 71 Kilby street, Boston, Mass., for their book: "Roofings and Pointers to Poultrymen."

The "all wood" shipping coops, manufactured by Franklin Benner, Minneapolis, Minn., are growing in popular favor with shippers of breeding stock. Write for circular.

The Bennett-Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y., manufacturers of Pioneer Clover Meal, are early in the field with their calendars. They are sent to customers, and are both useful and ornamental.

We call attention to the advertisement of E. A. Joslyn, Hammoncton, N. J., of purely business Barred Plymouth Rocks. We know both Mr. Joslyn and his stock, and know that both will be satisfactory.

"Will You Have Them in the Half Shell or in the Whole Shell?" is the title of the new catalogue of the Woods Egg Holder Co., St. Louis, Mo. It should be in the hands of all interested in a good egg cabinet, egg boxes, basket fillers, crates, etc.

L. A. Newsom, 109 So. Main street, Washington, Pa., sends us an attractive lithographed circular of the Corliss incubator. This is the first and only incubator having the revolving wheel system and cylinder egg trays.

The Spragne Commission Co., 218 South Water street, Chicago, Ills., are sending out their 1899 report of the poultry crop, which includes turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese. It should be in the hands of all our readers. Sent for a stamp to all who mention A FEW HENS.

J. H. Woodhead, Leicester, Mass., writes: "I received a bag of H-O Poultry Feed, and gave it a month's trial. I think it is the best poultry feed that I ever used. My fowls like it, and it has increased the egg production, and wonderfully improved the plumage and general health of my fowl."

C. H. P. Bridgen, Norwich, Conn., writes that he has used the H-O Poultry Feed for about a year, and can say that he considers it a perfectly balanced food, both for growing chicks and laying fowls. Chicks fed on the food will grow rapidly both in size and weight, while fowls will not only lay better but are kept in a more healthy condition.

Special attention is called to the advertisement of White Wyandottes and Belgian Hares, as advertised in this issue by the Cunnaquid Poultry Farm, Cunnaquid, Mass. This farm believes in combining beauty and utility, and has some good bargains to offer. The proprietor of this farm bears an excellent reputation for honest dealings.

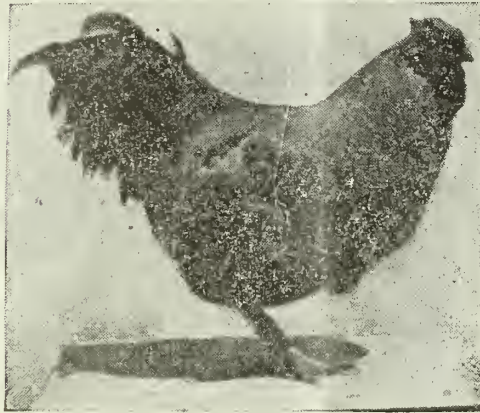
"How to Make Poultry Pay," is the title of a very neat and interesting manual gotten out by E. C. Stearns & Co., Syracuse, N. Y. It is replete with information on the value of green cut bone and clover hay for poultry food, with other valuable matter. It will be sent free to all who will send a stamp for postage, and state that A FEW HENS told them to.

The Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey St., New York city, are now manufacturing leg weakness pills from an English formula. These pills have been made and used in England for the past 25 years, and are composed of five different ingredients, each one of which is invaluable in cases of weakness of the legs of fowls. This same firm is manufacturing the Banner Egg Food and Tonic, of which they sold last year over 5000 cans. The Banner Molting Powder is also a new specialty. There is not a more reliable firm in this country than the Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., and as we have had considerable business dealings with them, all of which was very satisfactory, we can endorse them to.

The fall and winter announcement of Johnson & Stokes, the great Poultry Supply house of Philadelphia, Pa., makes its first appearance with this issue. These people are well known to our old readers, and we take pleasure in commending them to all our new subscribers. They have been engaged in this line of business for a number of years, and have the rep-

utation of supplying good goods at reasonable prices and of dealing fairly and honorably with their customers. It seems to be their aim to make a permanent customer of every poultry man or woman who entrusts an order to them, in consequence of which fact they are held in high esteem by all who have had dealings with them.

They issue an extended illustrated catalogue which embraces about everything of standard quality in the poultry supply line, in addition to special preparations of their own, some of which are mentioned in their advertisement. Write them for their new catalogue and address them at 217-219 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa.



Editor of *A Few Hens*: If you will refer to the notice of my Poultry Farm in your issue of Sept. 15, '99, page 43, you will find in it a reference to a cut of my Silver Wyandotte Cock, as appearing with my advertisement. As this did not get in, probably because the cut did not reach the office in time, it will be in order to look for it in the Nov. issue on page 76. I am glad you are going to keep a few Silver Wyandottes. They are a good utility variety. Yours, WM. H. CHILD.

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

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

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.

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 100lb. 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

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

\$2.00 for \$1.00
White Wyandottes
Barred P. Rocks.

During the next 30 days we positively will sell stock for one-half actual value. For instance: White Wyandotte cockerels, scoring 92 honest points, for \$3.50; 93 points for \$6.00. All stock proportionately low in price. Remember you can return at our expense, any stock not satisfactory. Circular.

MILES BROS., Spring Hill, Pa.

WHITE Wyandottes

GOLDEN EGG STRAIN.

HENS AND COCKS ALL SOLD.

Have sold a lot of cockerels and pullets, but a good number of fine birds left. If you want some Wyandottes that will both please the eye and be very profitable, write me. I have them.

WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

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.

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.

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.

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.

WHITE LECHORN

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

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.

"Best Liver Pill Made."
Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. **J. S. JOHNSON & CO.,** 22 Custom House St., Boston.

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.

64 PAGE BOOK, "Treatment for Diseases and Care of Sick Room," mailed free to any one. Every Mother should have it in the house for reference.