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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., AUGUST 15, 1897.

NO. 2.

A FEW HENS.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

Michael K. Boyer,
Hammonton, N. J.

To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed. SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS, and all business matters must be sent to the publication office. Address such letters A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

This paper will be published MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field will be the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and the farms of all America.

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon long "spun out" theories, but who are anxious to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be read in spare moments and put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS believes in thoroughbred stock and strictly first-class crosses. It does not favor high-class Standard-bred birds for utility. It will not devote any of its columns to the fancy, leaving that to journals better adapted for that work.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the CREAM and not the skim-milk of poultry information.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

- Keep cool.
- Provide shade.
- Set every broody hen.
- Keep on fighting lice.
- Are the fences secure?
- Kill the feather-puller.
- Don't keep the egg-eating hen.
- A few hens for profit—that's the idea.
- See that the hen house is cool at night.
- Eggs are cheap; let your table be well supplied.
- Get rid of the mongrels by grading them up.
- Date your eggs so that you may know their age.
- Market every week—that makes the regular income.
- Will the time ever come when eggs will be sold by the pound?
- Have a system about your work. It will make it much easier.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Progress Made in Solving the Question, "Can a Living be Made on Two Acres?"

Experimental Station of A FEW HENS.

At this writing (July 7th,) the stock on the farm has been increased by twenty-four common hens, bought for setting, and about two hundred thoroughbred chickens—Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes, and Single Comb White Leghorns—and Pekin Ducklings.

One of the common hens began pulling feathers. We first noticed that she pulled them out of her young chicks (then three weeks old,) so we took her away from them, and placed her with the other common hens. After a few weeks she began plucking the feathers from these hens, so we caught her, cut off her head, and had her the next day for dinner. That is about the best way to prevent further trouble in this line.

Speaking of common hens calls attention to our investment in them. Those twenty-four hens cost us twelve dollars, and a number of them have set twice for us. They are worth today, in market, what we paid for them, and they, besides, have given us from May 10th to July 1st, 320 eggs, which, at a market value of two cents each, equalled \$6.40, which we might call clear profit to date.

Our nine Light Brahma hens, besides being broody and hatching several litters to date, laid for us 515 eggs so far this year, a very good record, all things considered. We got them too fat during January and February, and consequently received very few eggs, many of them being soft-shelled. About this time the Woodhid Farm, Station V., Philadelphia, Pa., sent us a bag of cut clover hay, and we purchased a bag of the H-O Poultry Food (advertised in this issue,) and in consequence the egg record has been running up, and there are no more soft-shelled eggs.

Our four Pekin ducks laid one week after they were received. Their record is, from March 6 to end of the month, 81; April, 108; May, 108; June, 102 eggs—total, 399 eggs in 117 days, or a fraction over three and a half eggs each day from four ducks. That is a record hard to beat. But we will refer to our duck experience more fully in the September issue.

Our experience with setting hens has been rather varied. Some set too close, others not close enough. Some hens eat up their young as soon as hatched, others killed them as soon as they were out of the shell. Some hens were clumsy and careless, and trampled upon the young. As mothers, some of them were ideal, while others were careless, and with the latter we had a number of losses. Another season we shall compare this experience with what we have from incubators and brooders. We set, in all, 404 eggs (to July 1st) and hatched 208 chicks and ducklings. The results were as follows:

- LIGHT BRAHMAS—112 eggs, hatched 60 chicks.
- WHITE WYANDOTTES—107 eggs, hatched 52 chicks.
- S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS—104 eggs, hatched 65 chicks.
- PEKIN DUCKS (year old)—81 eggs, hatched 31 ducklings.

These were the actual number taken from the nest, and does not include the number hatched and killed—of which there were many—before we could remove them.

The buildings erected on the farm since last issue are as follows: Thirteen chick coops and runs, same as described in last issue; three houses 4 x 4 feet for ducklings and chicks after they are too large for the small runs. Each of these houses has a run 7 x 50 feet; and a 4 x 4 feet house divided into two pens with yards about 4 x 6 feet, for a Light Brahma breeding cockerel in each during moulting season. Also a duck house (breeding pen) 4 x 4 feet, with a fifty foot run. We are adding buildings as the stock grows and larger quarters are demanded.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Never send dirty eggs to market.

Avoid overfat if you want eggs.

Breed only from your best layers.

Cater to the whims of the market.

It costs about a cent apiece to raise eggs.

Flavor in the egg don't go by color of shell.

If hens fed on fish and onions will taint the flavor of their eggs, what can we expect from hens kept on the manure piles?

Will the brown egg of the Brahma that has been fed on onions, be as sweet as the white egg of the Leghorn fed on clover?

In reply to J. S. H., Georgia, would say that a cross of Buff Leghorns on Buff Cochins would make good winter layers.

If the common hens on hand are good layers, mate them with pure bred Leghorn males, thus grading up to a higher type.

Every element necessary to the support of man is contained within the limits of an egg shell, in the best proportions and in the most palatable form.

Tests made by the New York Experimental Station with pullets, showed that those unmated laid more eggs than those in company with cock birds.

It makes us tired to read the claim that the eggs from such and such a breed are noted for their fine flavor. It is the feed and not the breed that imparts the richness to the egg.

If Mrs. C. E. B., West Medford, Mass., will make egg farming the principle object, and when prices decline turn the eggs into broilers or roasters, she will find considerable profit therein.

Ship eggs in neat packages, assorted as to color and size, and have your advertisement on each package as a guarantee. That is the way to build up a profitable egg trade.

The United States census report shows that the American hen averages but eight dozen eggs each per annum. With a little scientific mating and feeding, that average could be brought up to twelve dozen.

Prof. Hilgard, of the United States Experimental Station, decided by chemical tests that in nutritive qualities between white and brown shelled eggs, there is but little difference—and that difference in favor of Minorca (white shelled) eggs.

The *Ohio Poultry Journal*, in referring to the inventions of man supplanting the usefulness of the horse, the cow, and the hog, says: "But they can't make an electric egg, nor a cotton seed egg—therefore the hen has a little invention of her own that can't be burst by any inventions of man."

To have strong fertile eggs, W. F. S., Merchantville, N. J., should have three cocks for two pens: Cock No. 1 in Pen No. 1; Cock No. 2 in Pen No. 2; Cock No. 3 in resting Pen, alone. Next night put Cock No. 1 in Pen No. 2; Cock No. 2 in resting Pen; Cock No. 3 in Pen No. 1, and so on, changing each night.

I. K. Felch, the poultry judge, while on his western judging tour, says he saw two car loads of eggs come into Spokane, Washington, that took thirty-two car loads of Spokane wheat to pay for them. Would any one suppose that it cost half, or quarter, as much time and money to produce two car loads of eggs as it did thirty-two car loads of wheat?

The Wisconsin *Farmer* says that last fall, in parts of the west, eggs were bringing twenty-five cents a dozen on the same farm where the corn sold at twenty cents a bushel—and the corn cost the work of two men, to say nothing about the planting, plowing, etc., while the poultry were attended to by the farmer's wife, and that, too, with the hens minus a house to go into at night. Would it not pay such farmers better to provide suitable winter quarters and get good stock, and spend less time and money on corn?

The Iowa *Homestead* says that if for every twelve common hens a thoroughbred Leghorn or Minorca is used, and the next year the pullets of this cross mated to the same males, there would be a one-half to three-quarters pure blood at once put in the stock. The third year secure another lot of males of the same breed and mate them in the same way, and gradually the common blood will leave, and good stock will be the result. Of course, it is necessary to each year breed only from the very best layers.

It is making a low estimate when we say three-fifths of the 70,000,000 people under our flag will drink to-morrow morning coffee made palatable and nourishing by the use of eggs; two-fifths at least of this great throng will eat their breakfast in part or wholly of eggs; fully half of the inhabitants will partake of a dinner, the make up of which has involved the use of eggs, and this meat supply will be poultry, and more than one-half of the inhabitants will eat for supper eggs in some form—tea cake, custard, squash or pumpkin pie. Many a suffering soul will have a leg amputated, tooth extracted, or other surgical operation performed under the influence of ether extracted from eggs. Many a fever patient, and those suffering from diphtheria, are being nursed back to life by eggs in their multitude of forms administered. The catalogue could be increased, but it is long enough to demonstrate the fact that we cannot exchange the benefits of poultry culture for the corn crop, or the benefits of the telephone, the telegraph, or gold, or all combined.—I. K. Felch.

About Broilers and Roasters.

New York is the great broiler market.

The Leghorns are useless as roasters. Write to the commission man before shipping.

Chicago is a good broiler market for the west.

Never ship hens and roasters in the same crate.

Generally Monday is a poor day to sell poultry in market.

Salem county, New Jersey, broilers lead in the Boston market.

The broilers should fast twenty-four hours before killing.

Large combs on broilers is an objection; so are feathered legs.

"Philadelphia" broilers are only so called. They come mostly from New Jersey.

A great deal of poultry is annually lost by suffocation, owing to low coops being used in shipping.

Broiler raising should not be made an exclusive affair, but a part of the regular poultry business.

The shipping coops should be strong but light. Heavy lumber can be dispensed with if long nails are used.

James Rankin says the Light Brahma will take on more flesh in a given time than any other breed, hence the best for roasters.

Don't use mongrel roosters in crossing for eggs for broilers. It was that step which killed ex-Vice President Morton's poultry enterprise.

Chicks hatched in January, and forced from the start, will make saleable roasting fowls in May and June, and weigh from five to seven pounds each.

If W. F. S., Merchantville, N. J., will charge six dollars per hundred for his White Wyandotte eggs, he will be getting a fair price, and the broiler raiser a reasonable rate.

As soon as dressed, both broilers and roasters should be placed in ice cold salted water, and allowed to remain there for several hours. Then hang up on hooks to drain well before packing.

In shipping live poultry to market see that the coops are high enough to permit the fowls to stand up easily, without bending their legs, and with space enough between the slats to pass their heads through.

James Rankin says he usually watches his opportunity and sells during a scarcity. Too much cannot be said in favor of dressing chicks neatly and putting them up in clean, tasty packages and assorting them carefully, as one or two inferior chicks in a package will oftentimes cut the price of the whole.

W. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J., says the success of A FEW HENS is assured on the lines drawn.

Buff Wyandottes. After Sept. 1st, 5 Cockerels, 1 Golden Pullet. George A. Porter, Oxford, O.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

**Buff } Plymouth Rocks,
Leghorns.**

Stock and Eggs for Sale in Season.

OUR STOCK IS GOOD.

BROOKDALE FARM,

BOUND BROOK, N. J.

(Write for prices.) **L. S. BACHE, PROP.**

Ducks and Ducklings.

Cooked apples can be fed sparingly to ducks.

The last of August generally ends the duck laying season.

An average fast picker will dress from forty to fifty ducks in a day.

During summer, mix the duck feed, for both old and young, with cold water.

Geo. H. Pollard, Pawtucket, R. I., produced 5,000 ducklings on less than two acres of land, from 185 laying ducks.

A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I., who has probably the largest duck ranch in America, markets as high as 13,000 ducklings a year.

A good mating is four ducks to one drake, and about twenty in a pen. About the last of May, one drake can be removed from each pen.

C. F. Newman says duck eggs for hatching should not be washed, or the oily, greasy covering on the outside shell will be removed, and they will not hatch so well.

Thus soliloquizes a writer in the *American Poultry Journal*: "A nice, fat young duck, just browned to a turn, properly stuffed with dressing and oysters, and sage to flavor, makes a dish that cannot be excelled by anything that wears feathers.

George Pollard, after the first four days, gives his ducklings a mixture of equal parts of cornmeal and bran, and seven or eight per cent of beef scraps. After this, the per cent of beef scraps is gradually increased. This mixture is fed up until killing time.

Prof. Samuel Cushman says in *Rural New Yorker*, that leaving the bran out of the duck feed stops their eating. It might work with green food, but does not without. Feeding green food makes the ducks yellow, and they sell for less. White-skinned ducks are demanded.

James Rankin says: "We have grown all the different breeds extensively, and find the Pekin possesses great advantages over all others. Their wonderful fecundity, often giving us 150 eggs per bird each season, also their wonderful precocity (sometimes dressing fifteen pounds per pair at ten weeks old,) make them by far the most desirable bird for market purposes.

H. D. F., Montgomery county, Pa., must exclude boiled potatoes and cracked corn from the diet if he wants to prevent his ducks from having the lameness he describes. The articles of diet being very stimulating, and he having fed them regularly, we believe the liver became enlarged.

H. S. Babcock, in *American Poultry Journal*, while admitting that "we raise in this country an astounding number of Pekin ducks for market purposes," regrets that so few are exhibited. Not necessary to make a show of them—their worth lies in the *practical* cause, and are out of their latitude when placed in the show room.

Geese for Profit.

Grass is the main diet for geese.

The geese product exceeds that of the turkey.

A goose should average twenty goslings per year.

A goose does not reach maturity until two years of age.

Cushman says that geese can be spoiled by too much grain.

For best results, geese should be secured in the fall, not later than October.

African and Brown China ganders mate more readily than any other variety.

Embsen geese are more inclined to sit than the Toulouse, and make better mothers.

For strong fertility of eggs, bathing water and green food are of the greatest importance.

Prof. Cushman says Toulouse ganders are sluggish, slow to mate, and as breeders are the least reliable.

It is estimated that every Toulouse or African gosling is worth a dollar when two days old. So says Rankin.

Never change the geese from one place to another after the first of the year, or they will not do so well that season.

The male seems to evince the same solicitude for the young as the mother, and will lead them and take equal care of them.

Wm. Rankin, who has a large dairy at Brockton, Mass., says he has found that a good goose under his management pays as well as an average cow.

Rankin says the most perfect geese are the pure bred African, as they mature earlier and will lay more eggs while young, besides they are very hardy and vigorous.

For feed at this season, writes a correspondent in *Farm and Home*, I scald meal and shorts, with a little scraps, boiled potatoes or turnips, and give them all they will eat, with a little corn once a day.

Turkey Culture.

Examine the poults' heads several times a week for lice.

In a moderate climate turkeys do best to roost out doors.

A few drops of sweet oil will kill the head lice on poults.

The greatest market for dressed turkeys is said to be Boston.

Cooked oatmeal is the best food to start the youngsters with.

Do not let the hens become too fat before breeding season.

Turkeys need crushed oyster shell as well as all other poultry.

Hard boiled eggs are not recommended by some writers for young.

Infertile eggs are the general result when the breeding tom is too fat.

The wild breeds are known as Mexican, Honduras and North American.

Women are generally more successful in growing turkeys than are men.

T. Greiner, in *Farm and Fireside*, says the turkey is a natural born tramp.

After the turkeys are a month old, they can be fed on cracked corn at night.

Turkeys are foragers, and cannot be successfully raised in limited quarters.

Onion tops and lettuce chopped fine make excellent greens for young turkeys.

Keep the young turkeys in the house in the morning until the dew is off the grass.

Each day remove the new laid eggs, but leave a nest egg to keep the hen to the nest.

From seventy-five to one hundred turkeys should be raised from a breeding flock of six.

Young turkeys being very tender, will suffer from the slightest cold, or the least dampness.

Some turkey growers claim the best results by mating two-year old toms to four-year old hens.

Success in turkey culture depends upon wholesome food, freedom from lice, and dry, healthy quarters.

The domesticated breeds are the American Mammoth Bronze, White Holland, Narragansett, Black, Buff and Slate.

Never set more than fifteen eggs under a broody turkey, or nine under a chicken hen.

The turkey has been the last of our domestic poultry that has been brought from a wild state and placed under domestication.

Facts About Guinea Fowls.

The hens are careless mothers.

It takes twenty-eight days to hatch the eggs.

There are two varieties of fowl, the White and Pearl.

The hens seldom become broody until late in the season.

The flesh comes nearer to game than any of our domestic poultry.

They usually begin laying at one year of age, starting in May, and continuing during the summer.

For the first two weeks feed the young five times a day on cornmeal, cottage cheese and wheat bran, mixed.

Until about three weeks old, the young should be kept in a pen, on account of their wild nature.

It is hard to distinguish the sex. Some claim that the male chatters in a quick manner, while the female gives off a sound like "otrack," or "Joe Pratt," or "buck-wheat." The male gives a sound similar to a screech turned into a laugh.

Lewis Wright, the English authority, says that the chicks require food almost immediately after hatching, and should be fed and cared for in the same manner as young turkeys, though they may be allowed rather more liberty. It should be observed, however, that they require more *constant* feeding than other chickens, a few hours abstinence being fatal to them; and they need also rather more animal food to rear them successfully, and keep them in good condition, especially in the winter.

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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PUBLICATION OFFICE.

ADVERTISING RATE

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About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

EDITORIAL.

For the benefit of advertisers, A FEW HENS wishes to announce that for this issue and the next, there will be 20,000 copies printed. For October, November, December, 1897, and January, February and March, 1898, the number of copies printed will not be less than 180,000 (may reach 200,000) for the six months. The advertising rate for these six months will be fifteen cents per line for each insertion. For April, May and June, the number of copies printed will be as many as for July, August and September, if not more, and the advertising rate will be ten cents per line. In all probability, this or the next number of A FEW HENS will go out with as many *bona fide* paid subscribers as have some of the older poultry publications. By taking a contract for a year, the rate will be ten cents a line each issue.

A FEW HENS reaches the *buying* poultrymen—market poulterers. They are new in the business, and want the best. Are you enterprising? Can you take a hint? Many of our subscribers have never taken a poultry paper before. Many of them are just beginning. In order that those having good goods for sale can canvass our territory without much expense, we have put the rate lower than any other poultry publication. Will you avail yourself of this golden opportunity?

The American hen is a money-maker. H. W. Collingwood, in the *New York World*, gives some very interesting figures. He says that in 1890 there were in this country 258,871,125 chickens, and 26,738,315 other fowls. In that year the American hen laid 9,836,674,992 eggs. There are now 350,000,000 chickens, which will lay this year 13,750,000,000 eggs. These eggs are worth \$165,000,000, and the poultry meat sold during the year will bring \$125,000,000, which gives \$290,000,000 as a very low estimate of Mrs. American Hen for one year of great depression.

"The 350,000,000 hens are worth \$105,000,000 of any man's money, but we will

not consider that, but take simply the earnings of the hen. The average length of an egg is two and one-half inches. The 13,750,000,000 eggs will, therefore, make a chain 542,218 miles long, while the total weight of this production of hen fruit is at least 853,125 tons.

"The value of all gold produced in American mines in 1895 was, \$46,610,000, and of all silver \$72,051,000. The value of all minerals, including iron, gold and silver, taken out of American mines in 1894 was \$208,168,768. Americans are given to bragging about our great mineral resources, and yet you will notice that the hens paid for it all in one year, and had enough left to just about pay the interest on all mortgages.

"The average cow weighs one hundred and thirty times as much as the average hen, and yet all the milch cows in the country have a total value of but \$263,955,545. Mrs. Hen in one year will earn enough to buy every cow, and put the entire tobacco crop in her pocket as well. She could pay out of her year's earnings for all the tea and coffee imported in one year, and all the petroleum products, and have enough left to buy all the tobacco grown in 1896.

"The total cost of conducting the Post Office Department last year was \$90,626,296.84. We can pick out 50,000,000 of our best hens that will cover every dollar of this outlay in one year.

"The net earnings of the railroads in 1895 were \$323,196,454. The railroad dividends paid amounted to \$81,375,774. The American hen paid nearly twice the profits earned by American railroads."

Here is a letter from Wellington E. Bassler, proprietor of the "Wayside Home" Farm, Middleburgh, N. Y., which is not only encouraging, but which also as fully explains why A FEW HENS was started as if we had written it ourselves:

"The prospectus of A FEW HENS is before me. The practical business-like thoughts and suggestions as outlined in your editorial, strike me favorably. If it is a forecast of what the new journal is to be, I predict that A FEW HENS will receive a hearty welcome among poultry raisers. There is a class of poultrymen that the present class of poultry papers do not reach. I am taking no less than seven poultry papers now, and yet for a long time have felt that there was something lacking in them all. Most of the poultry publications cater too much to the fancy and not enough to the practical. Most of the contents are beyond and above the reader. Reports of shows, discussions about standards, score cards, comparisons, etc., etc., occupy more space and attention than the every-day, practical, matter-of-fact experience that comes to every breeder of fowls. Too much is said about breeding for 'points' and too little about breeding for eggs.

"My hobby has been *more eggs*, and while I do not despise fine points, yet for the average poultryman I claim it is better to sacrifice points rather than good laying qualities. Years of practical experience with thoroughbred fowls, mated for egg laying qualities, has convinced me of this fact.

"Most farmers and poultrymen can make money by raising fowls for eggs and for the market. Only a very few can make money out of 'points.'

"I am glad you are starting out with the practical idea. I feel certain you will succeed. Please put my name on your subscription list (amount enclosed)

Mr. Michael K. Boyer, the well-known New Jersey poultryman, has severed his connection with *Farm-Poultry*, and has begun the publication of a new poultry journal for beginners, to be called A FEW HENS. The new venture will be a monthly, at 25 cents a year, and will be made up of brief hints for busy people who have not time to read around and around a subject. Mr. Boyer excels in this field, and his name as editor affords a guaranty that the work of the paper will be well done.

The office of publication will be at Boston, where business communications should be addressed.—*Iowa Homestead*.

"After considering the matter," writes E. L. Bobst, New York city, "I concluded there were great possibilities in the publication of A FEW HENS. The chicken business has thousands of followers who have but comparatively a few hens, and devote a portion of their time to the business, to hundreds who make it a specialty. To the majority of the former your publication will appeal on account of its name and cost, also its compactness. Well, all success to you, and remember I'll be rooting for you all the time."

Col. McReynolds, of the *Southern Poultry Journal*, is a genius, and we like him for his spunk. In an extended notice of A FEW HENS he graciously remarks: "We like old Uncle Mike; he is honest, acknowledges that he knows nothing about fancy poultry, and claims that 'beauty is as beauty does,' which interpreted means, he sees no beauty in poultry above the skin—it is all under the skin. We hope he will succeed in this new venture, and that his mailing list may quickly reach the 25,000 notch."

Editor Jacobs is very well pleased at the advent of A FEW HENS, and is ready to wager that we will make it a success. The editor of this paper doffs his hat at the sage's kind compliments. It is not necessary for us to tell our readers that Mr. Jacobs is editor of the *Poultry Keeper* (Parkesburg, Pa.) one of the oldest and best practical journals in the country.

This is the way Editor Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*, heralds the coming of A FEW HENS: "We predict a successful career for the paper, as Uncle Mike Boyer is well equipped for the job of piloting it over the breakers. Besides he is popular among poultry breeders, and has the knack of imparting information in a plain but very readable manner."

The H-O Company, New York city, make this prophecy: "It is our opinion that A FEW HENS is going to be one of the most popular poultry papers of the time, as it will appeal to very many thousands who raise poultry in a small way."

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Be at your post.

Chilled eggs won't hatch.

Turn the eggs twice a day.

Is your thermometer correct?

See that the regulator regulates.

Home-made incubators are not reliable.

Don't use a thermometer in the brooder.

"Eternal vigilance" should be your watchword.

Don't rely on moisture gauges or hygrometers.

Visitors must not meddle with the incubators.

Be sure that the outside brooder has a good roof.

Clean out the incubator thoroughly after each hatch.

The bulb of the thermometer must lie on a fertile egg.

Keep the incubator doors closed while cooling or turning the eggs.

The best incubator and brooder are the ones you understand the best.

The incubator must be thoroughly understood to be a successful hatcher.

Do not hatch duck and hen eggs in the same machines, at the same time.

A mixture of eggs—brown and white—make the most unsatisfactory hatches.

Examine your insurance policy before you start the incubator in the house cellar.

Keep a record from the time you start the incubator until the hatch is completed.

A room that readily changes its temperature is a poor one for incubators and brooders.

To Hammonton belongs the honor of introducing artificial incubation as a practical occupation.

Don't get smarter than the manufacturer of the machines. He knows their weak and strong points.

Fifty per cent is the average hatch; and an average of fifty per cent of chicks hatched are marketed.

There is not as much danger with the incubator lamp as the house lamp; the former always receives better attention.

In cooling eggs, place a thermometer on them after they have been turned, and when 85° are reached, return the tray to the machine.

Note the number of chicks you put in the brooder, and make a memorandum of all that die, and the cause of their death, if possible.

Don't blame the incubator if the hatch is poor, it may be the fault of the eggs; don't blame the eggs, as you may have been the cause.

If W. H. M., New Jersey, will cool the eggs after the fourth day, down to 85°, he will have stronger chicks. But do not cool after the eggs begin to pip.

George G. Harley, manager of the Long View Poultry Farm, Hyattsville, Md., the gentleman who has placed this farm on a successful basis by introducing celery-fed broilers, writes A FEW HENS as follows: "Last Sunday

night I started 8,800 eggs in the incubators. It is a pretty sight to see forty-five gas lights burning as clear as a crystal, furnishing the power to the Prairie State incubators. The cellar is 110 feet long, by eighteen feet wide, and has twelve 400-egg machines on one side, and five 400-egg and thirteen 200-egg machines on the other side. The new brooding house is complete with all the improvements that are necessary to make labor easy. The brooders are 5x6, with two inch pipes to heat them. All the cleaning can be done from the entry. The doors are hung on double acting hinges so that it is not necessary to stop to close them. The chicks are let out by a spring from the entry. I am having the old brooder house fixed the same way, with the exception that I will use one and a half inch pipes. In September we will put in two more laying houses, each measuring 14 x 150 feet."

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Grit must be sharp.

Feed before you water.

Do not feed glass for grit.

Feed a mash the year round.

Good food is positive economy.

Clean out the feed troughs daily.

Oyster shells are too soft for grit.

Never throw soft feed on the ground.

Do not feed corn during hot weather.

Round pebbles will not answer for grit.

In feeding grain in the runs, broadcast it.

Millet seed is a great egg-producing grain.

Always feed the mash crumbly, not sloppy.

The noon meal is not necessary during summer.

Do not allow the mash to sour in the troughs.

The mash in summer can be mixed with cold water.

Beans are excellent feed, being highly nitrogenous.

A quart of feed for twelve hens is a good measurement.

Milk can be fed in any form—sweet, sour or buttermilk.

Sorghum and broom corn seeds are excellent for a variety.

Barley is much used in Europe, and is valuable as a variety.

The dried blood sold for fertilizer is dangerous to use for poultry.

Split the carrots in halves, and allow the hens to peck at them at will.

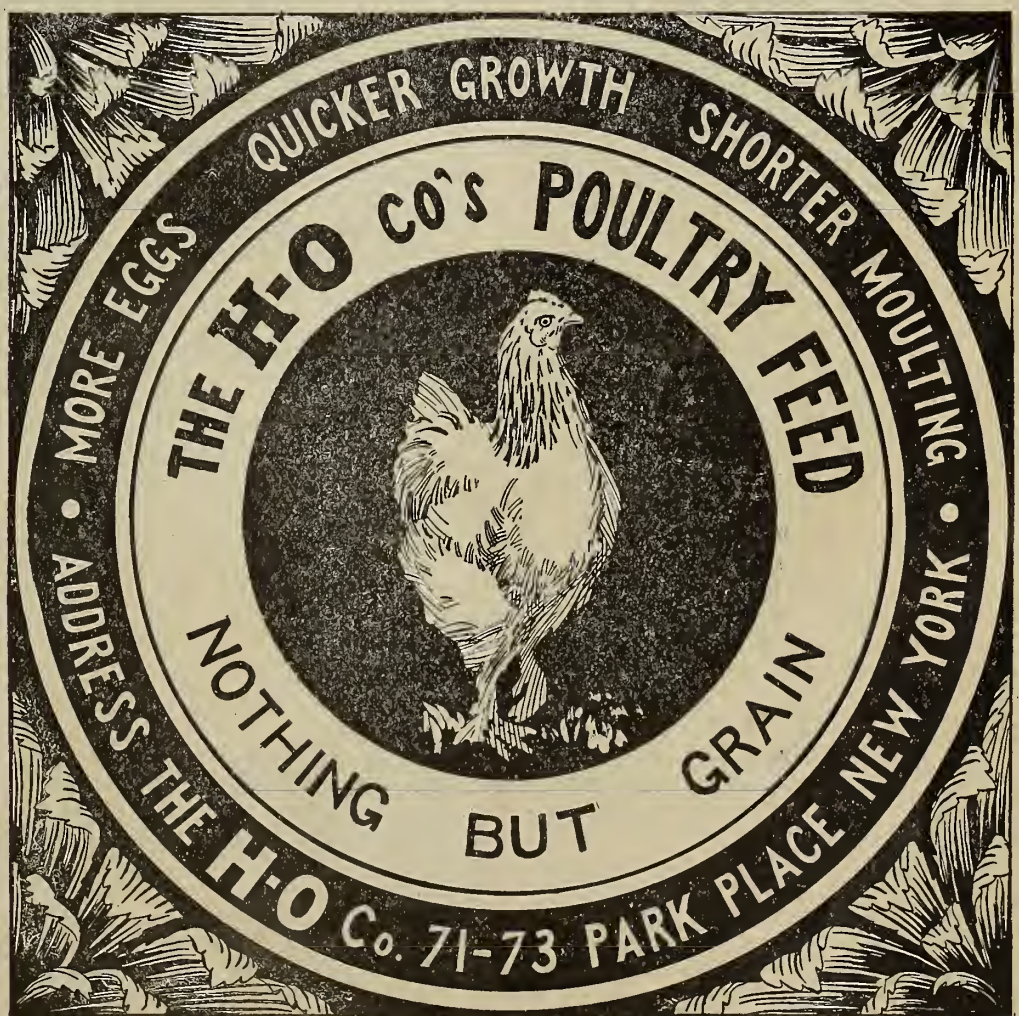
Have the feed troughs sufficiently large so that all the fowls can find room.

Beef blood mixed with ground grain is excellent for both old and young stock.

Popcorn contains more nitrogen and phosphates than the regular Indian corn.

Refuse crackers and stale bread make an excellent addition to the morning mash.

Buckwheat is an egg-producing food, but a steady diet of it is apt to be over-fattening.



Points on Food—Continued.

A fair sample of dried food, it is said, should contain at least ten per cent of nitrogen.

A good way to feed green food is to cut it up in half inch lengths, and mix with the morning mash.

J. S. H., Georgia, will find mussels good feed for his hens, if he will chop them up fine. The shells can also be fed cracked.

Chas. Nixon, Washington, N. J., writes that he uses H-O Poultry Feed, and finds that 100 pounds of it goes farther than 200 pounds of any other feed, produces better results, and has used it for the past three years, and could not do without it.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Inbreeding invites disease.

Excessive feeding of fish is apt to cause looseness of the bowels.

If the droppings are yellow and watery, we know indigestion, and perhaps liver troubles, are at work.

For the egg-eating habit soak egg shells in kerosene oil, and scatter around, says the Wisconsin *Farmer*.

Linseed meal, a gill to a dozen hens, will promote digestion, regulate the bowels, and brighten the plumage.

It is said that a strong solution of sulphate of zinc applied to the sores will heal sore head.

Judge H. B. May recommends citrine ointment for chicken pox. Apply to the warts daily for three or four days.

Not only is cleanliness necessary in the hen house, but disinfection is equally imperative. We use Whitney's carbolate of lime.

It is said that poke root pounded up and put in the drinking water is a successful remedy for cholera.

A few drops of spirits of camphor in the drinking water is an excellent remedy for slight cases of bowel troubles.

Seven drops of kerosene in a teaspoonful of molasses, every hour until improved, is said to be an excellent cure for roup.

In the early stage of bumble foot, the corn can be spread by a liberal painting of tincture of iodine daily for a week.

When the droppings are more or less hard, of a dark brown color, capped with white, we may know that the fowls are enjoying good health.

A teaspoonful of ginger to a teacupful of boiling water, is recommended for cholera. Let the mixture cool, and then give a tablespoonful to each fowl, three times a day.

For badly torn comb or wattles, wash the sores with whiskey, after which coat with vaseline. Give internally a raw egg, beaten up, to which add ten or twelve drops of whiskey.

It is said that venetian red is a good preventative of cholera and gapes. Mix quarter pound with enough cornmeal for fifty fowls. Moisten sufficiently to make a crumbly mash, and feed once a week.

For worms in fowls, *Farm Journal* recommends fifteen drops of spirits of turpentine in a pint of water, and this used to moisten bran and cornmeal, equal parts. Give one meal of this for two days in succession.

If the skin of the chick puffs out like a bladder, prick the skin with a needle to let out the wind, and mix carbonate of iron in the soft food. Let the diet be granulated charcoal mixed with oatmeal for mash, and whole wheat for the grain.

A subscriber in *Farm Journal* says that lobelia, or Indian tobacco, is a sure cure for gapes in chicks. Steep it in water till the water looks like coffee, and then moisten their food with it. If very sick give them a teaspoonful.

For bumble foot, the following treatment is recommended: Twice a day soak the foot in warm water, to which a little castile soap has been added. Then tie a bandage on the foot, soaked with a solution of one ounce of calendula, and five ounces of water. Repeat this treatment for about a week.

Harriett N. Porter, in *American Agriculturist*, advises this treatment for gapes: Feed a mixture of hard boiled eggs, boiled beef heart, the crumbs of stale bread, and salad, these ingredients chopped, pounded and thoroughly mixed so as to make a paste. To this paste is added pounded garlic, in the proportion of one bulb to ten chickens each day, the garlic being thoroughly distributed through the paste. Isolate the sick birds on the first appearance of the symptoms of the disease, and keep them closely confined until recovered. All dead birds must be buried deep, or even better burn them.

The moulting season is at hand. While in this condition it is not best to use the fowls on the table. After the third year the time of moulting becomes later. Douglas mixture; quinine and iron tonic, four grains to an adult fowl; sulphuric acid, ten drops, and sulphate of iron, a piece the size of a filbert, in a quart of drinking water; a teaspoonful of tincture of iron in the drinking water; dilute nitric acid four drops in a teaspoonful of water, three times a day, or ten drops of strong acid in a quart of drinking water; two or three grains of cayenne pepper made into a pill with bread; bread soaked in ale; tablespoonful of linseed meal per day, to each hen, mixed in soft food, are tonics offered by different writers. We mix Sheridan's Condition Powder in the mash made of H-O Poultry Feed, and at night we feed whole wheat.

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Notes in Passing.

Who ever saw a sterile hen?

Philander Williams says he does not believe that a hen that is healthy and fed properly, will ever be sterile. Neither do we.

Have you a hand plow? They are very convenient articles for turning up the earth in the hen yards. It only costs a little labor.

F. W. Proctor thinks that enough feed is consumed, and enough hens kept on this continent, to supply America with eggs, were they only the right breeds for the business.

An egg candler in New York claims he can tell whether an egg will hatch or not. His fortune is made if he will hire out to the duck men on Long Island.

According to Mr. Chapman, in *Rural New Yorker*, it will require forty average eggs to develop one laying pullet. That rather looks like extravagance. The average hatch, however, is fifty per cent of eggs put in the incubator.

Fresh eggs, choice chickens for broilers, ducks for roasters, always bring a high price, says the *National Stockman and Farmer*. The supply has never yet equalled the demand. Success is all a matter of care and attention to details.

J. H. Davis, in the *Ohio Poultry Journal*, makes this prophecy: "In the future there will be less 'fancy' and more practical breeding. In fact, the tide has already turned that way." The fanciers are but a handful compared to the market poultry breeders.

Statistics show that during the ten months ending April 1, 1897, Americans imported 544,991 dozens of eggs, and exported 812,294 dozens. That is an importation of 275,968 dozens less than the same corresponding time last year, and an increase of exports of 549,362 dozens. Certainly business is improving in Hendom.

H. S. Babcock, in the *American Poultry Journal*, says: "Economy in labor, the saving of steps, the saving of muscle, saving of time,—these are what will often turn a loss into a profit, a failure into a success." Nothing like convenience, and certainly nothing like having a system and regularity in your work.

Texas Farm and Ranch says "Standard points are what count in the show room, but if eggs are what are wanted, hatch from the best layers, and let standard points take care of themselves." That's the doctrine A FEW HENS preaches. Have thoroughbred not fancy-bred poultry. Eggs and meat, not "points and feathers," are wanted.

J. J. S., Massachusetts, can make a neat and strong poultry wire fence by buying five-foot two-inch mesh, and digging a trench along the line of the fence, burying one foot of the wire, securing it at the same time by driving several staples in the posts. Then pull upwards and drive in staples as you go. No top nor bottom rails nor boards are used.

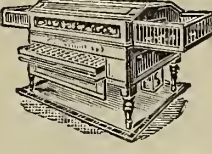
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— USE —

SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER.

The illustration below was drawn by the most noted animal artist in America. It shows first a White Wyandotte hen; a first prize-winner after she had gotten her new plumage by the aid of proper care and feeding, while shedding her feathers. At the right of this cut is a picture of the same hen while molting. Note the difference. **While Molting;** Imperfect plumage, an empty nest and drooping health. **After Molting;** Fine exhibition feathers, a full nest, erect carriage and perfect health. How you may accomplish the same result with your molting hens is told herewith.

Help the Molting Hens.

The process of molting (or shedding the old and getting the new crop of feathers) is a very exhausting one for poultry. The reason for this is that the growing of new feathers requires all the nitrogen and phosphates contained in the food, so that there is an extra demand upon the hens' strength and good health. The elements needed by a hen at molting, in addition to good food, are contained in Sheridan's Condition Pow-

der to a very high degree. Thousands of people have proven it to be worth its weight in gold when hens are molting. It keeps them in health, helps form the new plumage, and gets them in condition to lay early. A hen rarely lays while molting. But if you give them during molting season, Sheridan's Condition Powder daily, in extra doses, they will get to laying much earlier in the fall, and lay all winter, larger, better and more fertile eggs for hatching, than pullets. You should, during July,

August and September, as your old hens show signs of molting, feed them once daily, in a hot bran mash, say two heaping teaspoonfuls of Sheridan's Condition Powder for each twelve hens. Do as others do; use Sheridan's Powder freely and help your hens over their molting quickly; also bring the young pullets to early laying, and you should have as others do who have tried this plan, an abundance of eggs to sell when prices are very high.



"When a hen is in condition" says one of the highest poultry authorities, "she will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Therefore help her through the molting season quickly, by the aid of Sheridan's Powder, that she may be **in condition** for early winter laying.

Therefore no matter what kind of foods you are using, always give with it,

once daily, Sheridan's Condition Powder. It assures perfect assimilation of the food elements needed to maintain health, help over molting, and assist the pullets to early laying maturity.

Those who get best results from using Sheridan's Condition Powder, are those who commence with little chickens, giving small doses, say an even teas-

poonful to a quart of mash, twice a week; then gradually increase the dose to time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying; give a dose of one even teaspoonful to each quart of food every day.

If you would follow the above rule this season, then order at once, some Sheridan's Powder, and feed to your pullets and molting hens as we direct.

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