

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

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NO. 4.

A FEW HENS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

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 practical poultry information.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J. To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

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.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Cull;
Cull closely;
Cull closely again.
Now is the time to cull.
Don't winter stock that will be of no use.

Start small.
Business poultry.
Put in a crop of rye.
Buy your stock now.
Tell us your troubles.
Inbreeding is a crime.
Keep a diary of events.
"Keep pegging away."
Keep a good watch dog.
Prepare for winter eggs.
Filth is a stumbling block.
Profit by your own experience.
Beware of the man who knows it all.
Nothing but kind words for A FEW HENS.
Have the hawks and rats visited your farm?
Middle-toe feathering don't give any more eggs.
How improved the hens look "in their new suit of clothes."
The cat that catches birds is apt to take chicks—watch her.
With our small type we are certainly crowding much in little.
If you know anything new, let us share the secret with you.
Have a lock on the poultry house door. "A stitch in time," etc.
Start at the bottom round of the ladder, and gradually go to the top.

Experimental Farm Notes.

The Ducks Start Laying Again—Improvements Made—Experiments with H-O Poultry Feed and Clover Hay—Sand in the Food of Chicks as well as Ducks—A Randall Fence Around the Place.

As stated in last issue, the four Pekin ducks which gave us such an excellent egg record, went into moult on the last day of July. They are now looking very prim, having passed through the ordeal in good shape, and, as though proud of their past record, and determined to add to their laurels, began laying again September 12th. On that day they gave us one egg, and repeated the number the two following days. On the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th they laid two eggs each day (the latter date is the time of this writing.) How long they will keep it up, we are not prepared to say, but certainly it will be interesting to know just what those ducks really will do. We will tell more about it next month.

We are still building 4 x 4 feet houses, as described in former issues, as we need them now for growing stock, and they will be useful for breeding ducks next season.

A substantial improvement to the farm is a windmill. At this writing we are having an aermotor put up in the center of our two acres. It will stand seventy feet from the ground, and have a tank holding 700 gallons of water. As this mill will supply several hydrants placed conveniently about the farm, much time and labor will be saved in watering the stock. And while we are at it, we intend running pipes into the house, and allow the women folks to have the benefit of a spikot in the sink, and the pleasure of a bath room.

Another substantial improvement now being made to the farm is a Randall wire fence, which will enclose the two acres, thus preventing dogs and other large animals from trespassing on the premises. Although we did not lose any fowls by any of these animals so far, we still had narrow escapes, catching dogs in the act of trying to dig under the poultry wire (mesh) fence that enclosed the stock in the yards. For these latter fences we use four foot wire (two inch,) and bury one foot in the ground. The dog must dig a pretty deep tunnel before he can get through that, and besides it gives the fence a better hang, and is more firm. The Randall fence is woven wire, the lines are all vertical and horizontal, each wire connected to

another by a series of loops, forming oblong meshes which strike the eye with pleasing regularity, without tendency to enlarge one way and contract another way under strain, while the top and bottom is made of a smooth, three-ply cable, uniformly laid and exceptionally strong.

Having quite a number of inquiries concerning the value of H-O Poultry Feed, an article extensively advertised, we made a series of tests during the past spring and summer, which resulted in growing chicks and ducklings to better size and more rapidly than we were ever able to do before. At eight weeks we had good Light Brahma broilers, and our Pekin ducklings at ten weeks of age showed an excellent body and weight, such as certainly must command good results in market. With both chicks and ducklings we began feeding rolled oats, moistened with milk, alternated with stale bread crumbs moistened with milk, for the first ten days. After that we introduced the H-O Feed, adding a little sand and meat scraps.

The egg records we have published in former issues of A FEW HENS, are more or less creditable to this H-O Feed.

At this writing we have started an experiment with moulting hens, which will be reported at the end of the moulting season. During the winter H-O Feed will be fed to laying hens and winter broilers, and reports duly made. The object of the experimental farm of A FEW HENS is not only to test the possibility of a man making a living on two acres of land with poultry, but also to test feeds, preparations, and appliances, so that our readers may know the value of certain articles, and may thus be saved the experiment of testing these things themselves, often at a risk.

For the benefit of those about using H-O Feed we would say that in our trials we have found, first, that the chicks and hens will eat more of the feed if it is mixed with hot water than when cold is used.

Second, that when mixed with tea, the latter made by scalding cut clover hay for an hour or so, it becomes a better growing food for young chicks; and when the tea and scalded clover are mixed up with the feed it is better as a ration for laying hens.

Third, that to make it the most tempting, it must be mixed moist—not dry and crumbly, neither too wet nor sloppy.

Fourth, that it is such a well balanced food, that nothing but meat scraps and scalded clover should be added.

Green food is rather scarce with us, and we had to resort almost solely to scalded clover hay for both our ducks and chickens. Yet we cannot see that we have lost anything by so doing. There is so much nutriment and lime in this clover, that the egg crop and general results have been all that we could expect did we furnish green stuff. But whenever we could get hold of onion tops and lettuce, we fed them to our young chickens and ducklings, and the older ducks received radish and cabbage leaves, and corn fodder. But our supply of these greens was so limited that the stock had to rely principally upon clover hay.

We also made a trial of adding sand—about a small handful to two quarts of soft food, for our chicks and hens, and we believe it did them as much good as grit. Of course, other grit was kept within reach, but the sand being mixed with the food aided better in digesting. The ducklings, after ten days of age, have sand put in their food, which is continued right along to both old and young. The fact that we have no trouble with indigestion among our hens and chicks, is, we believe, mostly due to our using sand in their food.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

The Highest Scoring Bird is Not the Best Layer
—Good Egg Records—How Eggs are Canded.

Spare and leggy birds are generally the best layers.

W. B. I., Pennsylvania, will find the White Wyandottes excellent winter layers.

It is estimated that Boston alone consumes not less than 400,000 eggs every week.

C. Y. W., New Jersey, will find the Light Brahmas, Barred Plymouth Rocks, and Black Spanish profitable layers.

W. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., writes A FEW HENS that he has thirteen White Wyandotte Pullets that have laid 1,343 eggs in eight months, and are still at it. They have all been broody at times, some of them twice, and one or two were set.

How is this for Jersey hens? The New York World says that Richard R. Post, of Bloomfield avenue, Passaic, N. J., has sixty-four hens, and they laid 3,248 eggs from January 1 to May 1. Mr. Post is seventy-seven years old, and takes care of his poultry himself.

C. E. Pond, California, writes that last year he tried the plan of having two roosters for each yard, and alternating them every two days. The eggs were very fertile, but the chicks did not have strength to get out of the shell. He attributes this weakness mainly, however, to the fact that his pullets and roosters were all too young.

"As to picking out the highest scoring bird as the best layer," writes J. H. Drevenstedt, "I have but one answer: 'Don't do it.' Nine times out of ten she may prove a poor layer. Exhibition birds are forced for show, not for eggs; and it takes considerable time to get them back into breeding condition. Birds intended for laying eggs and breeding purposes on a large scale should never enter a show room. Another point is that the highest scoring fowl, if carefully and scientifically bred, is apt to be bred in and in for 'points' only."

F. Van Alstien, Lockport, N. Y., sends this record to A FEW HENS: "My pullets began laying September 22d. The first of November I had twenty-three females. Then I started to keep an egg record. The first six months I got 1,555 eggs; for the next four months I had only sixteen hens, from which I got 881 eggs, making in all 2,436 eggs in the ten months, during which time three of the hens hatched out a brood of chicks. The fowls were in small yards the year round, and had no access to green food, excepting what was given them. Would you call that a fair egg yield, or not?" All things considered, it is a good report.

Commission men, before they sell the eggs received, go in a dark room and "candle" them. That is, they hold the egg in the left hand and with the right hand shade the top of it. If the

egg is fresh, the air space will be small. If a month old, the albumen becomes slightly thin and watery and the air space is larger. In two months the albumen becomes still more watery and the air space greatly enlarged. From thirty to sixty days after that the air space has reached about the center of the egg and it is pronounced worthless. In testing eggs placed under incubation, the freshness of the egg is noted by the size of the air cell. If large, the operator is sure that the party from whom he purchased the eggs sold him a stale article.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Many Facts of Untold Value to Those About to Embark in the General Poultry Business.

The broiler season has arrived.

Lookout for black pin feathers.

Exclusive broiler farms are a failure.

Big combed chicks do not make attractive broilers.

Don't crowd the chicks in the brooders if you want to quickly grow plump broilers.

A good Brahma chick, when four months old, should dress from five to six pounds.

Rapidly grown stock in prime condition, will always sell at satisfactory prices to the grower.

If Light Brahmas are chosen for broilers, the feathers on the legs should be shaved off with a sharp knife.

The Light Brahmas will make the largest roasting fowls, and W. B. B., Pennsylvania, will also find them excellent for caponizing.

It takes a bushel of corn to make ten pounds of hog meat, writes Dr. C. A. Robinson, while it will make twice the amount of poultry meat.

It is well for all to understand, writes James Rankin, that chicks can be forced to a greater weight in a given time, when hatched and grown artificially, than can possibly be done under hens.

COCKERELS For Sale. Silver and White Wyandottes. Write for prices to WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

I. K. FELCH & SON,
Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,
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Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
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All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail, -	25 Cents.
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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.

TO MAKE HENS

lay, feed them properly. A hen is a machine for turning food into eggs. How to get the most out of the machine is told in the literature which we mail free to all poultry keepers. Send your name and address.

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Bay City, Mich.

WILSON'S Buff Plymouth Rocks. The leading market variety. Free from dark pin feathers. Large size, and early to mature. Are winners on both sides of the Atlantic. Write wants. J. D. WILSON, Box 127 M, Worcester, N. Y.

Madison Square Winners.

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.

The breeder who grows his chicks to four pounds in the shortest possible time, and then markets, says the *Maine Farmer*, is the one who finds the largest balance to his credit when the year's accounts are closed.

J. H. Drevenstedt says the crop of a week-old chick holds less than a teaspoonful, and if filled at sunset will be exhausted long before sunrise, and hunger for an hour means a day lost in growth.

James Rankin, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says: "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."

Dr. D. Hunter McAlpin, Jr., New York city, writes that he has read "Broilers for Profit" with great interest. "I have been through the mill which grinds out experience, regardless of cost, and your wise words contain more sound advice than I have ever found in an equally small space."

The *Feather* says: "Broilers for Profit" is the title of Michael K. Boyer's new book. Mr. Boyer has treated his subject well, and carries the reader with intense interest through all the "ups and downs" of the business. The book is a valuable one and cannot fail to be appreciated by those who read it. Broiler raising is an industry which is now interesting many thousands, and "Broilers for Profit" is just the book for those who contemplate starting in the business.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal*, after making a series of extracts from "Broilers for Profit," gives the author and book this neat sendoff: "Michael K. Boyer, of Hammonton, N. J., is no doubt one of the best, as well as one of the best known, writers on practical poultry topics that we have. His latest book 'Broilers for Profit,' published by I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass., will not detract from his reputation as a perspicuous, reliable, matter-of-fact writer of good chicken sense. This new book is meant as a 'practical guide to successful broiler-raising for market.' It is easily the best work of the kind before the public to date.

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

CHOICE early Ck't's, \$2, \$3 each. From early maturing, prolific laying Brown egg strain of Lt. Brahma, Wh. Wyan. No inbreeding. Mention A Few Hens. E. L. EATON, Millington, Mass.

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JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT
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Originated by an Old Family Physician.
THINK OF IT.

In use over 40 YEARS in one Family.

DR. I. S. JOHNSON & Co.—It is sixty years since I first learned of this now celebrated remedy for the common ills of life—Johnson's Anodyne Liniment; for more than forty years I have used it in my family. I say (unasked by you) I regard it one of the best and safest remedies that can be found, used internal or external, in all cases it is claimed to relieve or cure. O. H. INGALLS, Dea. 2d Baptist Ch., Bangor, Maine. Should have Johnson's Anodyne Liniment in the house for Croup, Colds, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis, Colic, Cuts, Bruises, Cramps and Pains. Delays may cost a life. Relieves Summer Complaints like magic. Price, 35 cts. post-paid; 6 bottles, \$2. Express paid, I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Pointers and Facts Gained While on a Recent Visit to A. J. Hallock's Famous Duck Farm, at Speonk, Long Island.

It is hard to fatten the laying duck.

All the market ducks are scalded before dressing.

Clover hay steeped is an excellent substitute for green food.

A brooder 7 x 10 feet is about right for one hundred ducklings.

Ducklings usually start their moult when about eleven weeks old.

It is estimated that 200,000 ducks are annually hatched on Long Island.

Soft-shelled eggs come occasionally, but not as frequently as from hens.

It takes a duck about six weeks to moult and get in good condition again.

It is really nothing unusual to get eggs from ducks at five months of age.

A young lady on the Wilcox duck farm, picked seventy-five ducks in one day.

On the Atlantic Farm no young ducks are allowed in the water before May.

The average amount of feed fed per day on the Atlantic duck farm is 3,000 pounds.

There is no difference in price of white or yellow-skinned ducks in the New York market.

It takes from fifty to sixty tons of ice a season to market the ducklings on the Hallock place.

E. O. Wilcox, Speonk, hatched 21,000 ducks this season, using forty-five Prairie State incubators.

Eel grass, found in the bottom of the creeks of Long Island, seems to be a natural food for ducks.

Cracked oyster shells are placed before the ducklings from the time they are put in the brooder house.

Broody ducks are almost a rarity. Out of 800 breeders on Mr. Hallock's farm, only twenty-five became broody.

Why is it not possible to breed up a strain of Pekins that will lay the year round, instead of only in a certain season?

Mr. Hallock tells of four ducks at Riverhead, L. I., that laid 612 eggs last season, from which were hatched 300 ducklings.

Twisted wings in ducks is caused by rapid growth of quills, they growing faster than the feathers holding up the flights.

Duck eggs must be set as fresh as possible to secure strong fertility and a good hatch. They lose their fertility very quickly.

Young ducks accustomed to bathing water at five or six weeks of age, will stand more of a rain storm than those kept on land.

On the duck farm of A. J. Hallock, 133,500 ducks have been marketed since 1858. The first twenty years no incubators were used at all.

Hallock's cold brooder is 175 feet long, by twelve feet wide. It is divided into pens 10 x 10 feet, with a limit of one hundred young in a flock.

W. H. Pye, who has one of the largest plants on Long Island, uses both hens and incubators in hatching. At one time he has had 300 hens setting on duck eggs.

The day of our visit, in a shipment of ducklings we noticed a barrel of thirty-four birds which weighed 202 pounds, lacking but two pounds of averaging six pounds each.

Mr. Hallock says it costs five cents per pound to feed ducks up to ten weeks of age, two cents for help, two cents to market, and three cents for eggs, insurance, etc., making a total of twelve cents a pound. All over that amount is a clear gain.

Mr. Hallock keeps his ducks in the heated brooder for from three to five weeks, according to season and demand for room. After that they are put in cold brooders for about two weeks. Very early in the season they are kept in the cold brooders until ready for market.

Mr. Hallock is trying the experiment of feeding his ducks whole grain in the morning. He feeds corn and wheat generally, but at present, owing to the cost of wheat, he gives mostly corn. He does not feed much oats, owing to the hulls. The whole grain is fed in troughs.

Fifty breeding ducks should keep three 200-egg incubators going, and turn out between two and three thousand ducks in a season, giving one man all the employment he would want. When one man would have to do all the work, fifty ducks would give better returns than one hundred would.

Mr. Hallock is now placing the feed for his young brooder ducks, on regular feed sacks, instead of troughs. After the meal is over the sacks are gathered up, and when very dirty are washed. After a year's trial of this plan he has been so well pleased with its convenience and safety that he will follow it hereafter.

Mr. Hallock says he would rather wash the eggs before putting them into the incubator, than to use very dirty ones. Yet he believes that washing does injure the eggs. He tried the experiment of putting eggs in one tray of his machine that were gathered from the bottom of the creek where the breeding ducks bathe in. He noticed that but twenty to twenty-five per cent of these eggs were fertile, owing to the length of time they were deposited in the water. At the same time eggs that were laid in the houses, or on land, gave eighty-five per cent fertility.

Mrs. S. B. Wilcox will continue the duck business of her late husband, at Centre Moriches, L. I. She will retain 1,000 breeding ducks, and will do the general managing of the farm herself. Fifty Prairie State incubators are used on this farm, and over 18,000 ducklings marketed annually. Mr. Wilcox met with a horrible death on the 19th of last April. He went down a well supposed to be safe, when, without a moment's warning it caved in, killing him instantly. On the first of April, Mr. A. J. Hallock, who was a brother-in-law of Mr. Wilcox, had a narrow escape from breaking his neck while in a runaway.

Turkey Culture.

Rhode Island Turkeys—Training the Turkey to Incubate—Marketing—Facts of Value Gleaned from an Article by Prof. Cushman, in the Western Poultry Journal.

Water the young often.

Turkeys must be dry picked.

Full feeding keeps turkeys quiet.

Wash the dishes thoroughly at each meal.

Avoid rough handling in catching turkeys.

The turkeys need not be cooped for fattening.

Don't fatten the turkeys you intend keeping over for breeding.

Tape worms cause the death of more little turks than gape worms do.

Put an equal number of hens and toms in each package you send to market.

Rhode Island turkeys bring the best price in New York and Boston markets.

Turkey broilers spoil quickly if kept on ice, and cannot be shipped from a distance.

Cushman says dry land, without shade, having short grass, makes the best turkey pasturage.

Have you marked your turkeys so you can tell them from your neighbor's this fall or next summer.

Don't let your little turks feed on ground that has been occupied by chickens infested with gape worms.

Put a stone into the water dish of little turkeys to keep them from getting into it and wetting their feathers.

Avoid overfeeding the breeding turkeys during the winter; get them moderately thin by spring. Feed less corn and more oats, wheat and clover.

If turkeys are shingled (a thin board tied to their shoulders so that they cannot fly) they can be confined to a field.

The Western Poultry Journal recommends barrels and boxes lined with hay well hidden under an armful of brush or fodder, as nests for turkeys.

Can your turkeys drink from stagnant pools in your barn yard or near the pig pen, privy vault, or sink drain? Then expect them to have sudden and fatal attacks of bowel trouble.

Having the roosts within a large shed, the front closed by wire, keeping the hens indoors during the morning until they have selected their nests, is a preventative for hidden nests in the woods.

A Rhode Island man raised from 200 to 425 turkeys from twenty-two to thirty-six hens for a number of years. One of his daughters fed the little ones all through the season.

It is said that last season a farm in Clay county, Minnesota, marketed 600 turkeys which sold for \$900, or more than was received for the grain crop of the whole farm of 700 acres.

Seven months ago, a hen, on Mrs. David Keiser's farm, Tuckerton, Pa., deserted a flock of eleven turkeys she had hatched. A game rooster took pity on the youngsters and raised them, and, notwithstanding that they now weigh from four to six pounds each, he will not desert them.

Prof. Cushman says the Rhode Island raisers feed little turkeys from start to finish on Northern white flint corn, and use nothing but good old corn, unless it is to mix a little new corn with the old when fattening them. The coarse ground meal, mixed with sour milk, is given to the little ones. Later cracked corn is substituted for the meal.

Did you ever train a turkey to sit when setting hens were scarce, or when you wanted to hatch hens' eggs early in the fall or winter? asks Prof. Cushman. It is surprising how few know that this can be done. Just shut a gentle old turkey on a nest of china eggs so she cannot stand upright and darken the nest. Put her off into a coop where there is food and water for a little while each day, and then shut her on again. In a few days you have a brooding turkey that you can trust to go off and on of her own accord and to sit closely on eggs of hens, turkeys, geese or ducks. She will do so for several months and keep in good condition.

CUT CLOVER in sacks, \$1.50 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

White Plymouth Rock Cockerels, \$1.00 and up. HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

LT. BRAHMA COCKERELS

Felch heavy laying strain. \$2.00 and \$3.00 each. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

Wh. Wyan's. A few good cockerels from fine laying stock. F. E. Bancroft, Groveland, N. Y.

BEGINNERS. I want to sell my stock of young and old thoroughbred Barred Plymouth Rocks, good ones, in trios and pens at low prices. WM. HAHMAN, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Farm raised; Some of them are non setters; Winners at New York show last season. Cocks, Hens and Chicks for sale. H. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

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WHITE WYANDOTTES. } Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

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

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EDITORIAL.

The circulation of this, the October issue of A FEW HENS, is 30,000 copies an advance of 10,000 over that of last month. It is really wonderful how the subscriptions are pouring in. The words of praise that accompany these orders are not only gratifying, but have a strong tendency for making both publishers and editor strive all the harder for improvement. We think the reader will agree with us that this month's A FEW HENS eclipses all former numbers—typographically if not editorially. Surely we are crowding "much in little."

The reader will also notice the steady growth in our advertising columns, and we intend increasing in that direction with each issue. Advertisers are bound to come, for not only are the rates in A FEW HENS more reasonable than in any other poultry paper, but the circulation is now near the top notch.

The issues for November, December, January, February and March, will, like this number, have not less than 30,000 circulation, each. The rate for advertising in any of these issues will be fifteen cents a line. Certainly, at those rates, it will not be much of an experiment to give our readers a test. We firmly believe that A FEW HENS reaches the best buying public, and that fully one-half of the readers have never before seen a poultry paper. We form the latter opinion from the fact that we have secured the names through extensive advertising in the agricultural and religious press.

We want to call attention to the fact that our forms close on the 6th of the month, but it would be better to have all advertising in by the first day of the month, so that better arrangement and display can be made.

* * *

A FEW HENS extends heartfelt sympathies to editor McReynolds, of the *Southern Poultry Journal*, in the loss of his wife. Mr. and Mrs. McReynolds enjoyed a married life of twenty-five years, and she took great interest in his work. For fully a year Mr. McReynolds scarcely left his wife's room, doing his writing and clerical work in the sick chamber. Surely such faithfulness shall never go unrewarded.

* * *

As stated in our first issue, A FEW HENS will be purely a practical poultry paper. Nothing concerning the fancy will appear in these columns, neither will the publication be repre-

sented at the poultry shows this winter. That is an entirely different field, and already occupied by more able men for the purpose than the editor of this paper.

* * *

The editor of A FEW HENS is pleased to note the live interest its readers are taking in the publication. This is more forcibly shown by the many inquiries that reach us on market poultry topics. We want again to extend the invitation to all to bother the editor just as much as they please. All letters are answered by mail—the only consideration being that you are a subscriber.

* * *

Visitors are more or less a nuisance to the average market poultry farm. They consume valuable time, and generally come when attention can least be given them. The fancier can afford to welcome callers for he has something to sell, and often in this way secures a customer which he might otherwise not get. As for the experimental farm of A FEW HENS, we can assure our readers that "the latch string is always out." We are willing to show you what we have accomplished and will enjoy an hour's chat with you on poultry topics. But don't come expecting to find the "biggest show on earth." We are just building up this plant—we are starting the farm and the paper together, and will be pleased to point out to you the progress made.

* * *

Considerable interest is being taken in A FEW HENS experiment in making a living on two acres. We might write a long account of how it can be done, and could no doubt interest you in that way. But such work might not be entirely satisfactory. So, instead, we are working the experiment practically, and in another year will, we hope, be able to tell you just how much money we have made. The first year no profit can be expected, as the stock must be grown, buildings erected, tests made, and a hundred and one other matters attended to which not only consumes considerable time, but which costs money. A poultry farm cannot be built in a day, and to take a bare two acre field and make out of it a settlement of poultry houses, means a good year's work.

* * *

Here is what the Hammonton (N. J.) *Republican* thinks of us. Evidently, Orville Hoyt, the editor, knows a good thing when he sees it: "We have a copy of A FEW HENS, Michael K. Boyer's new poultry monthly. We like it. Its contents are short, crispy, practical paragraphs, written and prepared by a veteran in the poultry business. Mr. Boyer's experimental farm, right here in town, is a model, and Uncle Mike takes pleasure in his experiments and in telling his readers how success is secured. Twenty-five cents secures the monthly for one year. Its object is to treat of practical poultry and egg raising for profit, without reference to fancy breeding, in which so few succeed."

* * *

"I at once sent in my subscription for your new paper, A FEW HENS," writes Rev. F. E. Bancroft, of New York, "and am much pleased with the two copies received. It is bound to be a success, I am sure, because it meets the need of such a large class of poultry keepers. I shall certainly recommend it whenever possible."

A. U. Moran, Illinois, writes: "I have read a great many poultry papers, and find that A FEW HENS gives as good ideas to young and old breeders alike, as any paper I ever read. You may depend upon me as a steady customer."

Our friend E. P. Cloud, in his well-edited and up-to-date *Poultry News*, has a good word for A FEW HENS, and says, "the editor is filling the

columns with first-class material, and it will be a success."

The *American Fancier* says the August number of A FEW HENS is fully up to the standard of the initial number. "We congratulate editor Uncle Mike Boyer on his earnest and successful work."

Geo. E. Wells, New York, writes: "I have sample copies of nine different poultry papers, but think A FEW HENS is of more value to a beginner than any of them."

Chas. F. Nagle, District of Columbia, writes: "Your sample copy of A FEW HENS just received. It has a good deal of practical information, and I like it well enough to subscribe."

Samuel Sayward, Jr., Massachusetts, says he finds A FEW HENS a very good paper. Most of the poultry papers, he thinks, are more for persons already in the business.

Agricultural Advertising, in announcing the advent of A FEW HENS, says: "This will afford Mr. Boyer an opportunity of diffusing his practical ideas through a new channel."

Dr. J. H. Casey, Missouri, thinks A FEW HENS an "able, bright, spicy, up-to-date journal."

The *Inter-State Poultryman* says it received the first copy of A FEW HENS, and pronounce it good.

W. S. Crouch, New York, says A FEW HENS is "a very bright, newsy, and up-to-date sheet."

E. A. Jones, New Hampshire, says "for a practical poultryman, A FEW HENS takes the lead."

* * *

Query: If Standard-bred means strict breeding to the written law as we find it in the Standard—for which we must not only inbreed, but also select females for our pens regardless of their utility qualifications, are we growing useful birds, birds to be recommended to the farmer? Will not inbreeding weaken the constitutions of the offspring? Will not each generation become weaker in egg production by this hap-hazard way of mating? *Why* Standard-bred when it means a risk to run? Why not thoroughbred, pure and simple?

* * *

As we have previously mentioned, A FEW HENS is not an advocate of common, dunghill fowl. It believes in going a step or two higher, and favor either the practical crossbred (half breed) or the thoroughbred. Yet where the farmer has a flock of young, good-laying hens of the common stripe, we see no reason why he should sacrifice them, when, by merely purchasing purebred cockerels, those common hens can be graded up so as to each year improve the offspring. The plan is a simple one, but it is certainly effective.

But when we say grade up with thoroughbred males, we do not mean to use the male of one breed this year, and of another breed next year; but always keep on the same line, changing males annually, and always of the same breed. If you are starting for instance, to grade those common hens with a White Leghorn rooster, let each generation be mated with a new White Leghorn, until you have bred out all the common blood, and make that stock pure.

There is great trouble among some editors about the *Farmers Bulletin* No. 51. We are not in the controversy, as the *Bulletin* does not directly appeal to market men.

New writers seem to harbor the idea that in order to become popular they must kick over every bit of advice the authorities give. It never hurts the authorities, however, and only makes the new writers all the more ridiculous.

The editor of A FEW HENS wishes to acknowledge the receipt of a handsome gift of a judging stick, from Wm. V. Russ, proprietor of the Excelsior Poultry Supply House, 28 Vesey St., New York city. Although a judging stick is an instrument of very little use to a market poultryman, yet we are glad to have one as a relic. The stick is made of brass, in sections, and has a beautiful ebony handle. The sections can be run together, making its size about nine inches; but when opened up it is thirty inches in length.

Mr. Russ imported a number of these sticks from Birmingham, England. They are used by the English comparison judges, who go about from coop to coop at the shows, and, by the aid of the stick make the birds stand up so they can take a good look at them. As Mr. Russ will in a like manner remember some of the comparison judges, visitors at such shows this winter may see the sticks in active use. We understand that Mr. Russ will sell a few of them at \$2.50 each.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

An Overfed Hen is Not a Well-Fed One—Some Facts that Come from a Long Experience.

Don't buy cheap grain.

Hunger will induce the hen to work.

Green bone, clover hay and wheat are egg producers.

Throwing soft feed on the ground is a costly way of feeding.

A quick growth and development, with early maturity, must come from food.

Cracked corn should be sifted; fed as it comes from the dealer there is too much waste.

Brewer's malt is too fattening for laying hens. An occasional mess of it might be valuable by way of variety.

For a good supply of eggs in winter, when prices are high, remember that cabbages and roots will be necessary.

In feeding meat alone, Mrs. B., New Jersey, should first cook it. But ground meat and bone can be fed raw.

Growth and development require quantity and quality of food to build up good, solid frames, and give strength and vitality to the growing fowl.

A well-cared-for and well-fed fowl can always be kept in such a condition that a little extra feeding for a short time will properly fit for market.

A hen that is fat will not starve until the stores of fat on her body are utilized, as this reserve of warmth is just so much carbonaceous food in the form of fat.

If P. W. L., New York, will feed two quarts of steeped clover, and a good handful of meat scraps, to three pints of the H-O Poultry Feed, he will have an excellent egg-producing ration.

It has been clearly proved by experiment that corn should not form a very large proportion of the grain ration for laying hens; it is too fattening, especially for hens kept in close confinement.—C. C. Watson, Department of Agriculture.

O. W. Mapes, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says: "I now believe that a hen never stops laying because she gets too fat. She rather gets too fat because she is forced to stop laying for want of proper food."

As the digestive organs contain the least amount of food in the morning it is desirable to feed the soft food at this time, for the reason that it will be digested and assimilated quicker than whole grain.—C. C. Watson, Department of Agriculture.

An occasional feed of raw onions, say once or twice a week, cut up about the size of whole corn, is not only a relish to the poultry, but one of the very best tonics. For warding off colds it is second to nothing else.

The Michigan *Fancier* says hens that have been highly fed are usually too fat to lay. Their combs will be bright and red and they may appear thrifty, but when they are very fat the owner will wait a while before he will get many eggs from them.

Activity with poultry means health; the overfed specimens lose ambition and soon become sick or worthless as far as egg production is concerned, says G. O. Brown. Healthy hens should always be ready for their food, and should be made to scratch or hunt around for a portion of it.

J. Frank Park, Pennsylvania, writes that he has been feeding crushed glass all spring for grit, in his brooding house, and had better results in raising the chicks—having much less trouble with bowel disorders than he ever had before. He also says the chicks seem to like it. But we have known of cases of irritated and punctured crops by feeding glass, and while there are other grits that are not dangerous, there is no need of taking risks.

Geese for Profit.

Is the Domestic Goose Purely American?—Weights of the Different Breeds of Geese—The Ideal Gander and Goose—A Few Pointers.

Breed only the best.

As a rule geese are hardy.

How many goose farms are there?

Geese do not need bathing water.

Geese cannot be successfully kept in runs.

After fully feathered, geese will only need sheds for shelter.

The commencement of laying season can be generally noted by the goose running from one place to another, carrying straws in her mouth.

When a goose is shut up, and lays her first egg in any particular nest, no further trouble need be taken with her, for she will continue to lay in that spot, and not be likely to go elsewhere.

Richardson says the ideal gander has large dimensions, active gait, lively and clear eyes, an ever-ready and hoarse voice, and a demeanor of full boldness. The goose should be chosen for her weight of body, steadiness of deportment, and breadth of foot—a quality said to indicate the presence of other excellencies.

In 1869, J. Brace said there seemed to be a great diversity of opinion among writers relative to the domestic goose of America, many contending that they derived their parentage from the Canada wild goose; on the other hand it is said by eminent ornithologists that the American wild goose is identical with the Canada, and that the latter derives its name from the former breed.

The American Standard classifies the weights as follows: Toulouse and Embden varieties, adult gander, 25 lbs.; young gander, 20 lbs.; adult goose, 23 lbs.; young goose, 18 lbs.; African, adult gander, 20 lbs.; young gander, 16 lbs.; adult goose, 18 lbs.; young goose, 14 lbs. Chinese and Canada, adult gander, 16 lbs.; young gander, 12 lbs.; adult goose, 14 lbs.; young goose, 10 lbs. Egyptian, adult gander, 15 lbs.; young gander, 12 lbs.; adult goose, 12 lbs.; young goose, 9 pounds.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Air Space, Moisture, Heat, Eggs, Hygrometers, Etc., Handled by Experts.

J. E. Stevenson says the best hygrometer for incubator use is the eggs itself.

P. H. Jacobs says hard rubber is considered the best material for thermostatic bars.

When turning the eggs by the trayful, says Prof. Wheeler, *turn slowly*, and not by a quick whirl.

"My only guide in regulating moisture is to feel the air when I open the incubator doors," says James E. Rice. "It should have a warm, humid touch and a live smell."

Any good incubator will hatch eggs if rightly attended, but raising the chicks after they are hatched is the rock that shipwrecks nine out of ten incipient poultrymen, truthfully states F. H. Richardson, in *Northwestern Horticulturist*.

W. M. K., New York, can get the desired plans for a brooding house, which include bill of lumber, instructions to carpenter, etc., from the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa. They are free to their customers.

A uniform heat, and one that will not bring out ducks or chicks ahead of time, Wm. H. Tru-low thinks the most important; 1020 on a reliable thermometer will give a good many more birds than 1030.

Worrall

WE ALL CROW FOR
MORE EGGS
QUICKER GROWTH
SHORTER MOULTING

The H-O Co's
POULTRY FEED

ADDRESS THE H-O Co. N.Y. CITY

Prof. Wm. P. Wheeler, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says that unless the eggs are graded much more evenly than seems possible in general practice, I believe a slight percentage of loss of the fertile eggs is unavoidable where a large number of eggs are hatched in one machine.

A. J. Hallock says it will not pay to overcharge the machine, as recommended by C. E. Chapman, in September 15th issue of *A FEW HENS*. He says the top eggs will be a degree or more hotter than the lower ones, which will be detrimental to the hatch.

The capacity of a brooder, says *Mirror and Farmer*, is limited, but that fact does not deter those using them from crowding. If the incubator hatched a hundred chicks they must all go under the brooder. There is where the mistake is made. Better have two flocks of fifty each.

James E. Rice says his best hatches have nearly always been in a rather damp cellar. It is his notion that the oil from the hen's body, and the exudations from the egg naturally fill the pores and check evaporation, while chemical action of the growing chick uses the water of the egg.

P. H. Jacobs, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says a hygrometer is of no value in an incubator, as it records the moisture in the incubator, but gives no assistance in determining whether the eggs require it or not. The best hatches are secured by the use of little or no moisture, nature supplying the egg with a sufficiency.

James E. Rice, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says: "Though I have had some good hatches, I doubt whether we have yet a man and an incubator that can do as perfect hatching as a good hen. Nevertheless, from the fact that we can hatch so many eggs at once with so little care, the incubator has come to stay, and is a success."

B. Holmes says weak germs in an egg from a hen out of condition, account for a part of the deaths in the shell. A hen may be out of condition one day, and better the next; what affects one or more hens in a pen, may not affect all alike; therefore, the eggs from the same pen may vary in vigor from day to day, or week to week.

Wm. H. Truslow says he fears that none of the manufacturers of incubators can, as yet, hold a candle anywhere near a good sitting hen. But there are so many poor hens that will do everything but sit properly, that 1,000 eggs set in machines, even though they do not work quite satisfactorily, will usually give as many chicks as 1,000 eggs under hens, and a machine will sit when you can find no hens.

J. E. Stevenson, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says the inexperienced can easily learn the amount of air space required by placing some eggs under hens at the same time he puts them in the incubator, examining every two or three days, and using moisture or more ventilation as the case may require to keep the air space the same in the eggs in the machine as in those under the hens. As a rule, there are few incubators that require much moisture in most localities, only those having a great amount of ventilation, which dries the eggs down unless supplied with moisture.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Simple Cures for Poultry Ailments—Words of Advice Worth their Weight in Gold.

Kill off the runts.

The busy hen is the healthiest.

Lookout for cracks in the wall.

Cure colds in the head and thus prevent roup.

Quinine is best administered in capsule form.

Drafts, dampness and laziness cause sickness.

Never throw the entrails of animals to fowls, unless well cooked.

Beware of red pepper. If fed to excess it is apt to produce liver disease.

Either burn or bury deep the bodies of birds that have died from disease.

"Rattling in the throat" is one of the surest signs of the presence of bronchitis.

Cosmoline, vaseline, petroleum, and all petroleum jellies are practically the same.

It is said that a tablespoonful of alum water in a quart of drinking water, is a cure for cholera.

A pill of asafoetida, the size of a pea, given night and morning, says the *Ohio Poultry Journal*, is a good remedy for limberneck.

The moment you see a moping fowl, with the wings dropped, remove it to separate quarters and give a physic. Generally a good liver pill is what is needed.

Nellie Hawks, in *Practical Poultryman*, recommends paregoric in sweetened water, or camphor in a diluted form, or sweet oil, for bowel troubles in fowls.

Most of the diseases that affect poultry are the effects of unsanitary surroundings, and due entirely to the carelessness or indifference of keepers, truly says a writer in an unidentified exchange.

For enlarged and sour crop, Nellie Hawks gives soda in milk or water. It acts as a corrective. The fowl is compelled to fast, but allowed to drink all the water or milk she will (with the soda in.) Then feed sparingly for a few days.

If Mrs. B., New Jersey, will wash the cankered eyes of her birds with castile soap and warm water, and after dry auoint with a weak solution of alum water, she will find relief. Also give a one grain quinine pill each night for three nights in succession.

We have seen it stated that a reliable cure for cholera, or kindred ailments, is putting a pinch or two of slaked powdered lime among the grain with which the fowls are fed, and mixing it well so that the lime adheres to the grain. Continue for a week.

In general, the treatment of the common diseases of fowls is not so satisfactory as preventive measures. Nowhere more than in the poultry business does that old adage apply. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."—Agricultural Department Bulletin.

Thos. A. Duff, in the *California Cultivator*, recommends this treatment for roup: Press the nostrils until they are free from matter. Bathe the head and throat with the solution of vinegar and water. Give a teaspoonful of castor oil and a one grain quinine pill night and morning. Birds affected should be isolated and kept warm and dry.

Notes in Passing.

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

Now is a good time to buy.

Regularity is an important item.

Economy in labor means a system in work.

Don't get jealous of your neighbor's success.

Improve the flock by introducing new blood.

A windmill on the farm is one of the conveniences

A big poultry farm does not imply many acres of land.

Never mind the new breeds. Take good care of what you have.

Fasten the door back with a hook. Don't let the wind bang it to pieces.

The poultry departments in the agricultural press all lean to the market side.

The Loughlin poultry plant at Sidney, Ohio, has a broiler capacity of 18,000 at one time.

Too much attention to fine feathers, gentlemen, and not enough to plump carcasses and egg records.

Hallock's Pekins

Are Practical and Profitable.

A little book that tells why for the asking.

Good breeders and show birds for sale at reasonable prices.

A. J. HALLOCK,
Atlantic Farm, Speenk, L. I., N.Y.



SWINGING FEED TRAY FOR POULTRY.

MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.

MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY for poultry will save its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments. **F.W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.**



THE LIGHT RUNNING PREMIER BONE CUTTER

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KNIVES ARE SUCH THAT NOT ONLY A WOMAN BUT A CHILD CAN CUT BONES WITH EASE.

SEND FOR SPECIAL CIRCULAR.

P. A. WEBSTER
CAZENOVIA, N. Y.

Sheridan's Condition Powder.

KEEPS YOUR CHICKENS.
Strong and Healthy; Prevents all Disease.

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

It is absolutely pure. Highly concentrated. In quantity costs tenth of a cent a day. No other kind is like it. If you can't get it send to us. Ask first. Sample for 25 cts. in stamps, five packs \$1. Large 21-4 lb. can, by mail, \$1.20. Six large cans, \$5, express prepaid. Farm-Poultry one year (price 50c.) and large can \$1.50. Sample Copy Best Poultry Paper sent free. **L. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.**

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GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers. **414 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.**

France believes a hen is more valuable as a meat and egg producer than a grower of fine feathers.

Drevenstedt, Babcock and Felch, are a trio of fanciers who do not ignore the practical side in their writings.

The man who thinks it child's play to worry over small matters, never becomes a successful poultry keeper.

Richard Draper, Richmond Hill, L. I., is establishing a large poultry plant to be devoted to broiler and egg farming.

A FEW HENS is interested in the new breeds when they prove to be better in practical qualities than what we have.

Capt. W. C. Casey, of Katonah, N. Y., reports that he has more special orders for broilers and capons than he can fill.

Prices in the New York market are on the advance. It is predicted that the broiler prices will be high this fall and winter.

Mrs. M. L. Bliss, publisher of the Brooklyn Blue Book, is establishing a plant at Flat Lands, L. I., to be devoted to broilers and eggs.

C. R. Campbell, Hugernot, S. I., having readjusted business matters, will continue raising Pekin ducks. Mr. Campbell has a finely arranged plant.

Mr. Rudd, in the *Poultry Monthly*, says a man should make from \$400 to \$1,000 a year from four hundred hens—according to attention, etc. given them.

Many a bird on the farm would not be worth one dollar for fancy to every five dollars she is worth commercially—and fanciers would call her a scrub.

When a hen lets you catch her on the roost in the day time, she is either sick, a setter, or sucker—too old and lazy to lay, wisely remarks *Rural New-Yorker*.

Editor Curtis, of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, is making notes on his poultry farm a feature of his paper. Mr. Curtis is one of the few poultry editors who own "chickens."

Mr. Vielle, of Jacob Rupert's plant, Rhinebeck, N. Y., is now in full management, and making large hatches. White Wyandottes are used for broilers, and White Leghorns for eggs.

A Western writer claims that in the west a hen can be kept as well at fifty cents a year, as double the amount in the east. But then in the east prices are double—thus equalizing the profits.

Let us encourage poultry culture by producing strong, healthy specimens that combine utility with beauty. Let us discard the common mongrel fowl and replace it with the thoroughbred, writes E. O. Roeselle, in *Country Gentleman*.

We have too many breeds for the good of the better ones. We have too strict a standard for the benefit of good breeds. What we want is a written law that will give more generously to utility points.

M. E. P., Muscatin, Iowa, writes: "I am milking a good many cows, and think dairying and poultry raising could be nicely combined. I think eggs would be my object rather than the broilers." The combination of milk and eggs we know to be profitable.

B. F. K., Saticoy, California, writes: "There is a good market in this state for all the young stock that can be raised from say the middle of February to middle of May, so that a man can run his incubators profitably, if he knows how, from about October 1 to March 1."

If the market men would have a standard as the fancier has, we believe that fully half of the prize winners at the shows would be disqualified. If the ultimate fate of poultry is the pot, why shall we, as a race, prefer a poor bodied bird in preference to one that is plump?

Theo. Sternberg, in the *California Poultry Tribune*, says: "In the fancy, beauty takes the precedence; utility is incidental." And yet, editor Curtis wants us to believe that *Standard-bred* fowls are the most practical. No, the farmer wants *thoroughbred*, and not *Standard-bred* poultry.

The *Southern Poultry Advocate* says it is unnecessary and useless work to erect a platform under the roost to catch the droppings, as it harbors vermin, and is difficult to clean. The editor of A FEW HENS begs to differ—but then probably the writer in the *Advocate* does not

believe in cleaning up the droppings every morning.

An unfortunate fellow, sentenced for life in the Michigan State Prison, at Jackson, ordered a full set of the Poultryman's Library from us, and wrote: "I am quite a crank on poultry and wish to get all the information I can, so that when I get my liberty I may put my knowledge into practice, gain wisdom, and lead an honorable life." That certainly is faith under trying circumstances.

J. H. Davis, in *Practical Poultryman*, says it is a lie that fowls ever die from want of grit; that corn is injurious as a feed for laying hens; that fat hens are not good layers; that soft-shelled eggs are caused by overfat in hens; that too much corn is the cause of fat hens; that corn is more fattening than wheat. Verily, Mr. Davis does not "know it all." We are surprised that a man of his ability should make such a break.

S. S. Peck stated recently at the University Farmer's Institute, at Petaluma, California, in regard to the egg product of that state, that about one-eighth of the population make their living in whole or in part from the poultry industry, and that they keep about 2,500,000 hens and produce about 13,000,000 dozen eggs, value about \$3,450,000, and also produce about \$900,000 worth of poultry, making the production of poultry and eggs in that state, about \$4,500,000.

In the August number of A FEW HENS you ask: "Who ever saw a sterile hen?" I do not know that I ever did, but last year I bought three White Wyandotte pullets. One was a very blocky bird, but a fine looking one for that type. Well, to make a long story short, I never got an egg from her. She was one of a pen of four, part of the time two, and part of the time alone. When the others in that pen were laying, she was not. I became interested, and kept close watch of her. She would go on the nest and come off, but no egg. Finally she became broody. I thought she must be egg-bound or overfat, but on killing her when she was over a year old, I found that she was not very fat and not egg-bound. There were no eggs, except possibly two about like peas. Now if that is not a case of actual sterility it, for all practical purposes, was one. The hen always seemed well, except a little inclined to looseness of bowels.—Rev. F. E. Bancroft, New York.

The Oldest Poultry Paper

In America is, without doubt, the **American Poultry Journal**;

And it has got to be a mighty good one to call itself better than this ably conducted paper.

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AM. POULTRY JOURNAL, one year, price, 50c.

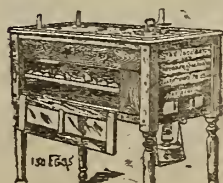
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Only FIFTY Cents

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NEW ENGLAND FANCIER, one year, price, 50c.

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A Few Hens, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.



A Good Incubator is a Blessing.

That is the truth; and if you want a **GOOD INCUBATOR**, WRITE TO US. (Invention of G. A. McFETRIDGE.) Circular free.

The STAR Incubator and Brooder Co.,

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Hatched in Prairie State.
The Record:
Used exclusively by the U. S. Government.
Used exclusively by the largest poultry-raisers in the world.
Used exclusively by the largest duck-raisers in the world.
200 First Premiums.
Send for 1898 catalogue giving full particulars.
PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.,
HOMER CITY, PA.
All machines warranted.

DO YOU USE Envelopes and Letterheads.
Let us print some for you. Enclose 15 two-cent stamps and get **100 Best White Envelopes**, with name and address neatly printed in corner. Or send 30 two-cent stamps and get **100 Envelopes and 100 Letter Heads**. Postage paid.
SIMMONS BROS., Wheeling, W. Va.

Bone and Grit.

Granulated Bone, 100 pounds, \$1.75. Best Grit cheap. Write for samples and prices in quantities.
JONAS CULLAR, East Leviston, Ohio.

IF YOU WANT Good Buffs

in Leghorns and Ply. Rocks,

Write to **BROOKDALE FARM,** Lock Box D,
L. S. BACHE, Prop. BOUND BROOK, N. J.
Winners at New York, Reading, Pa., Plainfield, N. J.

Duck Ranch for Rent.

One of the most complete duck ranches, located in Hammonton, N. J., can be rented at a reasonable figure. Nine 300-egg Prairie State incubators, and one 100-egg machine; one of the finest incubator cellars in the country; Prairie State brooding system. 1100 duck capacity; sheds for growing ducks, 1200 capacity; pens on water, 1200 capacity; four large pens on water for stock ducks, capacity 160 fowls, and four houses. Will sell the breeding stock outright to party renting the place. Address, G., care of A FEW HENS, Hammonton, N. J.

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The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.

This paper is edited with great care. The publishers spare no expense to make it the leader among advanced poultry papers. It contains the experiences and observations of the life work of many breeders. There is no investment a poultry breeder can make, which will afford as much value for the money as a yearly subscription to *Farm-Poultry*.

Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10. Send orders either to **MICHAEL K. BOYER,** Hammonton, N. J., or the publishers below.
U. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY, Boston, Mass.

Pullets for Profit.

THE PULLETS SHOULD BE LAYING NOW.

Crowding means loss.

Keep the pullets tame.

Keep the pullets active.

Depend on the pullets this winter.

Under-fed pullets are not profitable.

Pullets from inbred stock are unreliable.

The runt pullets had better be butchered.

Don't yard pullets and hens in one flock.

Pullets need not be mated for egg production.

There is more money in good pullets than hens.

Crossbred pullets are generally the best winter layers.

The fancier don't want his pullets to lay until spring.

The first year of laying, the pullet has her highest average.

If you kept the pullets growing, you now have your reward.

The early laying pullet takes the place of the moulting hen.

Don't breed a bird under nine months of age—a year old is better.

When nearing the laying stage, pullets are readily overfattened.

Separate cockerels from pullets as soon as the former begin to crow.

Free range is one of the best methods for developing growing stock.

Corn-fed pullets are poor layers, unless they are given unlimited range.

A pullet is a female under one year of age; after that she becomes a hen.

March-hatched pullets of the Mediterranean class are apt to moult in fall.

The Brahma or Cochín pullet hatched in March, should be laying next month.

The pullet that don't lay before Christmas, is apt to hold back until spring.

The pullets cannot thrive so long as the cockerels are allowed to annoy them.

Moving pullets about to various runs while they are maturing, checks egg production.

The cockerels in a flock, if fattened and marketed, generally pay for the growth of the pullets.

So long as eggs are not sold by weight, the pullet egg is worth just as much in market as that of the hen.

The growing pullet should be fed solely with the view to development of her frame and egg-producing organs.

Wyckoff says there is no economy in keeping a pullet in such poor condition that it will be a year before she begins to lay.

Our American breeds should not be hatched before April, as the March pullet is apt to moult with the hen in the fall.

Pullets hatched and raised artificially, often lay before those reared in the natural way, but they become more or less stunted.

Scratching sheds added to the hennery will keep the pullets busy during the winter, and encourage them to keep up egg production.

Meat scraps, or green cut bone, clover hay, cabbages, and good grain, both ground and whole, makes an ideal winter fare for winter eggs.

When an almost exclusive diet is fed, the growing chick is compelled to eat a large amount of it to obtain the small percentage of muscle-forming material which it contains.

The pullet must not be forced—it must be encouraged. Good feed, good care, good housing, and a good tonic like Sheridan's Condition Powder, will give eggs in winter when the prices are the highest.

Those who are raising pullets for layers, should carefully distinguish between the food that is necessary for making cockerels fit for market, and that which will develop the laying pullets, says the *American Agriculturist*.

"We rarely see large quantities of corn or cornmeal given to colts or calves to assist in bringing them to maturity. Oats, bran and clover, are considered, and wisely so, as best for this purpose," says an unknown writer. Why not so with pullets?

When the head of the pullet is blood red, and she acts as though she wished to lay but cannot, the chances are that her egg organs are weak. For this nothing is so valuable as Sheridan's Condition Powder. It gently stimulates the egg organs so that the delivery of the egg is safer and more easy.

Some years before the writer (editor of A FEW HENS) was connected with this paper or with Farm-Poultry, he opposed the use of condition powders on practically the same grounds as some writers of today. Being then editor of the *Poultry Guide and Friend*, a number of his readers began writing him about the good results they were obtaining from the use of Sheridan's Condition Powder, and a number also made inquiry concerning the same. We replied then as follows—and have never since saw reason to change our opinion:

"Our first experience with poultry powders dates back about ten years. We read flaming circulars of how 'the most barren hen would become a veritable egg machine!' How hundreds of dollars could be made in seasons when eggs were scarce," etc. Of course we invested—but the big egg yield never came; and what was worse, the remarkable fertility that we formerly boasted of seemed to be rapidly leaving our stock. Could we be blamed for feeling like cussing when asked to test other makes? Could we be censured for warning our readers against any preparation that was claimed to 'make hens lay?' There is no telling how many letters we received like the one our correspondent sends (asking 'Are Sheridan's Condition Powders safe to use? Do you think they really do what is claimed for them? How can they make hens lay?') and to all of which we replied something like this: "Beware of egg foods. Our experience has been that they destroy the fertility of the egg."

"But early last fall we were induced to try Sheridan's Powder, at the earnest request of a number of our readers. Having secured a quantity of it, we began feeding to moulting hens. It is not an unusual thing to have fowls die during moulting, but our birds seemed to be in the best of health. During all the time the feathers were flying they kept up their usual activity, never once losing the bright redness of head, nor seemingly troubled with looseness of the bowels; in short, they did not seem to mind one bit the trying ordeal through which they were passing. Having donned their new clothes they started in laying. One pen that received the powder have laid to date, since the trial began, at the rate of 140 eggs a year. The other pen had a hard pull through the moult, stood around mopish, and to date have laid at the rate of 100 eggs a year."

"Then came a test with pullets: A pen that did not get the powder have just began to lay (received the first egg today—February 22d.) Another pen to which we began feeding the powder December 10th, began laying early in January, and are fairly pouring out the eggs ever since. Both lots of pullets were of very late hatches. So far in our experiments we have been unable to notice any material change in the usual fertility of our eggs. Our percentage has been about the same—no better or worse. We can therefore say, without hesitation, Sheridan's Condition Powder is safe to use; and they really 'make hens lay' by giving a proper stimulant to the egg organs. This is not intended for an advertisement. The manufacturers know nothing about our opinion until they see this in print. Our readers must know the results of all our experiments."

People We Know.

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

J. H. Davis has been added to the editorial staff of the *Ohio Poultry Journal*.

The Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., are reporting very heavy western sales this season.

The *Southern Fancier* is now published twice a month. Editor Downs knows how to get out a good paper.

Rowland G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass., is introducing the Indian Runner Ducks in this country. In England they are known as the "year round layers."

While W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa., has low prices, we can assure our readers that his stock is strictly first-class. See his advertisement in this issue.

Bennett & Millett, Gouverneur, N. Y., are about placing a clover meal on the market which promises to be a good thing. The sample sent us has the odor of new-mown hay.

With the September issue, the *American Poultry Journal*, of Chicago, entered its tenth year of publication, more firmly established than ever. It is one of the neatest and most interesting of our exchanges.

Dr. J. H. Casey, one of the best practical writers in the country, has been appointed editor of *Poultry Culture*, a new publication shortly to appear at Kansas City, Mo. The paper will be published by a syndicate which purchased the *Midland Poultry Journal*, of that city.

The Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich., are advertising meat, bone and shells. They are also manufacturers of "Purifine," one of the best and cheapest disinfectants on the market. Diluted with water we have found it excellent for sprinkling poultry and duck runs.

The Star Incubator and Brooder Co., have removed from Allentown, Pa., to Bound Brook, N. J., and elected the following officers: L. S. Bache, President; G. A. McFetridge, Vice-President; T. W. Sheldon, Secretary and Treasurer. The factory is at Lincoln, N. J.

"The Hen that Lays the Golden Egg," is the title of a short treatise on the magnitude of the poultry business, published and sent free by P. A. Webster, Cazenovia, N. Y. We advise A FEW HENS readers to send at once and secure a copy, which can be had for the asking.

W. V. Russ, proprietor of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey street, New York city, reports the following sales of Prairie State Incubators: W. C. Casey, Katonah, N. Y., eleven 300-egg machines; Richard Draper, Richmond Hill, L. I., five machines; Mrs. M. L. Bliss, publisher Brooklyn Blue Book, Flat Lands, L. I., ten machines.

"Got my first pullet egg this morning," writes Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., under date of September 28th. Mr. Child is a breeder of White Wyandottes that have excellent egg records. He has an advertisement elsewhere in this issue. The editor of A FEW HENS can vouch for good stock, reasonable prices, and honest dealings to all who patronize Mr. Child.

F. W. Mann Co., Milford, Mass., the well-known green bone cutter manufacturers, have added to their list a swinging feed tray for poultry, and a granite crystal grit. We have secured a supply of the latter, and are now using it on the experimental farm of A FEW HENS. So far we are more than pleased with it. It is sharp and hard, and the hens seem to like it.

We admire the likeness of the Felch Light Brahmas, which recently appeared in the *American Poultry Journal* and other exchanges. Last year we secured a pen of these birds which have given us a larger egg record than any Brahmas we ever owned, (see August issue.) The Brahma cockerel illustrated, is said by good judges to be the best shaped cockerel that stands in America today. Those interested in this noble breed had best write I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., for their latest catalogue.

Howard B. Hills, Newark, N. J., writes that from July 1, 1895, to June 30, 1896, he received 2,691 eggs; thirty-three fowls being the average number for the year. From July 1, 1896, to July 1, 1897, received 3,876 eggs from same average number of fowls; with the addition of the H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed, their rations were same as the year before. This was on a city lot, their run being 30 x 30. He attributes this remarkable increase to H-O Poultry Feed.