

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., OCT. 15, 1898.

NO. 4.

Your Subscription Ended

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

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

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Pitch in!
 Disinfect.
 Plant rye.
 Experiment.
 Energy wins.
 Fight the rats.
 Secure new blood.
 Gather road dust.
 Examine the roof.
 Step out of the ruts.
 Lookout for thieves.
 Gather up the leaves.
 Get ready for winter.
 A good time to build.
 The fall sun is a tonic.
 Drones die of laziness.
 Are the locks reliable?
 Profit by your failures.
 Get rid of the mongrels.
 Make the house warmer.
 Buy your cockerels now.
 No Klondike in poultry.
 Clean up the rubbish pile.
 Fence in the poultry plant.
 Cull out undesirable stock.
 A good time to plant trees.
 Keep the dog loose at night.
 Subscriptions are pouring in.
 Not too late yet to whitewash.
 Cut down and burn the weeds.
 How the new feathers glisten.
 Hurry up the winter quarters.
 Droopiness is a danger signal.
 Fall trade has started in early.
 We have no room for show reports.
 Fall begins the poultryman's year.
 How those early-hatched pullets lay.
 Place the pullets in permanent quarters.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Fall Trade Starting—Our Stock is Rugged—Strong Fertility of Eggs—Feeding Green Apples—Getting the Pullets in Winter Quarters—How We Will Feed the Coming Season—Machinery and Useful Articles.

Fall starts in on the Experimental Farm in a business-like manner. We are selling quite a lot of cockerels, and also some hens and pullets. Our retail trade in broilers and roasters is picking up wonderfully. We have made no shipments to market yet, as we found sufficient home trade so far for all chickens we do not wish to retain as breeders. Our home trade takes all the eggs we can spare. We expect to double the amount of stock next season, and of course will double our business. It is surprising that in a town where so much poultry is kept as in Hammonton, there should remain such a good demand. It goes to show that no matter where a poultry plant is located, there is a possibility of establishing either a home or a near market.

We are making a specialty of family trade—selling eggs that are *strictly fresh*. For the past season the oldest eggs we sold were but three days of age. Killing and dressing broilers and roasting fowls has also brought us a good trade. As a rule, Saturday is a busy day getting out orders for Sunday dinners. We scald or dry-pick our poultry as parties wish—but the average prefer the scalded, claiming that the process kills the oily substance so prominent when dressing. Be that as it may, we are always ready to cater to our customers wishes.

During the past year we made a special effort to secure rugged stock. We know that in order to have good returns on our limited space—where free range is out of the question—we must have stock remarkable for good, strong constitutions. So we began with last year's breeders. We used only those which have never been sick a day in their life, and we allowed no relationship in our matings. Then we got our fowls down to work—hard work. We kept them busy from morning to night. We avoid-

ed all foods of a too-fattening nature, and allowed only such which made eggs and at the same time kept up the vigor and strength of the body. Did we succeed? Yes. As A FEW HENS' readers know, the eggs from our yards were unusually strong in fertility, and the chicks remarkable for hardiness and rapid growth. This is doubly encouraging when we read in *Farm-Poultry* that "the small crop this season is due to the poor hatches of the early spring." Not so with us. We did not reach the high egg records advertised, but we did get good, honest returns with *remarkable* fertility, and this, too, during the months of March and April—and similar reports reached us from eggs shipped several hundred miles away. We say this not in praise of our stock but rather our system; a proof that by proper mating, and by keeping the breeding stock continually busy, we can have strong fertility and vigorous offspring.

Probably the main secret for that fertility was our plan of alternating male birds. As stated in a former issue of A FEW HENS, we have three males for every two pens. Today Cock No. 1 is in Pen No. 1; Cock No. 2 in Pen No. 2; Cock No. 3 in a pen alone. Tonight we place Cock No. 1 in Pen No. 2; Cock No. 2 in a pen alone; and Cock No. 3 in Pen No. 1. Thus by alternating the male birds each night we always have them in a vigorous condition, and neither they nor the hens have a chance to choose favorites. The plan works well, and fully repays for all the labor it requires.

The dry weather has caused two-thirds of our apples and pears to drop from the trees before ripe. While this deprived us of much of our crop, we made good use of it. Each day we gathered a large bucketful and ground them up in our Evans Root Cutter. It is surprising to see how the stock relish apples, and they are excellent green food, too. We haven't an article on the farm we prize more highly (unless it be the Mann Improved Bone Cutter No. 4) than we do this Evans Root Cutter. It is but a moment's work to grind up a bucket of apples, or potatoes, or beets, or turnips,

or onions; and vegetables cut up finely are more easily cooked, or are better relished when fed raw.

* * *

We have just finished placing our pullets in their winter quarters. From present indications we will have four or five flocks of Wyandottes, one or two of Leghorns, and two or three of Brahmas. We have some very promising pullets and hope to have a good report from them.

* * *

At this writing we are painting the buildings and doing general repairing. But before this issue of A FEW HENS reaches its readers we expect to add another pen and scratching shed to our double scratching-shed house, and will be at work upon an incubator room. We have a new idea for an incubator room. It will be built above ground, but be on the order or style of a large refrigerator. If the plan will work well it will give a much cheaper house than a cellar can be made. But more about it when we get that far.

* * *

Our system of feeding for the following season will be about as follows: *Morning*, mash made of equal parts, by measurement, of wheat bran, cornmeal, middlings, and Pioneer Clover Meal. *Noon*, wheat. *Evening*, oats.

Monday, 10 per cent of Bowker's Animal Meal is added to the mash.

Tuesday, tablespoonful charcoal to quart of mash; also 10 per cent of Animal Meal.

Wednesday, green cut bone.

Thursday, spoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder to 15 fowls; also Animal Meal, as above.

Friday, charcoal and Animal Meal as above.

Saturday, green cut bone.

Sunday, Sheridan's Condition Powder and Animal Meal, as above.

Green food is given whenever it can be had. For this purpose potatoes, beets, or turnips are cooked; or grass, cabbage, vegetable greens, onions, or apples ground and fed raw. The cooked vegetables are added to the mash; the raw vegetables are given in between meals in troughs. The green cut bone is given as a noon meal; no grain fed at noon on those days.

* * *

There are three "machines" in our feed room that we simply could not do without, viz.: Granite State Cooker, Mann Improved Bone Cutter, No. 4, and the Evans Root and Vegetable Cutter. They are labor savers as well as money makers. They should be in the cook room on every poultry farm.

Other useful articles that we have tried are the Hallock Water Holders, for drinking vessels for the old fowls, and the Russ Stone Fountains for brooder chicks. All the above articles can be purchased from W. V. Russ, Proprietor of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

FOR SALE. 300 B. & W. P. Rocks, \$1.50. S. & Wh. Wyandottes, \$2.00. Rose and S. C. Br. and White Leghorns and 50 B. Minorca hens and pullets in lots to suit. They are layers. Address, OAKLAND FARM, Kelsey, Ohio.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

The Sex of Eggs—Good Egg Records—“Egg-type” Hens—Egg Production vs. Corn Culture—Preserving Eggs—General Hints.

Pullets' eggs!

Don't rely on "egg-type."

Italy is a great egg country.

Are you running a "dry-egg" farm?

Don't go to the market to buy layers.

One of our poorest layers was of the so-called "egg-type."

In an egg of 1000 grains, 600 belong to the white, 300 to the yolk, and 100 to the shell.

Eggs for hatching should not be kept over four weeks. They must be turned every day or two.

Between 40 and 50 degrees is the proper temperature to keep eggs for hatching during cold weather.

The market is the last resort of the poultryman to dispose of old hens. Don't buy your layers there.

Fruit and Farm says intelligent variation is necessary to keep fowls up to a good state of productiveness.

A Light Brahma hen's egg will weigh from 2 1-4 to 2 1-2 ounces, or about one pound and twelve ounces per dozen.

"If you want a fowl to look at, get a peacock," says *Inter-State Poultryman*; "he will not lay eggs, but he is a thing of beauty."

In 100 parts of the yolk, 52 per cent is water, 45 per cent is oil and fat, and 1 per cent each of albumoids, coloring and mineral water.

In 100 parts of the white of an egg, about 84 per cent is water; 12 1-2 per cent albumen; 1 per cent mineral and 2 1-2 per cent sugar, etc.

A prize of \$2,000, offered 30 years ago by an English society for the discovery of a material or process of replacing albumen in calico printing, still remains untaken.

Farm and Fireside says one way to get a yellow yolk is to take beets or carrots, cook them for the fowls, feed them, and in two days there will be a change; the yolks will be as yellow as desired.

The *Ohio Poultry Journal* says: "People like fresh eggs. In fact, there is as much difference between a strictly fresh egg and a stale egg, as there is between a fresh mackerel and an aged one." No cold storage business for Braden.

J. E. Stanton, New York, writes: "I saw in A FEW HENS' report for six months that the common hens averaged about 50 eggs each. So I looked over my record to see if I could not beat it. I find that my 40 common hens averaged over 60 eggs each for the same time."

W. M. Lloyd, Tuckahoe, N. Y., sends this record to A FEW HENS: Twenty Black Minorca hens laid 280 eggs in January; February, 286; March, 360; April, 357; May, 341; June, 284—an average of 95 eggs each for six months. He expects an average of 160 eggs, some will average 175 each, and the latter will be used for breeders next year.

"You may sign my name to the statement," says H. W. Collingwood, in

Rural New-Yorker, "that this idea of picking out a good hen by her shape, and then forcing her to lay, is humbug. Unless the *trait*, the habit of laying, has been bred into the hen, and unless she has been fed properly as a pullet, you might as well give your balanced ration to a surplus rooster!"

The *Poultry Messenger* tells a truth in this: "The various compounds which are recommended for preserving eggs, don't preserve. None of them do. Preserved eggs at best, are a low grade commodity, holding about the same relationship to the fresh article that dried apples do to the ripened fruit on the tree. Lots of people are spending money for worthless recipes for preserving eggs who have all the means at hand for gathering fresh eggs in liberal quantities every day in the year."

The Wisconsin *Farmer* says that last fall, in parts of the west, eggs were bringing 25 cents a dozen on the same farm where the corn sold at 20 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 money on corn?

E. H. Webster, Hillsboro county, N. H., writes A FEW HENS as follows: "January 1, I had 23 pullets (cross between Leghorn and Plymouth Rock). In April I lost one pullet and set seven. In January they laid 410 eggs; February, 286; March, 402; April, 442; May, 354; June, 368. Total, 2,262. They were sold at store price, as follows: January, \$7.81; February, \$4.62; March, \$3.63; April, \$2.69; May, \$2.87; June, \$3.66. Total, \$15.17. Profit, \$9.14. I fed H-O Feed in morning, wheat rest of day."

Editor Collingwood went to market to buy hens. This is his experience: "We tried to select birds with a small head and short neck—long between the base of the neck and the root of the tail, rather long legs and a thin, rakish-looking body. We like to see a bright, erect carriage, and a nervous walk or run, but I'll defy any human being to detect these in a hen that he holds by the legs in a poultry shop. To tell the truth, buying these 'egg type' hens is an easy thing to theorize about, but a mighty hard thing to do."

Orr's Clear Grit.

Standard for quality. 100 lbs. 75 cents; 500 lbs. \$3.00. D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

For Sale or Exchange. One Phila. Caponizing set. One 50-egg Incubator and one 40-chick Brooder. Write. J. D. STAPLES, Huntsville, Miss.

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '93, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand. Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."
D. A. MOUNT,

PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

Poultry, England, referring to the theory that eggs wrinkled at the narrow ends produce cockerels, says, to the student of embryology this fallacy is at once apparent. For the first few days the chicken is sexual, from then to about the seventh day it is distinctly hermaphrodite, and contains within itself the elements of both sexes. After this stage it diverges in one direction, one set of organs developing and the other diminishing, according to whether the germ is going to produce a male or a female. So that if the germ had a living consciousness it would not know at the sixth day which sex it would ultimately be.

About Broilers and Roasters.

"Squab Broilers" — Broiler Raisers Should Grow Their Own Eggs—Growth of the Broiler Trade—Weight of Market Poultry—Bad Results From Inbreeding.

Cater to the trade.
Fill orders promptly.
Make honest shipments.
Build up a family trade.
Now for better broilers.
Mate for strong meat qualities.
Overfat is a poor market condition.
Fatten two weeks before marketing.
There is to be a *substantial* broiler boom.
Public demands first; personal opinions next.
Fat poultry, if dry picked, will cook better.
The Symposium tells of good table breeds.
Advertise in your local paper for a family trade.
Plump and neat carcasses advertise themselves.
Broilers shrink about a half pound each when dressed.
"Squab broilers" must not weigh over 3-4 pounds each.
Short-legged fowls make, generally, the best table poultry.
Monday is the best day for dressing poultry for market.
"Squab broilers" sell best during January and February.
Never pack poultry until they have been thoroughly chilled.
The incubators should be running now for January broilers.
Market poultry raising should be an *adjunct* to egg farming.
Never market ailing chickens. It is next to crime to do so.
Never ship the latter part of the week, except by special order.
"Squab broilers" will become more popular as game becomes more scarce.
Mr. Neilson, in our Symposium, last month says summer broilers are not profitable; Mr. Jones says they are.
In scalding poultry, have the water just at the boiling point, no hotter. Take the bird by the head and tail, and dip it three times.
After picking dip the carcass for a second or two in water nearly boiling, and then in cold water for 15 minutes. A handful of salt should be added to a pailful of cold water.
Get rid of all the surplus cockerels before cold weather sets in. Every day they are kept after the first day of

November they add needless expense. Most of them will sell now as roasters for as much as they will a month later. Among poultry buyers it is conceded that the yellow shank fowls rank first in popular estimation, says Col. Braden. But the baked, or fried, or broiled fowl with slaty legs eats just as well. There is a fad in legs as in everything else.

One thing is certain, says *Live Stock Indicator*, good market poultry, every fowl being well fattened before it is offered for sale, is always in brisk demand, and would be wanted still more were it not for the quantity of bony stuff that fills the market and blunts the consumer's taste for poultry.

Fine bone indicates fine grain and excellent quality to the meat, says *Western Poultry Farm*. All the best table fowls have fine bone, but a pair of strong, heavy legs under a fowl indicates strength and hardiness. To breed for the table the hens may be rather stout but the cock should always be fine in bone.

Chickens two pounds or under are known as broilers (in some sections of Pennsylvania they are called *barbecues*), says the *Ohio Poultry Journal*. Over two pounds in weight, up to four, they are classified as spring chickens. Over that weight they go as stewing or roasting fowls. We might also mention that broilers in some parts of the country are known as frying chickens.

Those who first undertook to supply the markets with broilers, received but little reward, says *Poultry Keeper*. Broilers were demanded only by those who were under the care of a physician, but as they were crowded on the market, and must be sold at some price, they created a demand by educating the consumers into liking them. At the present day the production of broilers is very large, while the prices are higher than at any previous time.

W. D. Rudd, the Boston commission merchant, writes: "Do not 'breed in' too much, and especially avoid 'breeding in and in', which is, of course, still worse, for it tends to lessen the vitality and vigor and consequent value and usefulness of your flocks, and also to ultimately ruin even a yellow-meated flock and 'run them out' into what marketmen term 'blue meated' or 'white livered' poultry, and which in our market find slow sales and low prices. If good crows can be obtained, new blood should be introduced at least once in two years."

P. H. Jacobs, in *Farm and Fireside*, is responsible for this: "The broiler business is a distinct one from that of keeping hens. In fact, as lice always comes from hens, not a hen is allowed on some of the broiler farms. Then, again, the broiler raiser has no time to devote to hens. There is more money in chicks, and his work is all done under shelter, and often on a town lot." Now the dear experience Hammonton has paid for, should by this time convince Mr. Jacobs that no broiler farm is a success without an egg farm attached to it, and that buying up eggs has been a costly experi-

ment. Furthermore, the "town lot" trick has been played years ago. Geo. S. Whitford, Phenix, R. I., writes: "In the September 15th issue of *A FEW HENS* I noticed a communication from Mr. Perry, of New Hampshire, concerning weights attained by White Wyandottes. I consider his record a fine one, although I have succeeded in doing even better. The past season I raised White Wyandotte chicks which weighed 4 lbs. at 9 weeks of age. These chicks were not crammed with corn and corn products, but were fed systematically on a ration of wholesome foods which were intended to promote rapid growth. Pullets of this strain began laying at 4 months and 2 weeks. I do not consider this a marvelous record. In fact, believe I can do better next season. It may also be well to add that I never breed from immature pullets. My matings consist of 8 hens and a male bird, every pen being mated for some distinct purpose. The cock, which sired the chicks I have referred to, weighed 11 lbs.; pullets, 8 1-2 lbs. This is not the only point in their favor, they having proved exceptionally fine layers of dark brown eggs, having kept up a steady flow of eggs from November, '97, to the present time."

Ducks and Ducklings.

Charging Admission—The Duck and Broiler Combination—Low Price of Ducks—Diseases—Pointer on Brooding—Black East Indian Duck—Giddiness or Vertigo.

The puddle duck is not a utility fowl. Deep-keeled birds are the most saleable. The Indian Runner ducks are growing in American favor. Forty dressed ducklings are packed in a barrel for shipment. The duck averages about 10 dozen eggs in about 7 months' laying.



INCUBATORS.

Gold and Silver Medals.
Blue and Red Ribbons.
Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

**PRAIRIE STATE
INCUBATOR CO.,
HOMER CITY, PA.**

One Long Island duck raiser produced 26,000 ducklings this year.

H. S. Babcock says the Black East Indian duck is an excellent layer.

Exclusive duck ranches, like exclusive broiler farms, will soon be a thing of the past. The two, however, make a profitable partnership.

"If one wishes to realize the pleasure of poultry keeping, let him try a trio of Black East Indian ducks. That's my experience," says Mr. Babcock.

Cleanliness is important for success with ducks—clean feed and water troughs, clean sleeping quarters, and clean and wholesome food. Disinfect the runs now and then.

It is said that the duck ranch of C. W. B. Gerner, Allentown, Pa., has the largest capacity of any in America. Fifty-six 300-egg-size Prairie State incubators are used.

Raising ducks is simpler, easier and more fascinating than raising chickens, asserts E. E., in *Country Gentleman*. Those who have never tried it should make the experiment.

John B. Garber, in *Rural World*, says he feeds little ducklings chiefly on corn bread, such as is used on the table, soaked in sweet milk. He feeds five times a day until the young begin to feather, when he feeds but three times.

The eggs of the Black East Indian duck are about the size of Plymouth Rock eggs, are sooty white in color—varying from a decided blackness to almost pure white—and are exceedingly uniform in size and regular in shape, says Mr. Babcock, in *Poultry Monthly*.

Ducks are not subject to diseases, as a rule, but have ailments which are easily prevented, says the *Country Gentleman*. They are not troubled with vermin, and unlike chickens do not have gapes. The lack of coarse sand in the food will give them indigestion, and damp quarters at night will cripple them with rheumatism. Bowel trouble, the scourge of the brooder chick, does not trouble the duckling.

A correspondent in *Country Gentleman*, writing about the care of ducklings, says: "Your brooder must be prepared to receive the little beauties, and must have been running at 90 degrees for at least a day. Handle them carefully when removing, taking pains not to injure their legs or feet, as these are very tender. Keep them dark and quiet for at least half a day in the brooder, and then coax them to eat. Ducklings are very timid, much more so than chicks, and will not bear handling."

C. W. B. Gerner charges admission (adults, 10 cents; children 5 cents) to his duck farm. The *Reliable Poultry Journal* says that close to the entrance of the duck farm is a hotel named "Duck Farm Hotel." It is on the main road, and is quite a resort for gun clubs, bowling parties, and the like. Once a week, or oftener, a duck dinner is served, and on these occasions, and Sundays, as many as 300 people have gone over the farm, paying 5 and 10 cents a head for the privilege.

War has had much to do with the lower prices the past season, for the sea coast hotels and eastern summer resorts have been large users of green ducks, hence the decline in price from 2 to 3 cents per pound is probably only temporary, says the *Reliable Poultry Journal*. We think this will prove to be the case, but the past season the price of broilers held up remarkably well, ranging from 40 cents a pound early in the season, down to 21 and 22 cents as late as July 15, and these facts have set a number of duck men to thinking, the result being that they now propose to work into the broiler business in combination with the duck business, a number of them expressing a determination to see if they can not solve the problem of raising chicks in large numbers as successfully as they are now able to raise ducklings. A FEW HENS always favored the idea of running the incubators on duck eggs in summer and hen eggs in winter. It is a paying business.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal* says, contrary to general opinion, duck eggs do not hatch as well as chicken eggs, not by 20 or 30 per cent. They are not as fertile, nor are they as strongly fertilized. Many duck eggs that are imperfectly fertilized cannot stand incubation, the embryo dying during the process of development. On the other hand ducklings are far easier to raise than chickens, at least this has been the rule thus far, hence the duck men, given a good market, have always been able to make more money than the broiler man. There are ten successful duck plants in operation today for every one successful broiler plant, but we are confident this will not be so three to five years hence. The harder a thing is to do, the better the price, and the fact that ducks are easy to raise, are of rapid growth, etc., now threatens to overdo the duck business.

F. E. C. Hodge, Michigan, writes A FEW HENS as follows: "During the past season I hatched 42 ducklings from 48 eggs, and for about four weeks all seemed to thrive daily. During the extremely warm weather of July they suddenly lost the use of their legs, and then lay still with their legs stretched out behind until dead. Occasionally one would turn around and around, as if dizzy. This went on until I had but 15 ducklings left of 42 hatched. Finally, in a fit of desperation I one day plunged an ailing duckling into a tub of cool water and left him for about 15 minutes, when, to my surprise, I found my patient entirely recovered. Thereafter, whenever I saw a weak and staggering duckling, I immediately plunged him into water, and, with the exception of two cases, he invariably recovered. Now can you tell me through your valuable A FEW HENS the nature of the disease afflicting my ducklings, or was it caused from extreme heat?" Exposure to hot suns, especially at midday, will do it. Ducklings must have shade, as they cannot stand as much heat as a chicken can.

H. E. Moss, proprietor Edgewood Duck Farm, Kansas City, Mo., writes: "In the September issue of A FEW HENS you assign, as the cause of your poor

hatches of duck eggs, to your damp cellar. My experience last winter and spring would completely upset your theory. My cellar floor flooded with water several times in January and February to a depth of several inches. It is a dirt floor, and I waded in mud and water for several weeks at a time, tending my machines, and the only ventilation I had was the door which was only opened as we passed in and out, and kept closed at other times so as to avoid lowering the temperature. I had dampness and wet all the season through, in as great an abundance as it could possibly be secured if I had attempted to attain it by any artificial means. I hatched about 2,600 ducklings, and my record for the season is 58 per cent of eggs set, and 82 per cent of eggs run through. If there has been any better work done by any one let him 'stand right up in meeting' and say so. Dampness? no, it has nothing to do with the case. Cooper hit it exactly—it was the beef scrap. The germs simply lacked vitality. The vigor of the parents being impaired by improper food. When I first begun this business I fell in at once with the theory of evaporation, drying down the eggs by a graduated scale. I soon

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Business stock. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

Black and White Langshans

Best winter layers. Standard bred with strong utility qualities. 17 first and second prizes won this season. GEO. P. COFFIN, Freeport, Maine.

EMPIRE STATE BROODERS at half price for next 30 days. Guaranteed perfect. Circular free. W. H. CROSIER, Hall's Corners, N. Y.

PRIZE WINNING Blue Barred Plymouth Rocks.

BRED FOR UTILITY POINTS
AND STANDARD POINTS.

I bred and sold winners for the largest shows in America, from Boston to California and Canada. I have the finest line of breeders and exhibition birds I ever had. Ask for what you want, and inclose stamp. F. E. COLBY, Bow Mills, N. Y.

A HUNDRED PER CENT

of the fertile eggs, is not an unusual hatch for the **MONITOR INCUBATOR.** Proof of this and many other things of unquestioned value to the poultry man will be found in our 80 page catalogue. Sent for 4 cents in stamps. Address,

THE MONITOR CO., Box 10, Moodus, Conn.



The Winter Layer will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is Pioneer Clover Meal. It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts. Send for free sample and book; indorsed by all leading poultry editors.

THE BENNETT & MILLETT CO., Box 4, Gouverneur, N. Y.

We have made special efforts to obtain the very lowest freight classification for Pioneer Clover Meal, hence you can get it, delivered, for but little above purchase price. Rates on 100 lbs. to most New England points, 21c.; New York City, 20c.; Omaha, 58c.; San Francisco, \$1.70. Other rates upon application.

discovered the fallacy of it, and proved it to my own satisfaction. My conclusion is this: A strong germ will develop properly to exclusion, if the air in the machine is kept fresh and pure. Any forced draft through the machine will kill the strong germs because it is a violation of a natural condition or law, and even if it would dry down the weaker ones, the moisture in the egg must not be used up in this way. The Creator would not have placed it there if it were not needed in the development of the embryo, and it *must* pass through the circulation and economy of the embryo, and be expelled in the form of waste gases after it has served its purpose, and not be withdrawn or evaporated in an unnatural manner before it has. The Creator made no mistakes. His laws are fixed, and no amount of theorizing will enable us to improve them. The closer we keep to them the better results we attain. Had my cellar, on the contrary, been dust dry, it would not have affected the result, so long as the humidity of the atmosphere was not so low as to bring about the harmful evaporation above described, which condition rarely or never occurs east of the Rocky Mountains."

Our Brevity Symposium.

What it Costs to Feed a Duck a Year—Best Winter and Summer Ration—Value of the Practical Breeds—Best Matings for Strong Fertility and Best Results—Size of Breeding Pens—New Symposium Questions.

COST OF FEEDING DUCKS.

What do you estimate is the cost of feeding a duck a year, and what ration is best for winter feeding, and what for summer?

It costs about \$2 per duck a year, for breeders. I feed corn chop, bran and green stuff, and while they are laying give beef scrap. If I hold up on beef scrap they hold up on eggs right quick. In winter I give boiled roots and cabbage for green food.—*A. Neilson*, Elk Ridge, Md.

We do not think a duck can be fed a year for much less than \$1.50. In winter, when confined, we usually feed them less highly concentrated food than in summer when running around. When confined we feed more bran and less meal, the other ingredients being the same.—*James Rankin*, South Easton, Mass.

In flocks of 30, and total of 360, \$1.40 per head, paying 45c. per cwt for green bone, and do your own cutting. For fall and winter feed, boiled cut clover, part ground oats, corn, middlings and bran, with cut bone twice a day. Good feed of boiled corn and oats middle of the day. Spring and summer same, only feed cut bone boiled, and clover green.—*Wm. H. Jones*, Lincoln University, Pa.

About \$2. Equal parts bran, No. 2 flour, and cornmeal, 1-16 beef scrap, with plenty of green stuff, such as rye, oats fodder, corn, etc. In winter use boiled potatoes, turnips, beets, cut clover, etc. This is for breeding stock. For market ducks: 1-2 bran, 1-4 meal, 1-4 flour, 5 per cent beef scrap, up to four

weeks old. After that, 1-2 meal, 1-4 bran, 1-4 flour, 1-12 beef scrap. Every breeder has his own way of feeding; the above is mine, and has always been successful.—*W. H. Fordham*, Speonk, L. I.

It depends largely upon the location, cost of feed, etc. Here in the south a duck can be taken care of 12 months for from \$1.25 to \$1.50. I consider equal parts of cornmeal, shorts and bran, 1-3 of good quality cut clover hay, thoroughly steamed, and not over 10 per cent of a good grade of beef scrap, a fine winter ration. Give a little corn at noon to break their fast. During the summer months increase your bran and decrease the meal and beef scrap. Give plenty of green feed in their mash.—*Walter P. Laird*, Salem, Va.

As near as I can estimate, it costs from \$2 to \$2.40 to feed a duck a year. Cannot give exact figures, as I do not keep a separate account with the breeders. For summer I feed the leavings from the young ducks, with liberal allowance of green stuff. The leavings are equal parts of meal, bran and middlings—the liberal allowance of greens makes the ration about 2-3 grain, 1-3 greens. For winter, equal parts meal, bran, middlings and green stuff, with about 12 per cent scrap, for morning feed. Whole corn at night.—*A. J. Hallock*, Speonk, L. I.

It depends largely on the section of country where the duck is kept. In New England, counting labor, about \$1.50 per year. We feed old ducks, breeders, from July to December, 3

parts wheat bran, 2 parts cornmeal, and considerable green food or cut clover. From December we begin beef scrap gradually, till by January 1st they have 10 percent in bulk. From then till July they have 5 parts bran, 3 parts meal, 1 part low grade flour, 1 part beef scrap, with a liberal allowance of cut green food. We feed twice daily, all they will eat clean.—*Geo. H. Pollard*, South Attleboro, Mass.

Cost of feeding a duck one year, \$1.50. Can be done for less money if party has some land to grow food on. Winter feed: 1-4 cornmeal, 1-4 low grade flour, 1-8 Quaker oats, 1-8 bran, 1-4 gluten feed, 1-8 beef scrap. To grain mixture add as much more boiled beets, potatoes or cabbage, for morning. At night same amount, with scalded cut clover hay. We feed a very small quantity of grain at noon—one quart for each pen, scattered about. Summer feed: Same as for winter, except the vegetables and green stuff should be 2-3 of the entire amount instead of 1-2 as in winter.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co.*, Ransomville, N. Y.

Should think at present cost of the different food stuffs, it would cost about \$2 a year to feed a duck. I use, in the spring, as soon as I can get green food (generally green rye at first, clover, green corn, or anything that comes handy), cut in short lengths, and mix 1-3 green food with 1-3 bran (either wheat or buckwheat) and 1-3 cornmeal, or corn and oats ground together,

[Continued on page 44.]

The Hatch

EXPERIMENT STATION at Amherst, Mass., in reporting the results of its experiments with Bowker's Animal Meal as compared with green cut bone, says:

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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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One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.
About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

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

EDITORIAL.

In soliciting advertising, A FEW HENS does not wish to convey the thought that there are no mediums so good as ours. We have not yet reached that state of egotism to consider that "We are the people." There are other journals just as good. But A FEW HENS makes a claim which even our rivals in business will admit: It occupies a field that is not filled by any other—a boiled down, brevity journal, devoted *exclusively* to practical poultry culture, and which *circulates among the very class who are the buyers*. We claim, that in the subscription list of A FEW HENS we have them in the *largest numbers*; they are all either practical poultrymen or beginners—that no journal, in that particular, can compete with us.

A FEW HENS does not ask that you cancel your contracts with other publishers and give it all to us. That would not be wise. We have not a drop of selfish blood in our veins—not that we know of—and we are not going to build up this journal at the expense of other papers. We are not the least bit jealous of our brother publishers. A FEW HENS may some day reach the "top notch," and if it does, it will get there by fair and honorable means. Merit will tell.

What A FEW HENS wants is a *part* of your trade. Try us. Go it on a small scale and keep a run of returns. We have made it pay others; we believe we can do the same for you.

"A FEW HENS is a success." The publishers say so; they know.

"A FEW HENS has come to stay, and its popularity is increasing every day, because it is a live, up-to-date, low priced paper, and presents to its readers valuable, practical information, in a clear, concise manner, easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to remember" is another verdict made by the publishers, and they know.

"A FEW HENS is pretty thin ice," was the unkind remark made by a certain poultry editor who should have known better. It might have been pretty *thin* at first, but it is growing stronger and

thicker every day. What made it so? The editor is not vain enough to shoulder the credit. It was the rapid growth of the subscription list. "In union there is strength."

The publishers make a special offer to induce you to try the paper. Here it is: Send an order at once for three or more months for a 5-line advertisement, and we will insert it 3 times for only \$1.50, cash with order; or 10 lines three times for only \$3.00. That is our six months' contract, per line rate, but we make it now just to get you to see how well it pays to advertise in A FEW HENS.

An extra effort will be made the next six months to double our present large subscription list. Thousands of sample copies will be sent out besides the thousands that go regularly to bonafide paid subscribers. The low subscription price, and the immense amount of information found in each issue captures almost every one who sees a copy. A FEW HENS is a small sized paper (may be "thin ice" according to that certain editor), but it is already doing business on a very large scale.

Look this issue over carefully, read the list of compliments paid us on this page, and then ask yourself the question: "Is not a paper that is spoken of so highly, and is so replete in its make-up, just the paper to enjoy a large circulation—and pay you to advertise in?"

What others think of us is plainly told in these lines:

Ernest E. Russell, formerly editor of *Public Opinion*, New York city, now a resident of El Paso, Texas, writes: "I have been an interested reader of A FEW HENS from the first issue. Your paper well deserves the popularity and success which it is evidently winning. To teach the farmer and villager to make the hen lay two eggs where she laid one before, is to become a public benefactor. Keep at it, and the army of people who can and ought to keep 'a few hens' will raise a monument to you yet."

Capt. Wm. C. Casey, proprietor of the Aratoma Farm, Katonah, N. Y., writes: "I have just received the August and September numbers of your little paper, A FEW HENS, and have read every word in them. I am very much impressed with the amount of valuable information given, not only to 'beginners' (as the heading states), but to others more advanced in poultry culture. Full of practical, commonsense ideas and suggestions, and the experience of men who have the ability and willingness to impart it to others, and, let me add, without flattery, the high reputation of the editor, A FEW HENS is bound to be a success. I have sent in my subscription for three years, and it would be safe to send it for ten, for such a paper will live."

D. Lincoln Orr, known all over the country as the "Clear Grit" man, Orr's Mills, N. Y., writes: "The copy of A FEW HENS just received, and after careful perusal would say that I think it is fine. It is the meat after the shells are thrown away. If all its issues are like the one I have, certainly your subscribers are getting more than their money's worth. I am very much pleased with it, and every old timer should have

it as there is plenty for them to ponder over."

R. H. Peck, instructor in the Normal College, Fremont, Neb., writes: "A few days ago I received a sample copy of your *live* little paper. Don't have to read all day to get something worth having. Enclosed find my subscription."

E. A. Perkins, Maple Gem Farm, Chester, Mass., writes: "A FEW HENS is the best lot of hens in one coop I have seen. So I showed it to my neighbors, hence enclosed find three yearly subscriptions."

P. H. Gross, with Rand, McNally & Co., map publishers, New York city, writes: "Sometime since I sent for a sample copy of A FEW HENS. I have read at least 25 other poultry papers published throughout the United States. I want to say that for *practical* points, and telling people *just what they want to know* about hens, your paper is by far the best I have seen."

Harry B. Cook, Massachusetts, writes: "I received the July and August numbers of A FEW HENS, and will say that I really was surprised to find that such a helpful poultry journal could be produced. Consider me a continued subscriber."

F. E. C. Hodge, Michigan, says A FEW HENS is unique and valuable.

Geo. S. Whitford, Rhode Island, writes: "I admire the 'cream, not skim-milk,' plan of A FEW HENS. May its popularity increase, and its shadow never grow less."

C. F. Browne, New Hampshire, writes: "I am more than pleased with your concise way of putting things. The usual long-winded controverters make me tired."

Geo. N. Conklin, New Jersey, writes: "I don't know what I would do without A FEW HENS. I long for the 15th of each month to come so the paper will get here."

C. E. Brown, Massachusetts, writes: "A FEW HENS still finds a place, first and foremost, in our reading matter. I have secured you several subscribers. All I have to do is to recommend the paper, and then loan them a copy. They invariably return saying 'I have subscribed'."

F. G. Momeyer, Pennsylvania, in renewing his subscription, writes: "Would say, I am extremely well pleased with your paper. Hits the spot exactly."

B. F. Irish, Minnesota, writes: "I think your A FEW HENS is a grand little paper. It gives many times its price of information to anyone."

W. L. Armour, Florida, writes: "I am more than ever pleased with your paper, and wish it success—and you success with your experiment farm."

Mrs. Wm. Foulke, Wisconsin, writes: "We enjoy your little paper very much, and are helped by it in our poultry business."

A. D. Flewelling, Massachusetts, writes: "I would not try to raise chickens without A FEW HENS, and am all the more interested as I am trying to run a 2-acre farm."

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Montgomery county, Pa., is a man who, under trying circumstances, built up a profitable poultry plant, and the history of the progress made is interesting.

Nine years ago Mr. Child moved from the city of Philadelphia to Glenside. He was then connected with the *Fanciers' Journal*, one of the handsomest and best gotten-up weeklies ever published in this country. Upon his arrival at Glenside, Mr. Child concluded he would get some poultry, and a friend was kind enough to unload upon him some Black Minorcas that he was tired of. But Mr. Child did not fancy them, and he got rid of them, choosing instead a few Dark Brahmas. But it was not until he got in with Judge J. H. Drevenstedt, and went with him to the poultry shows, that he "fully appreciated what good chickens were." So in 1891 he had Mr. Drevenstedt select a pen of Silver Wyandottes for him (the pullets coming from E. B. Thompson, and the cockerel from Dr. Beckett). Since then he has always had Silver Wyandottes. Later on he secured a pen of Golden Wyandottes, and kept them for two or three years, but let them go to make room for White Wyandottes. Today Mr. Child has eight pens of as fine Silver and White Wyandottes as one could wish to see, and from these he sells annually a lot of broilers (he runs incubators), besides disposing of eggs for hatching and breeding stock.

The "trying circumstances" to which we referred, was an injury to his spine which crippled him in 1892, and ever since he is an invalid in a chair. Yet with all this drawback, he has not lost his interest in the business. He attends to the correspondence and keeps the egg and other records, while his faithful wife manages the chicken work. By careful study Mrs. Child has become quite an expert in the discharge of her duties, and to much of her care is due the high reputation which is everywhere accorded the Child strain of Silver and White Wyandottes.

We credit the vigor and general good qualities of the White Wyandottes on our farm to the new blood we secured from Mr. Child's stock, and can heartily recommend him for faithful dealings. Mr. Child is one of those conscientious poultrymen that it is a pleasure to deal with.

His Silver Wyandottes are equally as good as his Whites. In Hamonton, Town Justice Geo. W. Pressey, has a flock of Child Silver Wyandottes that are as pretty as a picture. Mr. Pressey's verdict is worth quoting: "Those are as fine Silver Wyandottes as I ever saw, but they are no better than the man from whom I bought them. That man Child is honesty, reliability, and every other characteristic of a gentleman personified." And when A FEW HENS quietly told Mr. Pressey that Mrs. Child deserved some credit as she managed the poultry part, he replied: "Ah, that's the secret, a model wife. Well, all the more praise to her, but I won't take back what I said about the man—certainly that's a working team."

* * *

The successful growth of a poultry farm is measured more or less by hard work and honest transactions. Such, at least, has been the case in the starting and growth of Niagara Farm. In 1885, two young men, Roy and Jay Curtis started in poultry farming at Ransom-

ville, Niagara county, New York. They worked early and late, and the farm gradually grew. They met with the usual drawbacks and stumbling blocks that will come to beginners, but they persevered. The result is that by dint of hard work, economy, and a determination to win, they have today what is recognized to be the largest poultry plant in western New York, with a capacity of 10,000 head annually.

Even today, with the large farm that they have, these two young men do all their own work, except in busy duck season, when they employ from one to two men for about three months. It is a bright example of grit, push and enterprise, and they are not afraid to take off their coats, roll up their sleeves and go to work. That is the class of men that succeed, and the class that A FEW HENS always feels like encouraging. Such men are not speculators. They are bound to be honest, and customers all are safe in dealing with them. "We are in the business to stay," they said in a recent letter to us, which proves that, despite the hard work that daily confronts them, their hearts are light and the work is agreeable. But they can tell the story the best themselves, and we take pleasure in reproducing the following extracts from a letter recently received from them:

"Yours received some time ago, and we hope you will excuse this delay in answering, as we have been very busy getting our ducks to market, and so far prices have averaged better than last year (this letter is written July 30). At some summer resorts near here we found New York spring ducks that had been re-iced by commission men and sent up here at prices far above the New York market. But, when the people found out we could make as good ducks as those they got from New York they gave us their orders.

"One way to do to get better prices for ducks is to do away with the middlemen. Our ducks are all dressed on orders. After having tried nearly all the breeds of fowls, three years ago we settled on the varieties we are now advertising, but our trade has been so heavy in White Wyandottes and Pekin ducks that after having considered everything, we have decided to close out all our stock except White Wyandottes and Pekin ducks, and to breed them exclusively in the future.

"We expect this winter to keep over 500 ducks (breeders) and 500 White Wyandottes for breeding, and with this amount of stock hope to be able to fill all orders, and not have to return money, as we did this season.

"In Brahmas, White Indian Games, White Leghorns, and the rest of our breeds, except White Wyandottes and Pekin ducks, we have our prize winners and also a lot of promising young stock, which we are offering very cheap, as you will see by our advertisement. But

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(Exclusively.) Fine yearling hens and cockerels at \$1.50 to \$3 each. Chas. C. Ryder, Cummaquitt, Mass.

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Our mammoth Pekin ducks stand unrivaled for size and symmetry. 2500 birds selected with care for breeding purposes. Order early. Eggs in season. My book "Natural and Artificial Duck Culture," free with each order.

Monarch Incubator still ahead.

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As the winter approaches, the price of eggs increases, and this food if fed to your chickens in their morning mash, will almost double the egg yield, as everybody who has used it can tell you. Last season we sold over 5000 lbs., which proves that **Banner Egg Food and Tonic** is what it is represented to be—**The Best Egg Producer and Health Preserver Ever Sold.** Give it a trial and you will be convinced that what it has done for others it will certainly do for you.

Price one lb. can, 25c., five cans, \$1.00. One case, 24 one lb. cans, \$4.00. Sample can FREE.

SPECIAL NOTICE: For the month of November we will sell a 1 lb. can for 15c., or 7 cans for \$1.00. Orders booked in advance.

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we wish to close them out as soon as possible so as to get our young stock housed early that we may get the winter eggs. We have a capacity of 10,000 head of poultry annually. We attend only Buffalo and Rochester poultry shows, as we have no time for others. We shall aim in the future to produce the finest White Wyandottes and Pekin ducks, both for practical as well as fancy.

"We are in the poultry business to stay. Our place is situated right across the road from the depot, so you see we do not have to go far for feed or to ship produce, which is no small item, we think. On account of our poultry business here, we have the largest express of any town on our line of railroad, and the people around here are beginning to look into the poultry business some."

That letter tells of the possibilities. It shows what two young men with pluck can do. And we want to say right here, we have some of the Curtiss stock on our Experimental Farm, and are more than pleased with it, but no more satisfied are we with the stock than we are with the dealings we have had with this firm. They have been regular advertisers in A FEW HENS, and in a recent letter they say: "We hope to stay in your excellent paper in the future, as advertisers. Our returns have been more than satisfactory so far."

Aratoma Farm is situated in Bedford, Westchester county, New York. It consists of 185 acres, and the poultry buildings cover 25,000 square feet. Single Comb White Leghorns, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Pekin ducks, White Wyandottes, Silver Wyandottes and Mammoth Bronze turkeys are kept. The farm is owned by Capt. Wm. C. Casey, and is under the skillful management of W. P. Geherean.

Aratoma Farm is not a fancy plant. Its main object is to cater to the practical trade, and the past season has been one of great success. The records show that 4,568 chicks have been hatched out of 6,220 fertile eggs, making almost 74 per cent; 4,652 ducklings out of 7,116 fertile eggs, or nearly 66 per cent., which were rapidly sold in the New York markets. Of the chicks, many were hatched in February, March and April, out of which about 500 pullets were selected for early laying (and on July 26, date of writing, many of them were laying). About 700 broilers were sent to market, and 100 cockerels were caponized, besides selecting 50 cockerels of Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns and Wyandottes for breeders. These have had a free range on an isolated part of the farm, and being hatched from strong, healthy stock, are rapidly developing into magnificent birds, such as some of our old breeders would charge \$4 or \$5 a piece for.

The total egg yield on the farm, from January 1 to June 30, amounted to 69,569. All this goes to show that Aratoma Farm has been quietly plodding along, and that, too, without a flourish of trumpets.

During the summer the incubators on the farm are idle, but they will be started up in time to have good sized broilers ready for New York markets early next season.

The brooding house capacity has been taxed to its utmost limit, so Capt. Casey proposes building a new house about 180 feet long, adding every possible improvement resulting from experience.

It is a rule on Aratoma Farm to house the pullets early, and introduce new blood, so there can be no possible chance of inbreeding. There were no sick fowls on the farm last winter, and the stock now is in perfect condition.

Aratoma Farm is a great place for visitors during the spring and summer, and we hear of many high compliments paid the stock, buildings, management, etc. The methods employed are simply conducted upon business principles. Five years ago Aratoma Farm was started with 110 fowls; today, counting old and young, 6,000 mouths are fed. Yearling hens are kept for breeding, and pullets for market eggs.

Capt. Casey so thoroughly approves of the scratching shed plan of houses, that he now has two houses 200 feet long, and five which measure 40 feet each in length.

In short, Aratoma Farm is a good illustration of how to make poultry pay on a large scale, and as it is one of these farms that began small and gradually grew up into large proportions, it is a good object lesson, and is well worth a visit.

BREVITY SYMPOSIUM—Continued.

with an allowance of meat. In the winter I use, in place of the green food, turnips or mangold beets, boiled and mashed. I generally raise a quantity, and by using the manure from the poultry they grow to perfection.—*D. A. Mount*, Jamesburg, N. J.

PRACTICAL QUALITIES OF THE BREEDS.
What practical qualities do you assign to the breeds you keep?

White Wyandottes: excellent layers, white plumage, yellow skin, good sit-

ters and mothers, and good market fowls.—*E. T. Perkins*, Saco, Me.

I find the Rhode Island Reds, and the new buff breeds, lay more eggs than the older breeds of the same variety. They also commence to lay younger.

—*R. G. Buffinton*, Fall River, Mass.
The White Wyandottes I consider the best general purpose fowl, owing to fair size, good breasted broilers, free from dark pin feathers, and good quality of meat. They are especially good winter layers. The Black Minorca I consider the best fowl on earth when eggs alone are wanted, as they lay the largest white egg of any fowl to my knowledge, and fully as many of them as the Leghorns, besides being much larger and better quality when they end their usefulness as paying machines.—*J. E. Stevenson*, Columbus, N. J.

I keep Argonauts, and consider them, all in all, the most perfect general purpose fowl in existence. I also keep Plymouth Rocks, both pea and single comb, as they are good all-round fowls. Buff Leghorns are kept because of their great egg-producing powers, and Black Breasted Red Games because I have a special admiration for them. They are also excellent layers, and very good table fowls, despite their long legs. My bantams are kept purely for fancy, but they pay excellently by the eggs which they produce.—*H. S. Babcock*, Providence, R. I.

Feeding Troughs. Best and cheapest. Direct from factory—453 West 53 St., New York. *H. Haupt*.

FOR SALE. A Webster & Hannum Green Bone Cutter. *F. G. Sheffer*, Glen Rock, Pa.

W. Wyandottes and B. Rocks. Hunter and Norton strains. Fine Mar. and Apr. hatched pullets and cockerels for sale. *F. E. Bancroft*, Groveland, N. Y.

WANTED.—A man of practical experience desires position as assistant or to manage a Poultry and Duck plant. References given and required. Wages reasonable. Address "A. B." Care *M. K. Boyer*, Hammonton, N. J.

FOR SALE. White Wyandotte Cockerels and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Pekin ducks, \$1 each. *Winfield Darling*, South Setauket, S. I., N. Y.



HOW MANY EGGS

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

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

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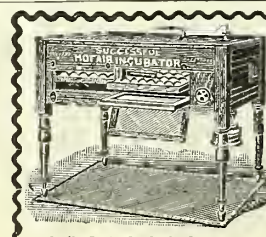
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(HARTNEST STRAIN.)

Don't expect other than temporary results, even from the best balanced ration. Fowls forced to lay are short lived. **Breed for eggs and feed for health**, is only sure road to permanent success. This is the foundation on which is built. They have been bred for generations from prolific laying hens, with known individual high egg records. Mated to sons of heavy layers. Certificate of pedigree furnished each purchaser, showing number of eggs laid by dam, weight of dam, weight of dam's egg, score and other information of value. Breeders, \$3 and up. Trios, \$7.50 and up. Pens, \$12.00 and up.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

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WE CAN SUIT YOU IN PRICE AND WE GUARANTEE TO PLEASE YOU IN QUALITY.

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

DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO. Box 423, Des Moines, Iowa.

Pekin ducks grow quicker, are great layers, are hardier, and we find them the best of all ducks for market. White Wyandottes are the best general purpose fowl on earth. Light Brahmas for roasters and winter layers. White Leghorns, 19 century egg machines. White Indian Games, the great broiler bird, especially when crossed on White Wyandottes. White Holland turkeys, hardy, quick growth, do not wander, flesh very fine in flavor, prolific layers. White Embden Geese, extra heavy weights, fine quality of feathers, good layers.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

In Barred Plymouth Rocks: standard size and color of plumage, vigor, yellow skin and plump breasts, with good length of keel bone. I believe the laying depends on health, vigor and care, more than on breed. Secondary to size, vigor and yellow skin, I breed for brown eggs. In White Wyandottes: I breed primarily for practical qualities—large size, vigor, yellow legs and skin, and as good laying as compatible with good size. I prefer the plumage to be white, but would accept creamy white, with yellow skin, in preference to white color with white skin.—*Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H.*

An all-round breed is the most profitable breed, for the males in all breeds are in a practical sense meat. Brahmas will give you the largest number of pounds for food consumed, at 6 to 8 months old. They are the best as winter layers. In a practical sense they give the greatest profit, as an annual killing of all at 16 to 20 months old. The American breeds are purely the farmers' stock, as they need less special care to get at their general usefulness. The Leghorns, as egg producers, while our Asiatic and American breeds are incubating, become most valuable, and in this associated connection are far more profitable than as a special single breed for the farmer.—*I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.*

I breed the Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. For the Plymouth Rocks I claim them to be good layers, also good for early roasters and broilers—roasters in particular, as at from 16 to 18 weeks, under good care, they will weigh from 4 to 5 pounds each, which is a desirable market size. For the White Wyandottes I claim they are good layers, a little better than the Plymouth Rock, and especially fine for early broilers, as they have a very yellow skin, and having white pin feathers they dress off at the broiler age in very nice shape. For early roasters I do not like them so well as the Barred Plymouth Rocks, as I have never been able to make a four pound roaster in as short a time.—*F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass.*

Our specialties are Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Cornish and White Indian Games. It is unnecessary to say why we breed Barred and White Plymouth Rocks. We consider them to be two of the best all-round fowls that we could breed, as they seem to be well adapted to the climate on Fishers Island. By crossing the Cornish Indian Game males on Plymouth

Rock females, we produce the fullest breasted broilers. I think the White Indian Games will be very popular after they have been introduced through the country to a greater extent than they have been, as they are now practically unknown. They are a white bird with yellow meat, being very full breasted, and are superior to the Cornish for crossing purposes, are better layers, and it is seldom during the winter months that you find one of the hens broody.—*J. F. Crangle, Fishers Island, N. Y.*

MATING FOR FERTILITY.

How many females do you mate to a male in the different breeds you keep, and what percentage of fertility did such matings give?

Light Brahmas, 12; Wyandottes, 20; Indian Games, 16. Eggs were 94 per cent fertile; 89 per cent hatched. This season have raised 91 per cent of ducks and chicks hatched.—*Wm. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa.*

I have no rule in this matter. About 20 hens with one male, except Buff Cochins, where twelve are plenty. I have had 35 hens with one male and had the eggs hatch extra well. I have no record of percentage from any one yard.—*R. G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass.*

Of White Leghorns, 19 to 25 for one crower; White Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes, 15 hens to one crower. Through May, June and July we average 95 per cent of fertile eggs. We believe we have much better results than when fowls are kept in closer quarters.—*Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass.*

I think there are more flocks of poultry with too many males than with not

enough. The best hatches, or equally as good as any I ever had, were from 100 hens and 2 males running with them. I usually keep one male to from 15 to 30 hens, depending on the vigor of the male.—*J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J.*

Pekin ducks, 1 male to 4 females for early; later 1 male to 7 or 8 females. White Wyandottes, 1 male to 10 females. White Leghorns, 1 male to 12 females. Light Brahmas, 1 male to 8 females. White Holland turkeys, 1 male to 8 or 10 females. Embden geese, 1 male to 3 females. A great deal depends upon the vigor of the male bird. We find if birds are well cared for and the male is strong, that the eggs will not fall below 75 per cent, and will often run up to 95 per cent.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

BUFF LEGHORNS. Cockerels for sale. May hatched; good in shape and of a rich buff color. Only a limited number for sale at \$3.00 per head. *C. W. NEWMAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.*

COCKERELS and PULLETS from David E. Morgan's Brown egg strain of White Wyandottes. \$1.50 each. Write quick. Are going fast. *DAVID E. MORGAN, Seekonk, Mass.*

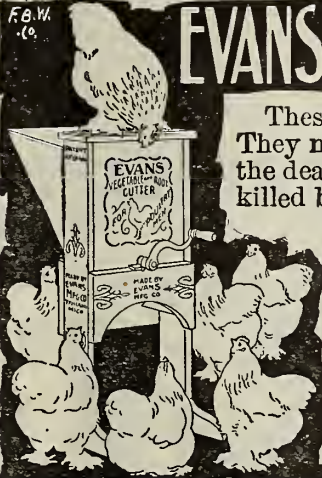
BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Our birds are large, have good shape, yellow legs, yellow skin and rich buff color. To make room we will sell two cocks (one yr. old) at \$5.00 each; hens, \$1.50 to \$2.00. Selected cockerels, \$2.00 to \$3.00, and a few pullets. Write us and we will try to please you. *FORD BROS., Oak Hill, N. Y.*

TEN of my cockerels just ordered by one party for breeding. He knows what kind of stock I have. Write your wants in *W. P. Rock* or *S. C. Brown Leghorn cockerels.* *A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilead, Conn.*

The King of Roasting Fowls!

Light Brahma Cockerels—for matings for strong frames, hardiness and all the points of value in table poultry. \$3 each for choice; \$2 for next best. *Michael K. Boyer, Hammonon, Atlantic Co., N. J.*

EVANS VEGETABLE AND ROOT CUTTERS



These machines meet a long felt want among poultrymen. They make possible the feeding of green and succulent food in the dead of winter when every spear of grass and green thing is killed by frost. They convert all kinds of roots into fine particles like angle worms that are greedily eaten by all fowls, big and little. The feeding of vegetables thus prepared doubles the egg product and saves fully 50% of the grain feed. It makes hens lay in winter when eggs are worth the most money. Endorsed by all leading poultrymen of the country. Buy one and make money from your fowls this winter. Made in four sizes. Price, \$1. and up. Write for free circulars.

EVANS MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. R, YPSILANTI, MICH.

HATCH CHICKENS

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

WITH THE **WOODEN HEN** Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.

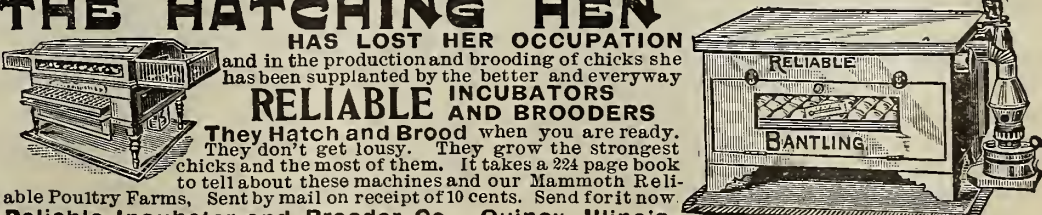
GEORGE H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

THE HATCHING HEN

HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way **RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS.**

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now.

Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.



In general matings, 1 male to 15 females gives as good percentage of fertility as any. I also make special matings of pairs and trios for pedigree breeding, and to get unrelated breeding stock without indiscriminate buying. I know of eggs of high fertility from 1 male with 50 females, with free range. I consider that free range under natural conditions (favorable) is of more importance to fertility than the number of females to the male. Average of fertility of eggs set at home, 90 per cent. I use all hens, no incubators.—*Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H.*

In Cochins, 6 to 10; Brahmas, 8 to 12; American class, 10 to 15; Spanish, the same; Hamburgs and Leghorns, 15 to 20. With a single male, no matter what the number, all will not prove fertile with him. It is the safest to use the largest number and use two males (brothers) and alternate each day, keeping the one not in use in celebracy. As a general rule, for a single pen and mating, 10 females to one male, watching to discard the females that fail in him to find an affinity. Then from 85 to 100 per cent of eggs will prove fertile.—*I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.*

In my different matings this last season, I used from 6 to 15 females. In the pens from which I bred for stock, and from which I sold eggs for hatching, I did not use more than 12 females in any pen. In the pens from which I raised broilers and sold incubator eggs for market purposes, I used 15 females. In my best pen matings I use as many females, up to 12 or 15, as I have of that particular family that are fit to breed from. My percentage of fertility was above 80 per cent, and in a good many of the hatches it was over 90 per cent.—*F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass.*

Barred, Buff and White Plymouth Rocks we mate on an average of about 12 to 15 females; Indian Games, about 10 females. Our fertility on the Barred and White Rocks started the season at about 75 per cent, and in April it was over 90 per cent. The Games were not so high, the highest point being 60 per cent, the trouble being that most of our birds had been shown and were too fat, and we did not have time before the breeding season to get the fat off of them. However, we can easily overcome that another season, as we now have more stock of that variety.—*J. F. Crangle, Fishers Island, N. Y.*

SIZE OF RUNS AND PENS.

What sized runs have you attached to each pen, what is the size of each pen, and how many fowls do you keep in it?

Pens, 9x16 feet; runs, 15x95 feet. This quarters 16 fowls.—*E. T. Perkins, Saco, Me.*

My runs are about 20x60 feet for 20 to 30 fowls, but would rather have them larger, and will when building again.—*J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J.*

We have one house which has 13 pens, in which we keep our best birds. Our pens in this house are 13x98. Other pens which we have are 16x100, with scratching sheds attached.—*J. F. Crangle, Fishers Island, N. Y.*

My pens are 18x22 feet; yards, 22x100 feet. In each of these I keep 19 hens and one crower of White Leghorns, and 15 hens and one crower of White Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes.—*Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass.*

Runs for breeding stock have about 20 square rods for 15 hens and a male. Some pens of laying stock have no outside runs, 12 hens to each pen 10x12 (120 square) feet, and they lay nearly as well as those with outdoor runs. I have 12 pens, 10x12; 8 pens, 8x10; 8 pens, 9x10; 2 pens, 8x10. I have now 3 houses, 12x40; 2 houses, 10x32; 2 houses, 8x10; and one house, 10x80. In 10x12 pens, 12 fowls are kept; and 10 fowls in each 9x10 and 8x10 pens.—*Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H.*

My houses are 7x14, and yards 25x240 feet. I do not intend to have over 25 hens in each run. These runs are larger than needed for this number, but I have the land and do not care to use it for any other purpose. You remember when here I had peach trees set on nearly all of my land. I gathered 400 baskets of peaches last year, and will have as many this. I have my houses all in a row, the full length of the farm, and have built quite a number since you was here.—*R. G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass.*

Runs, 8 rods long, 2 rods wide; green food growing all the time. Light Brahmas, 1 male and 8 females; White Wyandottes, 1 male and 10 females; White Leghorns, 1 male and 12 females. A great deal depends on the stamina of the male bird. Pens of fowls, 12x12 (for ducks, 12x25, for 40 females to 10 males at the start). In winter before breeding season opens, we have 20 fowls in our breeding pens and two males, which are changed every two days, one kept in a pen by himself. Ducks for breeding have a miniature stream of water.

Two pens have unlimited range, but can see no difference in fertility of eggs.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

There are two sides to this question. They can be very small if constantly cultivated. But if desired to be large enough to constantly produce grasses, then if in a good sod when laid out, 8 square rods will support in grass 25 fowls. To pen fowls exactly to my idea, would be a pen 12x15, with yard 12x60 feet, and so arranged that each pen should have free range in a pasture lot one-half of each day. These pasture lots should be sufficiently large to keep constantly green. The house 15x60 would be sufficiently large for 150 fowls. The small yards contain an average of 6 square rods, leaving the balance of the acre of land in these pasture lots.—*I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.*

1200 Choice Poultry. All Pigeons and German Hares. Fine colored sixty-page book, 10 cents. *J. A. BERGEY, Telford, Penna.*

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS Exclusively. Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices. *HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.*

Heavy Laying Leghorns.

We have a few choice, half-grown cockerels of our heavy-laying strain of S. C. White Leghorns, which we will sell at \$1 each, if ordered at once. *Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.*

600 YEARLING HENS

250 Pullets and 500 Cockerels

Must be sold at once. 18 varieties of chickens, ducks, guineas and turkeys. Have a Bronze turkey gobbler three years old (weight 50 pounds), for sale. Describe your wants and I will name you prices.

JAMES M. SMITH, P. O. Box 50, Perkiomenville, (Montgomery County), Penna.

Strong, Vigorous Cockerels

from heavy laying strains of White Wyandottes and Barred Plymouth Rocks, \$2.00 each. Eggs in season. Address, **Seekonk Poultry Farm,** Wm. E. Morgan, Prop. *Seekonk, Mass.*



It will keep your poultry strong and healthy. It will make young pullets lay early. Worth its



weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases. Eggs are larger and more fertile. They succeed best in raising poultry for profit, who commence with little chicks; giving them twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases. Eggs are larger and more fertile. They succeed best in raising poultry for profit, who commence with little chicks; giving them twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's

Condition Powder mixed with each quart of food, gradually increasing the dose until full grown.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER

Is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; highly concentrated; most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity it costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers. Large cans are the most economical to buy.

If You Can't Get it near Home, send to us. Ask first.

We send postpaid one pack for 25 cts; five \$1.00. A two-pound can \$1.20; Six cans \$5.00, exp. paid. Sample copy "best poultry paper" sent free. *I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.*

I have quite a number of different sized pens and yards, so will not attempt to describe all, but will give the dimensions of my main house and yards, which I think is a good plan. However, I think the open shed house is a better one. Our main house is 100 feet long by 15 feet wide, and divided into 12 pens 8 feet wide, and one pen 4 feet wide. There is a 3-foot walk at the back of the house, which leaves the size of the pen 8x12 feet. The outside yards are the same width, 8 feet, and 87 feet long. In each of these pens I carry through the season from 12 to 15 females and one male, and have good results. In the yards are plum trees which give the birds plenty of shade.—*F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass.*

NEW SYMPOSIUM QUESTIONS.

We call A FEW HENS readers attention to the following questions, and ask that they at once communicate to us what experience they have had in that line.

13. As the wings of the chicks of Leghorns, Minorcas, and that class, grow so rapidly as to cause chicks to droop, what method do you use to prevent a loss?
14. What food do you find best for broilers from one day old to market age, and how often do you feed per day?
15. What has been the highest and the lowest prices (both wholesale and retail) for market eggs in your section during the past fall, winter, spring and summer?
16. How do you feed and care for your Brahmas to produce the best results—most eggs, best condition, etc.?
17. What do you consider is the cheapest and best roofing for a hen house?

Geese for Profit.

(Crowded out of September A FEW HENS.)

A gosling at three months of age should dress 10 to 12 lbs., depending on the season of the year hatched, the breed, etc.

The market (wholesale) price for goose eggs before Easter, runs about 90 cents to \$1.25 per dozen—retailing at 10c. to 15c. each.

The *Journal of Agriculture* says inbreeding is the greatest evil to be guarded against. Unless new blood is introduced into the flock once in every five years at least, the geese are sure to deteriorate to a serious degree. If the flock is well kept up, however, geese can readily be produced that will weigh from 12 to 18 lbs. apiece, dressed.

Kentucky farmers are mostly descendants of Virginians and Marylanders who settled there a hundred years ago, and who raised their own geese to provide feather beds for their families. This habit has been continued to the present generation, and there are few farms, especially in the older settled sections of the state, on which there are no geese.

As most of the goose eggs sent to market are infertile, the fowls not having mated, they are usually sound and

comparatively fresh when sold, and the extreme whiteness of the shell would make them look very attractive to those who are not firmly fixed in the faith that only a dark-shelled egg can be of good eating quality, says the *American Cultivator*. The whiteness is natural to the egg of the goose, but they very frequently reach the market very far from white, being dirty and stained, but retail dealers usually wash them in soda water or some similar alkaline solution, and perhaps scour them with sand, to make them look tempting. While the contents of two goose eggs will equal in bulk that of seven hens' eggs, with quite as large a proportion of yolk, and the price would be only that of four hens' eggs, they are not much in demand by bakers and confectioners for some reason, but housekeepers who have tried them without prejudice think they are cheaper food than the hen's eggs at the comparative prices.

Turkey Culture.

Turkeys Along the Seaboard—Claims for the Narragansett—Miscellaneous Items.

Even July-hatched turkeys can be made profitable.

Turkeys do not want a close house during winter.

The first eight weeks of the young turkeys life require constant care.

The turkey crop of the west is estimated as 25 per cent short of former years.

About four dozen eggs are given as an average for the annual output of the turkey.

It is claimed by champions of the breed, that the Narragansett is one of the hardiest.

The Narragansett turkey is largely bred in Southeastern Connecticut and Rhode Island.

No Artificial Moisture

used in the

Star Incubator

None needed, because our perfect ventilation preserves the natural moisture supplied from the egg.

Nature's Way—No Guess Work.

We guarantee satisfaction to every purchaser or return money without question. You should at least look into our claims for this machine. Our catalogue is free.

STAR INCUBATOR & BROODER CO.,
25 Church St., Bound Brook, N. J.

Barred

PLYMOUTH ROCKS, exclusively. All farm raised, strong, healthy birds. Bred for practical results, in eggs and meat. Cockerels \$2.00, \$2.50 and \$3.00 each. Pullets same prices. No sickness among my birds for past five years. Satisfaction guaranteed. Money back if you say so. No circulars. C. H. CANFIELD, Bath, (Steuben County), N. Y.

\$2.10 per Head Profit.

Our White Wyandotte record from January to July, for eggs alone. Young cockerels for sale at \$2.00 each. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.

The common run of turkeys sent to the New York markets do not average more than 8 or 9 pounds.

Train the turkeys to regular feeding hours, and they will always be on hand at the appointed time.

Tame the young turkeys so they will eat from your hand, and they will not be frightened when you are compelled to handle them.

Ida L. Pease, in *Western Garden and Poultry Journal*, says the report that it is hard to raise turkeys is "just so much superstition."

Most of the birds sold in the Boston and New York markets under the name of Rhode Island turkeys, or Extra No. 1, are of the Narragansett breed.

The *American Stock-Keeper* says turkeys do remarkably well along the seaboard and almost every farmer remote from the village has his flock. It is not uncommon to find flocks of from one to two hundred birds, the product of about a dozen hens, under the skillful management of a poultry woman or boy.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

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

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- -	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	" - -	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	" - -	50 "
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.

POULTRY PRINTING.

Prices Cut in Two.

500 Envelopes,	\$1.00.	500 Note Heads,	\$1.00.
500 Cards,	1.00.	500 Shipping Tags,	1 00.
500 1-page Circulars,	2.50.	500 2-page Circulars,	4.00.
		500 4-page Circulars,	\$6.00.

Any (one) color of ink desired, Black, Blue, Red, Green, Purple or Brown. Our work is first-class and advertises itself. Nothing cheap but the price. Fine cuts of fowls for customers' use.

Poultry Books. "500 Questions and Answers on Poultry."—"A B C of Poultry Culture."—"Art of Poultry Breeding."—"Low Cost Poultry Houses."—"Uncle Rastus' Poultry Book."—"Pigeon Queries." The six books for \$1.00, or 25 cents each.

The Fanciers' Review is a 16-page practical poultry paper, with cover, 50 cents a year. Three sample numbers 10 cents. J. H. Davis, Editor. If you are not a subscriber we will accept 30 cents, the introductory price for a year's subscription.

We furnish the new Standard for \$1.00.

The Fanciers' Review, Box 1, Chatham, N. Y.

FARM-POULTRY.

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

People We Know.

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

The colored frontispiece of a trio of Silver Gray Dorkings, in the September California Poultry Tribune, is a masterpiece.

I have used several styles of incubators, but I consider the Prairie State the best," writes W. H. Fordham, Speonk, L. I.

We call attention to the advertisement of Dr. F. E. Colby, in this issue. The doctor is bound to please you in Barred Plymouth Rocks.

J. E. Steveson, Columbus, N. J., manufactures meat scraps that are absolutely pure. No adulteration—and no diseased animals slaughtered. Write him for particulars.

The Evans Manufacturing Co., Ypsilanti, Mich., have just issued a complete circular describing their vegetable and root cutters for poultrymen. Those interested should write for one.

A FEW HENS acknowledges receipt of a sample of the Peerless Leg Band, manufactured by B. F. Huntington, Platteville, Wis. It is a durable and safe band to use, and is bound to stay on the leg when fastened.

Maybrook Ranch, Fannettsburg, Pa., is an exclusive duck farm. Mr. MacFlickinger writes that he has been enlarging his plant each year, and his faith is so strong in ducks that he is aiming at the 20,000 mark by 1900.

Fishers Island Farm, Fishers Island, N. Y., breed more Barred Plymouth Rocks than anything else, and this year they have the finest stock in that breed. J. F. Crangle, the poultry manager, knows how to satisfy customers.

Those interested in B. B. R. Games, Argonauts, Buff Leghorns, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Game Bantams and ducks, should write to H. S. Babcock, 74 Weybosset Street, Providence, R. I., for his circular. He is one of the oldest and best poultrymen in this country.

Seawanhaka Poultry Farm, Speonk, L. I., is devoted to Pekin ducks, Black Langshans, White Wyandottes, and Single Comb White Leghorns. It has a capacity of 8,000 to 10,000 a year. W. H. Fordham, the proprietor, reports that he is prepared to furnish breeders in lots to suit, at moderate prices, and guarantee satisfaction.

Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass., has a house capacity for 1500 hens on his farm, and he runs the place at the highest pitch. The past season he hatched 6,500 chicks of White Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes and White Leghorns. All but about 1,800 of these he sold directly after leaving the incubators. Mr. Young publishes a valuable book entitled "Chicken Fixings" which he will be glad to send to A FEW HENS readers for a stamp.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of the Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y., write: "We use 20 Prairie State incubators, 60 feet Prairie State hot water pipe system, and 40 feet Prairie State pipe sectional brooders. We are able to average for the season 70 per cent of fertile eggs, and have as high as 95 per cent hatches when eggs are at their best. Our losses of ducks are 5 per cent; chickens, 25 per cent, on an average. Have used different makes of incubators and brooders, but consider these the best."

R. W. Davison, Glendola, N. J., is a very busy man during the summer. He makes a specialty of supplying summer resorts with eggs and chickens. He reports business very good this season. Mr. Davison has exceptionally fine Bronze turkeys, and those in want of good stock should write him. His other breeds are White Wyandottes, Black Minorcas, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Black Javas and Pekin ducks. Glendola is 4 1-2 miles southeast of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, or at the head of Shark river.

The Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York city, start a new contract in this issue. They are the manufacturers of a poultry food (see advertisement), which is becoming more popular every day, and as each year's business in this article is being larger, it is a very good indication that the Food is a safe and good article to use. Wm. V. Russ, the proprietor of the Excelsior Co., is one of the most reliable and energetic business men in the country, and A FEW HENS recommends him.

F. B. Zimmer, Gloversville, N. Y., writes that he has nearly or quite 300 bantam chicks (Silver and Golden Sebrights, Plain and Bearded Polish, Black and White Cochins, and B. B. R. Games). Mr. Zimmer is considered one of the best bantam breeders in this country. Besides bantams he breeds Beagle Hounds, and has about 50 left, all the early litters being disposed of, and five bitches are still in whelp. Mr. Zimmer recently sold a Beagle to Mr. Santee, of the firm Santee & Cuuuingham, for \$100.

This proves that Zimmer's Beagles are not "just dog," but the genuine article.

On Elk Ridge Poultry Farm, Elk Ridge, Md., where superior poultry and eggs, ducks and broilers, are made a specialty (and daily deliveries made by wagon in the city of Baltimore), A. Neilson, the manager writes: "I sold 2,000 Pekin duck eggs at 7 cents each; and 1,100 hen eggs at 5 cents each, the past spring and summer season. I have now 500 hens—about an equal number each of White and Barred Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmas and White Leghorns." The farm is composed of 150 acres, the poultry part of which cost about \$3,000. We note that the scratching shed houses are mostly used.

D. A. Mount became the owner of Pine Tree Farm, Jamesburg, N. J., in June, 1896, and has been working hard ever since to increase his stock both in number and quality, and has succeeded remarkably well. He has about 2,000 head of young stock of the 23 varieties he breeds. During the summer Mr. Mount sells eggs at the summer resorts, averaging about 200 dozen a week. At these resorts he also finds a market for all the culs he does not want for breeding. When the egg trade at the seashore is over, the fall trade for broiler eggs begins, which lasts throughout the winter, and he annually does a large business in that line. Besides, Mr. Mount enjoys a very large trade in eggs for hatching. We advise A FEW HENS readers to send to him for his latest catalogue.

S. C. Brown Leghorns, choice Cockerels and Pullets. Eggs in season. ZUNDEL BROS., Grapeville, Pa.

The Practical Utility Fowl, Barred Plymouth Rocks. A few young Cockerels for sale at farmers' prices. Address, D. Roberts, Box 279, Moorestown, N. J.

Now is Your Chance. Thoroughbred half-grown S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels, 75 cts. each. They are beauties. Only a few left. Order quick. N. E. Barton, "Walnut Poultry Farm," Afton, N. Y.

PEKIN DUCKS. Large stock, raised from ducks direct from Pollard. Won 1st on both old and young at Cambridge Fair in strong competition. Ducks or drakes at \$1 each. Matthew Winne, Niskayuna, N. Y.

Fine Brahma Hens.

A Few Fine Yearling Light Brahma Hens for Sale at \$2.00 each. (Felch strain).

Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.

May Hatched Ducklings

from our best strain of improved Pekins, at \$1.50 each. Good breeding stock that will make 8 to 10 pounders. Remember our Pekins begin to lay in November and December, so get them early to be ready for business. They will lay more eggs than your best hens, and prove the most profitable of poultry. Try them, but be quick, or we may be sold out. Shipped at single express rates, and safe arrival guaranteed. Address,

MARYBROOK RANCH, Fannettsburg, Pa. J. MACFLICKINGER, Prop.


FOR THE WINTER LAYERS. While we are always looking after and striving for new business and customers, it affords us more than a usual amount of pleasure and satisfaction to receive the continued patronage of our old customers. On another page will be found the advertisement of the Bennett & Millett Co., of Gouverneur, N. Y., who will use our column again this season in soliciting the poultry trade. These people are the manufacturers of the celebrated Pioneer Clover Meal which has done so much to increase the earning power of the American hen in the recent past. We are well acquainted with this product and have no hesitancy in recommending it to our patrons as a cheap and most effective poultry food, taking the place of the grass and other green food so largely consumed by fowls in the summer time, and producing equally good results in the depth of winter. It is rich in all the elements necessary to egg production, and will make the hens lay in the coldest weather when eggs are worth the most money. Write them for free sample and book of editorial endorsement. Please mention that you saw their ad. in our paper.

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