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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., JAN. 15, 1898.

NO. 7.

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

Brief Hints for Busy People.

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

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

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

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

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

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

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

*A Happy
And Prosperous
New Year to All Our Folks.*

- Resolutions!
- Welcome, 1898.
- No poultry trusts.
- Stir up those hens.
- Business hens wanted.
- Make pets of the hens.
- Filth and health are foes.
- Snow diet don't make eggs.
- Are the male birds vigorous?
- Recklessness causes failures.
- Neglect at this season is costly.
- Are you the lazy man who keeps lazy hens?
- Beauty should be measured by the egg record.
- The wise poultryman studies his fowls' comfort.
- Good hens, like good cows, pay for what they get.
- Are your breeding yards composed of rugged stock?
- Did you open a poultry account on the first of the month?
- How musical is the cackle of the hen on a cold winter day.
- Did you credit the poultry with the eggs and meat you used on your own table?

Experimental Farm Notes.

The November Account—The Premier and the Mann Bone Cutters—Clover Meal and Cut Clover Hay—Feeding Ducks—Improvement to the Windmill.

The poultry account given in the December issue, ended with the month of October, leaving November and December to be heard from. The Brahma hens having gone into moult earlier than the common hens, we got but two eggs from them during the month of November. On the 30th of the month one of our Light Brahma pullets laid an egg for the first; the twelve common hens gave 31 eggs; and the four old ducks laid two eggs. This made a total of 36 eggs, which, at a value of two cents each, made the egg crop worth 72 cents for the month.

The sales of surplus poultry, for the month, which included a number of Light Brahma cockerels, amounted to \$45.25, making a total of receipts (eggs and poultry), \$45.97.

Feed for the month cost \$12.80; incidentals, \$7.82. Amount invested in building and other improvements, \$60.94. Interest on this investment for one month would be about 30 cents. So counting interest, incidentals, and feed, we have a total expense of \$20.92. This from \$45.97 receipts, leaves a clear profit of \$25.05 for the month. In our next issue we will sum up for the full year, as at this writing (December 8th), we cannot give the December account.

We have almost completed a scratching shed house which we believe is about as complete as we could make it. It is 32 feet long, made for two pens of fowls. By next issue we will be able to give full account, including actual cost.

**

We have been trying two of the leading makes of bone cutters the past month, and are pleased that we can report so favorably. The first to arrive was the Premier Green Bone Cutter, manufactured by P. A. Webster, Cazenovia, N. Y. We have given the machine a good test. The Premier is an excellent cutter, simple in construction. There are no gear wheels to annoy and break, and the feed hopper is not obstructed in any way, giving all the space for the bones to be cut. The absence of these obstructions makes it more easy to clean. The machine does not run hard, and the bone is well cut, leaving fine shavings composed of small granular particles. The Premier sells for \$12.00, f. o. b. We doubt if there is a better machine, for the money, on the market.

The new Mann Bone Cutter, to be known as the No. 4-B-M., has just been completed, and now for the first time placed upon the market. In our December issue we gave a brief description of the points of value in this machine, and, after giving it a severe test—even using "shin-bones"—we can truthfully say it does all the manufacturers claim for it. The great feature in this new invention is the easy running. No matter what may be said about the other Mann bone cutters running hard, this one is so easy of operation that the wife of the editor of A FEW HENS, after giving it a trial, declared it was "only child's play to run it." One reason, we think, why so many complaints come that the bone cutters run hard, is that they are not oiled enough. No matter what machine is operated, it should be oiled each time it is used. This No. 4 cutter sells at \$17 with the stand; \$14 without stand. It is a practical machine—no toy—built for use on a large or small scale. For further particulars write F. W. Mann Co., Milford, Mass.

We have given the Pioneer Clover Meal, manufactured by the Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y., a trial, and so far are well pleased with the results. Being reduced to a fine state, it readily mixes with the ground grain. At present we are mixing it dry with H-O Feed, and meat scraps. After the three articles are thoroughly incorporated we pour hot water over the mixture, and work it into a crumbly state, allowing it to cool off a little before feeding. The hot water coming in contact with the cold ground grain, soon cools sufficiently to make it safe to feed. We do not believe in feeding hot mashes; only warm.

We are feeding the ducks cut clover hay, purchased from the Woodhull Farm, Station V., Philadelphia, Pa., an excellent article. This we scald at noon, and allow to steep until about 4 o'clock in the evening, when we mix with equal parts of bran and cornmeal (by weight), and about one-tenth the amount of meat scraps.

**

One reason why we give the clover hay to the ducks in the evening instead of morning feed, is on account of their appetites being better. We have found that they will eat almost twice as much feed at night as they will in the morning, for the reason that they get more exercise during the day. We feed nothing at noon (merely giving them fresh water in their troughs). The difference we make then in the quantity of night feed over that in the morning, is chiefly in the extra amount that the cut clover makes. To about five gallons of mixed feed we add three gallons of cut clover hay.

In feeding the Pioneer Clover Meal to our hens, at present we are giving one large scoop full of meal to four of ground grain. We may add more clover later in the season, as we have in mind a number of experiments with the same.

* * *

The cold weather being at hand, we feared that the water pipes running from the tank of our windmill might some morning be frozen, causing us expense and trouble. So we had a carpenter first build a rough box around the pipes—from the platform to the bottom of the tank (forty feet). Then another box, about four inches larger, of white pine fencing, was built around the rough one, and saw dust packed between the two boxes. As an extra precaution we will have a throw-off attached to the pipes in the pit, which will allow us to turn the water out of our supply pipes at night. With this double protection we should have no trouble in the coldest weather.

Our tank holds 700 gallons of water, and we use about 100 gallons a day, so that when the tank is full we have a week's supply. But we do not wait for the tank to get empty before filling. We make it a rule that the mill must be turned on each morning to fill in the amount of water consumed the day before. In that way we have a constant supply.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Market Only Guaranteed Eggs—Are Eggs in the North Heavier than Those in the South?—Fanciers Must Prove Egg Qualities in their Breeds.

Advertise your eggs.

One bad egg may lose a customer.

There is money in guaranteed eggs.

It is in the winter eggs where the profit lies.

Put up your eggs in pasteboard boxes, holding one dozen each.

With a rubber stamp print your name and address on every egg.

The genuine dark-brown egg layers are the Brahmans and Cochius.

The successful egg grower is now in the height of his glory.

Don't market eggs that you would under oath hesitate to guarantee fresh.

"It is sometimes more profitable to haul a basket of eggs than a load of hay to market."

Dr. Casey says the relative weight of an egg is, shell and lining material, 106.9; albumen, 604.2; yolk, 288.9.

Theodore Steruberg thinks that on strictly egg farms it don't pay to raise chickens, excepting enough to keep up the stock.

Mrs. Helen E. Bailey, before an Iowa Farmers' Institute, advised never to send a sleek, shiny egg to market, for it is not fresh, as the buyer will soon discover.

It is said that 100 grains of lime are needed to make a strong egg shell. Grain cannot supply that alone—oyster shells and cut clover hay are also needed.

We do not think that W. L. A., Florida, will find the Minorcas as heavy layers as the Leghorns, but the eggs of the former are much larger than those of the latter.

Before the New York Farmers' Club, T. F. McGrew last February said that he obtained a high average of eggs from a Leghorn-Plymouth Rock cross flock of hens.

One half the egg is nutriment, says *Poultry Culture*, whereas meat is rated, at best, as only one-fourth. Thus one pound of egg is equal in nutritive value to two pounds of meat.

"The Hamburgs have laid very well for me—better than the Buff Leghorns, which I discarded after I became so well pleased with the Silver Spangled Hamburgs," writes W. A. J., Wakefield, N. Y.

"Any system of feeding which causes a hen to store up fat faster than it can be utilized in the production of eggs," says the *Poultry Messenger*, "will sooner or later bring about a condition which will make it impossible for her to lay eggs."

The *Market Basket* says it is a somewhat curious fact that the weight of eggs is materially larger in northern than in southern climates. Canadian eggs, for instance, are heavier than those shipped from the United States, and eggs in the northern states of this country are heavier than those from the south.

"Limed eggs should not be classed as pure food," says the *Baltimore Sun*. "The limed egg has lost the real egg flavor, appears wattery and will spatter greatly in frying. Housewives condemn them for culinary purposes. Unprincipled merchants do not hesitate to dispose of them as 'fresh eggs'." And we might add, *honest* poultrymen do not know how to preserve eggs.

Breeders of Standard-bred poultry should be better prepared to furnish proof of the superior laying qualities of their fowls, advises the *Poultry Messenger*. They should keep an egg record, and seize upon every proper occasion to make it public. Yes, but there is the hitch. Can they secure a good enough record by their methods of mating? Surely the only way for the fancier to continue to do business, is for him to prove the *practical* worth of his stock.

Overcrowding hens on the farm is similar in egg results to over-stocking a pasture with dairy cows, says Theodore Sternberg, in *Country Gentleman*. You get your milk from the grass; the cow is only a machine for converting grass into milk. You can only get so much milk from so much pasture; but before you get any milk at all, the cow must have sufficient grass for her own support. A pasture which will support ten cows and enables them to make a profitable return of milk, will fail to pay if stocked with twenty cows.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints on Dressing Poultry for Market—Scalding Method—Two Excellent Systems for Fattening.

Dressing poultry is an art.

Neatly dressed poultry sell quickly.

Good fat poultry are best dry-picked.

Always have the bird suspended by the legs when dressing it.

Be sure the animal heat is out of the carcass before packing.

The November-hatched chick will be in for the cream of 1898's broiler prices.

The *Mirror and Farmer* claims that broilers sold higher the past season than they have for several seasons previously.

One and a quarter pound each is about right for broilers before April; after that they should be about a quarter pound heavier.

There is much to be gained in packing. Very often a poor quality will outsell a better lot, simply because the former has been more attractively packed and marketed.

Whitney's Super-Carbonate of Lime. The old reliable insecticide and disinfectant powder. Of special value for use in stable, dog kennels, and poultry houses. No vermin will live where used.

I have used this preparation in my henneries for the past two seasons and find that it fully equals the claims that you make for it. Its free use in the nest boxes obviates almost entirely any necessity for direct application to the fowls, while its use on the platforms completely neutralizes all unpleasant odors. R. H. COWLES, Wallingford, Conn.

Send for Circulars. E. WHITNEY & CO., Natick, Mass.

NO ONE will sell you better **Barred Ply. Rocks** for the money than J. A. YOST, Little Sioux, Iowa. Write wants.

STANDARD

Barred Plymouth Rocks

Bred for utility and brown eggs. Farm raised by hens on grass range. Largest and best stock in N. H. **100 S. C. Brown Leghorn Pullets, \$1 each.** **S. C. Brown Leghorn Cockerels, fine breeders, \$2 each.** F. E. COLBY, Bow Mills, N. H.

G. O. Brown says that in the case of broiler raising, the most prejudiced against pure breeds have to admit that Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes cannot be excelled or even equalled.

After scalded poultry are dressed, plump them by dipping for two or three seconds into very hot water, and then throw into ice cold water, allowing them to remain for a quarter of an hour. Then hang up to dry and cool.

The superiority of pure-bred fowls over common ones, such as are generally found on farms, is very marked regarding table qualities, says the *Baltimore Sun*. Pure-bred fowls, as a rule, possess a plumpness, full round breast and broad back that is quite unknown to ordinary fowls.

F. Greiner, in "Helpful Hen," gives this method for scalding poultry: "Over-scalding loosens the cuticle, therefore we should exercise great care not to keep the birds in hot water for too long a time when scalding them. Have the water at the boiling point, yet not actually boiling. Take the bird by the head and feet and immerse it, lifting up and down in the water three or four times; then hang up by the feet. The head should never be immersed, as it turns the comb pale and gives the eyes a shrunken appearance."

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist*, gives this method of fattening poultry for market: Feed three times a day, a warm breakfast of boiled potatoes, pumpkins or squash, crushed when hot, and thickened with cornmeal. Season with salt and pepper. Make a noon feed of same on alternate days; on the other days give whole corn. At night, whole corn. Keep the coop dark, except when the fowls are eating. Keep a pan of sweet skimmed milk before them; and the floor well bedded. Every third day give cut green bone. This method requires from 9 to 13 days to produce a good, attractive carcass.

H. S. Babcock gives this method: If a number of cockerels are confined in a roomy coop and, except at feeding time, this coop is darkened by hanging over the front of it the ordinary burlap used in coarse sacks, and they are fed all they will eat of cornmeal, with fresh water to drink, they will take on fat rapidly. But if the cornmeal is mixed with about ten per cent in bulk of freshly ground beef scraps, and is moistened with sweet milk, and if the water for drink is removed and sweet milk, sweetened with sugar, is substituted, the fattening process will be hastened. Keep the coops clean; see that the fowls are free from lice; watch the droppings, and if diarrhoea sets in boil the milk, and take away the meat scraps, until the trouble ceases; don't continue this practice longer than three weeks.

EGGS for hatching. Strictly Pure W. Wyandotte and W. P. Rocks. 500 grand birds. Average egg production 200 each per year. \$1 per 13; \$4 per 100. WEEKS & THOMPSON, Peterboro, N. H.

Bone and Grit.

Granulated Bone, 100 pounds, \$1.65. Best Grit cheap. Write for samples and prices in quantities. JONAS CULLAR, East Lewiston, Ohio.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. The general purpose fowl of the day—meat and eggs. **LIGHT BRAHMAS,** "Duke of York" strain. Cockerels of both at low prices, and Brahma pullets to spare at reasonable prices. J. H. FLEMING, Dunellen, N. J.

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 1, 1897, 1st, 3rd, 5th cockerels. 1st, 4th, 5th, pullets.

1st pen on 8 entries Buff Leghorns.

Eggs, \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26.

L. S. BACHE, Box D.,

BOUND BROOK, N. J.

JAMES W. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa. Breeder of sixteen leading varieties of Poultry. Eggs \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 60. Catalogue Free.

FANCIERS' REVIEW, Chatham, N. Y. 50 cents a year, and book, "A B C Poultry Culture," free. **BREEDER'S CARDS** in Review, 40 words, 4 months, \$1; or 30 word card three months and Review 1 year for \$1. Samples of fine printing free.

FOR SALE. 5 Acre Poultry Farm, 50 miles from New York; near Newburgh. Station and P. O. one minute's walk. Good 7-room house, new barn, 2 hen houses, 36 ft. each, with scratching sheds. Excellent water; variety of fruit. \$2,200 cash. Address, C. K. NELSON, Hammoniton, N. J.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Prof. Cushman Gives Hints from the Experience of the Weber Bros.—Excellent Weight of the Hallock Ducklings—Selecting Breeders—Valuable Hints on Care, Feed, etc.

Do not close up the house too tightly in winter. Two weeks time will be sufficient for fattening ducks.

A neglected duck yard will soon equal a filthy hog pen.

The price of duck feathers is less this year than formerly.

It does not pay to pick live ducks, besides it is a cruel practice.

The free-range ducklings makes the most unattractive carcass.

The profitable breeding age of ducks is from one to three years.

Duck raisers do not generally feed much green stuff while fattening.

For breeding, eight pound ducks and eleven or twelve pound drakes, are needed.

During the height of the season, Weber Bros. feed fourteen tons of grain per week.

Wm. H. Truslow says that the feathers from ten ducks are required to make one pound.

The saleable market duck must be fat, plump, and round, and the skin of a uniform color.

Animal food and bulky material like scalded cut clover hay, should be in the daily bill of fare.

A good fattening food is equal parts of bran, cornmeal and middlings, and one-eighth beef scraps.

W. H. Pye dry-picks his ducks. The majority of duck raisers on Long Island use the scalding method.

W. H. Pye, of Long Island, an extensive breeder of ducks for market, estimates his loss this season at 6 per cent.

Ducklings placed in brooders in winter or early spring, should not be allowed outdoors before they are a month old.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., yard 100 ducks and 20 to 30 drakes in a flock. Each pen is 15x30 feet, with half acre run outside.

McFetridge says it will pay to dry-pick, as scalded stock cannot be held, which means a great deal when the market is overstocked.

It is estimated that this year the feathers on a duck were worth but 3 1-2 cents; formerly they averaged five cents per carcass, enough to pay for the picking.

Last season, the Weber Bros., from 500 breeders, and eighteen incubators, hatched 21,000 ducklings, of which they marketed 19,000, securing between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

In 1890, from 40 breeding ducks, the Weber Bros., of Massachusetts, hatched 3,000 ducklings, and by doing the work themselves cleared \$1,800 that season.

Prof. Cushman, in writing about Weber Bros.' plant, give these market prices: April, 37 cents per pound; May, 22 cents; June, 16 cents; August to November 1st, 13 cents.

Ducklings should be started in the brooder at a temperature of about 100 degrees, and gradually reduced in about four days to 80 degrees. Sixty degrees will be warm enough at two weeks of age.

Prof. Cushman says duck raising was carried on on Long Island before Mr. Rankin's product was put on the New York market, but Mr. Rankin's incubators enabled him to get ahead of the Long Islanders.

"Ducks love to be out in a rain storm," writes W. R. Curtiss & Co., "and we think there is nothing that will help increase egg production like a good, heavy rain storm, in which they can play and puddle to their heart's content."

Weber Bros. teach their ducklings to eat by dipping their bills in a pail of water, and then place them on a feed board covered with bread crumbs. When the beak touches the board, some of the dry food sticks to it, is tasted, and immediately they search for more.

If H. W., Atlantic, Mass., will stop feeding cracked corn and barley, and will make his mash of bran, meal and ground oats, equal parts by weight, and not measurement, he will have less trouble with leg weakness in his ducks. Besides the above mixture he should feed scalded cut clover hay, which can be made part of the mash.

Curtiss & Co., in *American Poultry Advocate*, say they pick their breeding ducks from the April and May hatches, at ten weeks of age, using those that are long and deep in keel, flat on back, not too large on head, and a bright sharp eye. Those that sag or hang too close to the ground should not be taken.

According to Prof. Cushman, in *Country Gentleman*, Weber Bros. give these reasons for their success: "Do not breed in-and-in, or raise breeding stock from anything younger than yearlings. Do not fail to give your young birds, to be used for breeders, more growing food, and more freedom, than you give the ducks that are fatted and killed. Mate up before November 1, and be sure to feed plenty of cooked vegetables and green food, as well as the right grain, if you want the eggs to be fertilized early in the winter.

The following weights of ducklings from the shell to market, were gathered by A. J. Hallock, of the Atlantic Farm, Speonk, L. I. Mr. Hallock has a camera and made the photos himself, which he showed to the editor of *A FEW HENS*, while on a recent visit to the farm:

Half out the shell, weight 2-3-4 ounces.
All out the shell, weight 2 1-4 ounces.
One week old, weight 3 ounces.
Two weeks old, weight 5 1-2 ounces.
Three weeks old, weight 7 1-2 ounces.
Four weeks old, 1 pound, 3 ounces.
Five weeks old, 2 pounds, 6 ounces.
Six weeks old, 3 pounds, 12 ounces.
Seven weeks old, 4 pounds, 12 ounces.
Eight weeks old, 6 pounds, 2 ounces.
Nine weeks old, 7 pounds, 4 ounces.
Ten weeks old, 8 pounds.
Eleven weeks old, 9 pounds, 3 ounces.

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

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

500 MAMMOTH PEKIN DUCKS.

200 LIGHT BRAHMA COCKERELS and PULLETS, only \$1.00 each.

100 W. HOLLAND TURKEYS, \$2.50 each; \$7.00 trio. Order now, this may not be seen again. Satisfaction guaranteed.

CUT CLOVER HAY ready for use, \$1.25 per 100.

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



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JOHNSON & STOKES,
SEEDSMEN.
217 & 219 MARKET ST.,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Geese for Profit

Valuable Pointers on Picking Live Geese—Description of the Embden Gander.

The Embdens excel in the value of their feather crop.

Never pick geese when they will be exposed to cold weather.

It will require about four geese to make a pound of feathers.

The time to pick is when the quill of the feather is ripe or clear.

Pick the geese in a closed room, as the least wind will scatter the down and feathers.

After being picked, it will take six weeks for the geese to grow and ripen a new crop of feathers.

The Jews are good patrons in the goose market. They buy up flocks of geese every winter for their oil.

While the feathers are developing, the quill is filled with bloody matter, which is an evidence that it is not ripe.

The cross of African and Toulouse geese will produce larger offspring than either of the breeds in their purity.

A pair of Toulouse geese, says the *Fanciers' Review*, will turn off about two dollars worth of feathers in a year, which more than balances this feed.

The Embden gander should have a long, swan-like neck; long, straight head; deep, orange bill; and light blue eyes. His breast should be full and broad, without any keel; shoulders very broad; back long and straight; paunch deep and broad; and legs very strong.

"Great laying in geese is not to my mind any recommendation," says an old breeder, in *American Stock-Keeper*. "I prefer a goose that will lay a good sitting—say from 12 to 15 eggs—and then sit down and hatch them and bring off her flocks to the fields as soon as they can be trusted to ramble far from home."

The *Fanciers' Review* gives this method for picking live geese: Having taken up your bird, draw a long bag or stocking over its head and down on its neck, as it will prevent it wreaking its vengeance on you by its merciless biting. The wings are also formidable weapons and must be held or their blows will leave many black and blue marks as evidence of their power. When picking, take all the small feathers, leaving the large ones, except four or five under each wing, which prevents them from drooping; take off all the down only in warm weather.

Madison Square Winners.

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

THE EGG SECRET

is in the feeding. Our poultry literature, which we send free, to all poultry keepers, tells the secret of profitable feeding.

ADDRESS
FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,
Bay City, Mich.

We have some good

Pekin Drakes

(no ducks) for sale, and we are offering them at \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 each. It makes no difference which price you pay you will get your moneys worth. If after receiving them you think differently, we will buy them back again.

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

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

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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.

The first two issues of A FEW HENS are entirely exhausted. We kept back of each number what we thought would be sufficient to supply the demand for them, but every new subscriber, it seemed, wanted a complete file. It was not the intention of the publishers to reprint any of the numbers now out of print, but the call for them has been so great, that at an early date we will print a second edition of each. Due notice will be made when they are ready, so that all who desire copies to complete their files can get them.

Here is a sample of the letters received asking for the missing issues:

"Am very much pleased with your little paper. I subscribed at your Boston office, as soon as I saw the paper. I have all the copies but the first, and cannot get that anywhere. Would gladly give twenty-five cents for it, so as to have all of the volume. Can you tell me where I can get one?"—H. P. Earnshaw, Massachusetts.

Another gentleman asked us to loan him the first two issues from our files, so that he could make a memorandum of the valuable pointers in those issues, and he would return them in good condition.

We are indeed proud of all this evidence of appreciation. We want to make each number so valuable that no one can afford to miss it.

Another evidence of the interest taken in our paper is the fact that if by some accident, or a miscarriage of the mails, an issue fails to reach the subscriber, at once we are notified, and in nearly every case they offer to pay extra for the missing number. We are always glad to be informed when the paper fails to reach the subscriber, as we want them to get all they have paid for.

Again we want to call the attention of advertisers to the fact that the next issue of A FEW HENS will have 30,000 circulation. It pays to advertise in our paper for several reasons: First, our large circulation; second, the fact that the advertisements are never hidden, as they are placed on pages with pure reading matter; third, that as each issue is carefully preserved, the advertisement is always fresh to the reader. Our readers will order goods as they need them, and having a complete file of the paper, they can soon look up the advertisement of what they are in need.

We hope our readers, in answering advertisements that appear in this paper, will state that they "saw the advertisement in A FEW HENS." This costs them nothing, but it does us a lot of good. Advertisers want to know from what source they get the most returns, and if it can be shown that A FEW HENS did it, we will keep their trade. Reader, will you do us that favor?

It is wonderful how rapidly the books of the series of "Poultryman's Library" are selling. We printed, originally, 11,600 copies of the book "A Living from Poultry," and the edition is now exhausted. The second edition is, at this writing, on press, and will be ready for delivery about the time the reader will see this. The second edition of the book "Profitable Poultry Farming" is also about run out, and a third edition will shortly follow. "Broilers for Profit" and "Farm-Poultry Doctor" are also meeting with heavy sales, and a second edition of the broiler book is being considered. This shows that the books in the "Poultryman's Library" meet the wants of beginners, which many other works, unfortunately, it seems do not. Being written in a plain, practical style, showing just what steps to take to meet with success, is what has made them so wonderfully popular. A new book, by the editor of A FEW HENS, is now being prepared, which will take up the subject of chicken raising by the natural method, and also how to treat the different ailments of chicks. After completed, we shall give a full explanation of the work in these columns.

Goodness, how the compliments are rolling in. Every mail is bringing them. We have room for but a few this issue. We wish we had the time to personally write a letter of thanks to these gratified readers of A FEW HENS, but we have not. They will please understand by this that such kind expressions spur us on to better efforts.

W. B. German, in *Practical Poultryman*, endorses A FEW HENS' editorial system in these pointed brevities: "Much in little counts;" "Long-winded, drawn out articles are being relegated to the back seat;" Long articles must be extraordinary good to be read and appreciated." We endorse it all, and the way our subscribers praise our work is proof that the brevity plan is a "go."

Mrs. C. E. Brown, Massachusetts, writes: "We are still conducting a small experimental station under the tutorship of A FEW HENS, and find a great deal of pleasure, to say nothing of profit. After being thoroughly perused, A FEW HENS finds a nest in a choice corner for a resting place, awaiting future reference."

W. D. McNaughton, Pennsylvania, says A FEW HENS "is a great little paper, and I want to follow your two acre experiment right through."

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Montgomery Co., Pa., breeder of White and Silver Wyandottes, writes that A FEW HENS "is a winner." Mr. Child is a regular advertiser with us, and knows whereof he speaks. Furthermore, being an ex-publisher (President of the *Fanciers' Journal* Company, Philadelphia, which magazine flourished some years ago), his opinion is certainly of value.

Lorenzo J. Dame, Washington, says A FEW HENS is a valuable acquisition to his library.

J. R. Laubach, Pennsylvania, writes: "A FEW HENS is one of the best poultry papers I ever came across—all kernal and no shell."

W. L. Armour, Florida, says he considers he is getting excellent value for the money invested in A FEW HENS.

Editor Atherton, of the *American Stock-Keeper*, diagnoses our case exactly. He says in a late

issue: "'Uncle Mike' is doing well with A FEW HENS. He gives us the meat of the coconut and throws away the shell."

T. H. Weber, Ohio, says: "I like your paper very much. I am just starting in the business, and A FEW HENS fits my case admirably."

Emory E. Banks, Crittenden, N. Y., a prominent poultry writer, sends this encouragement: "I write this to congratulate you on your success with your little giant paper, A FEW HENS. The poultryman does not have to go to the Klondike when he can find such a mine of information, and it is all 'gold,' too—no dirt to wash out. Long live A FEW HENS."

"Mr. John Hunter, of Philadelphia, voices my opinion of your paper exactly, in the November issue, page 36," writes W. A. Jurgens, New York.

Louis R. Bristol, New York, says A FEW HENS is just the kind of poultry paper we need.

E. C. Hanford, New Jersey, writes: "Your A FEW HENS is just the thing for a busy man—short, sweet and to the point."

Wisconsin Poultry Yards, Waukesha, write: "We had contemplated publishing for our trade, a poultry catalogue, and devote some space to suggestions regarding remedies and advice on care, etc. But in looking it over, have concluded it would be almost a reprint of your superior paper A FEW HENS. Each number is so comprehensive, that we wonder where you will find material for its successor, but monthly improvement is evident."

Homer Simmons, West Virginia, writes: "A FEW HENS is surely the multum in parvo of poultry literature."

C. R. Russell, Waterbury, Conn., writes: "One of my customers, a subscriber to A FEW HENS, was intending to fill up his chicken coop with sawdust or fine chips. He picked up A FEW HENS, and the enclosed clipping (never place sawdust on the poultry house floor. Soft feed is apt to adhere to it, and if eaten will often cause crop bound) was the first thing that met his eye. His idea now is: 'If I do not get another copy of A FEW HENS, I am more than paid for my subscription.' Nuff ced."

That's of the right ring. A FEW HENS not only wants to help people out of difficulty, but it also aims to keep them out of it. The above is a case in point.

Is it not a fact that the editors of poultry papers, who have a practical knowledge of the work, are the very ones who encourage the utility qualities? Is it not a fact that the very best poultrymen of today stand up for utility before fancy? Take for instance, J. H. Drevenstedt, the editor of *American Fancier*, not only one of the best judges in the country, but also an editor of a journal devoted exclusively to the fancy, who says the utility points must not be sacrificed. Mr. Drevenstedt, at one time was the proprietor of one of the most successful poultry farms in Orange County, N. Y., and knows whereof he speaks. B. Holmes, editor of the *Poultry Monthly*, likewise takes the same stand—and it must not be forgotten that Mr. Holmes was at one time a successful egg farmer. And so we might mention the editors of all the leading poultry publications. We could also cite such men as Judges G. O. Brown, I. K. Felch, H. S. Babcock, and others—men wedded to the fancy, but not so narrow-minded that they will not stand up for utility.

And yet in the light of all these witnesses, does it not seem ridiculous that Mr. Howard, of the *Feather*, should come out and call these utility men "bumptious individuals," who have never given any indication that they could keep a poultry farm running two years without an in-

come from some other source." Why, bless you, Mr. Howard, those are the very men who do keep poultry yards running. How many fanciers are there who devote all their time to fancy farming? Has Mr. Howard "ever given any indication that he could keep a poultry farm running two years without an income from some other source"?

Ask James Rankin, ask Prof. Samuel Cushman, ask C. H. Wyckoff, ask A. J. Hallock, ask D. A. Mount, ask Geo. H. Pollard, ask Geo. G. Harley, manager of Long View Poultry Yards, Washington, ask Arthur Duston, ask Chas. F. Newman—ask any man who is striving to supply the egg and meat market, if that Standard has not, in more ways than one, crippled many breeds. These "bumptious individuals" do not want to overthrow the Standard, but they do want clauses put in the law that will enable them to breed to it without sacrificing their chances at big egg records, attractive carcasses and strong constitutions.

Go a step farther, Mr. Howard. Knock at the doors of the State Experimental Stations, knock at the door of the United States Agricultural Department, and ask if they want fowls strictly bred, as they often are, to a standard that makes them practically useless,—or if they want a cut made here, and a cut made there, to let in a clause or two that will fit them better for egg production, that will give them finer bodies and more meat upon them, that will give us healthier stock. We fancy we can see the editor of the *Feather* looking sad as he adjusts his glasses, and receives the verdict.

Fanciers are to be praised for giving us good breeds. They are to be honored for keeping up the breeds. They are not to be blamed for sticking to the standard, for that is their law. But the law makers are the ones who are appealed to. And while the utility men have stepped forward and asked for a more liberal law, one that would enable them to breed to it without sacrificing any of the qualifications which means bread and butter to them, the sprightly little editor of the *Feather* steps forward and calls them "bumptious individuals."

A FEW HENS is pained to announce the death of Florence, wife of Andrus E. Holman, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, N. J. Mrs. Holman had been an invalid for more than a year, and yet in all her trials she bore up with that Christian fortitude characteristic of her whole life. She always spoke of the time when she would be well, never expecting that her young life (she was but 26 years old) would so soon be ended. Mr. Holman, her husband, was, until lately, engaged in broiler raising in Hammonton, conducting the plant that belonged to his father-in-law, Mr. Jacobs. The sympathies of A FEW HENS are with the husband, father and family, and a large circle of friends mourn the loss of one of the most prominent and much-esteemed ladies in the town in which she was born, raised and always lived.

Turkey Culture.

Selecting Breeders—Danger of Too Much Corn—Maryland and Philadelphia Turkeys Bring Best Prices—Experiment in Fattening.

Do not inbreed.

Inbreeding is the greatest evil.

Do the turkeys come home to roost?

You cannot raise turkeys in limited runs.

Turkeys are profitable up to the fifth year.

R. W. Davidson says there is more money in turkeys than in chickens.

The critical period in the young turkey is generally over at six weeks of age.

Inbreeding, lice, dampness and improper food are causes of the great mortality in turkeys.

Too much corn and too little water, says a turkey grower in Iowa *Homestead*, is the cause of much loss.

Inbreeding degenerates the stock, says R. W. Davison, in *American Agriculturist*, and then lice usually puts a stop to all further development.

Never breed from the same gobbler more than one year, unless the same breeding hens are also retained for another season, says the *American Agriculturist*.

The *Gentleman Farmer* says: "An opportunity is open in the west for breeders of really fine turkeys, ducks and geese. At the present time there is a lack of really fine birds of these classes west of the Alleghenies."

Maryland and Philadelphia dry-picked turkeys, says the *New York Produce Review*, command the highest market prices, not only for the reason that the turkeys are fat and usually of a fine grade, but that they are well bled in killing, which naturally gives the skin a bleached white appearance.

"The average turkeys sold in the cities of the west," says the *Gentleman Farmer*, "would not be accepted in New York or Boston, and consumers who have been accustomed to these scrawny birds need only to be shown some that are up to grade, to be induced to discard the poorer for the better qualities."

In selecting Bronze turkeys for breeding, says *Rural World*, remember the body should be long, and deepest at the center, with a full breast, broad back, strong thighs, and shanks of moderate length. In young birds the shanks are a dead black, but they grow lighter with age, until they finally become of a pink or flesh color.

At fattening time the breeding turkeys should receive less food than those that are to be slaughtered, said Samuel Cushman, at the

New York Farmers' Institute. They should be kept in good condition but not fattened. Feed them very lightly toward spring, lest they become too fat to lay well or to produce strong stock. Give less corn and more oats, wheat and clover.

Mrs. G. H. Watson, in Iowa *Homestead*, says: If a turkey is fed all the shelled corn he can possibly stuff himself with, he gets lazy and quarrelsome, crushing and tearing the life out of everything smaller and weaker than himself, that is not active enough to keep out of his way. Even the mother hen will kill the nearly grown youngster that she has fought so hard to protect and rear, if it gets sick or crippled.

The fact that turkeys are difficult to raise makes it all the more desirable that when brought to maturity they should be of the best, says the *Gentleman Farmer*. This can be assured by breeding and feeding, but never by the hit-and-miss methods in vogue by the ordinary breeder. Breed from the roundest birds; do not expect to get good market stock from long, lean progenitors. Gradually get your flock into square, merchantable shape, on which every ounce of fat will show to advantage, and make good eating.

The editor of the *Poultry Chum*, who is also an extensive turkey grower, made the experiment of placing four birds in a pen and feeding meal, boiled potatoes and oats. Four other turkeys of the same brood were at the same time confined in another pen and fed the same diet, but with the addition of a pint of very finely pulverized charcoal mixed with their food. They had also a plentiful supply of broken charcoal in their pen. The eight were killed the same day, and there was a difference of one and a half pounds each, in favor of the fowls which had been supplied with charcoal, they being much the fattest, and the meat being superior in point of tenderness and flavor.



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**Poultry
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Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Alum for Canker—New Lice Remedy—Carbolated Kerosene Emulsion—Chicken Pox, Bronchitis, Diarrhœa and Roup.

Busy fowls are always healthy.

The comb is a health indicator.

Disinfect at least once a week.

The lazy hen is never a well one.

Are the droppings in good condition?

Chicken-pox rarely attacks full grown birds.

An ointment made of sulphur and vaseline, is recommended for scaly legs in fowls.

Rusty iron in the drinking water is old-fashioned advice, but it makes a good tonic, nevertheless.

F. S., Odanah, Wis.: Sore eyes and swollen head, are forerunners of roup, caused by a cold settling in the head.

The diarrhœa which H. W.'s (Atlantic, Mass.) chicks have, may be caused by a chill, or lack of grit, or feeding boiled eggs.

Roupy chicks, of a rousy parentage, are a menace to successful poultry keeping, truthfully says F. W. Proctor, in *Rural New-Yorker*.

H. B. Geer, in *Texas Farm and Ranch*, says an ointment made of two parts lard and one part kerosene, is the best remedy for sore head or chicken-pox.

"I have never seen a case of cholera where the fowls had pure clean water, good sound food, and plenty of grit," writes J. E. Stevenson, in *Rural New-Yorker*.

In chicken-pox the head, face, and underside of the wing show sores or ulcers. Extension of the inflammation to the eyes, says Dr. Sauborn, may result in the loss of one or both of them.

A decrease in the proportion of corn, and an increase in the proportion of meat food, in the daily ration, is held by some to be highly beneficial in warding off roup, says the Agricultural Department Bulletin.

J. L. Campbell, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says the only way by which it is possible ever to thoroughly eradicate roup, is never, under any circumstances, to hatch or raise chicks from stock that ever had a trace of it.

When a hen is found showing symptoms of difficult breathing, the sides of the face appear to bulge out with each breath; another may show signs of recently contracted cold. Give such hens a two-grain quinine pill.

A correspondent in *Farm and Fireside*, says he has tried alum water with success for canker in fowls. He puts alum in the water, also in the dough. If the fowl is too ill to eat or drink, he takes a spoon and pours some down its throat.

For chicken-pox, C. H. S., Medford, N. J., will find this treatment effective: Apply carbolated vaseline to the ulcers twice a day. Avoid damp houses and exposure to rains. Feed mash composed of ground grain, meat scraps, cooked clover hay and boiling hot milk. Feed when lukewarm.

The Baltimore *Sun* recommends the following when the droppings are not in normal condition: Give the fowl a teaspoonful of soda water (bicarbonate.) Use three heaping teaspoonfuls of soda to a pint of water. Follow with a one or two grain quinine pill, which should be given at night.

The Arkansas station recommends the following for lice on fowls: One and a half gallons kerosene are soaked through two and a half pounds of Persian insect powder, forming a yellow, oily extract. Dissolve one pound of soap in one gallon of the extract, and churn until thoroughly emulsified. When using, mix one pint of this emulsion with four pints of water, and sprinkle about the house.

F. B., Oak Hill, New Jersey, will find a good treatment for bronchitis in the following: Remove the bird to a dry place, and add Sheridan's Condition Powder to the mash. Slightly acidulate the drinking water with ten drops each of sulphuric and nitric acid. Two or three drops of Johnson's Anodyne Linctum in a teaspoonful of glycerine will be found useful in allaying the irritant symptoms.

Lorenzo J. Dame, Walla Walla, Wash., sent A FEW HENS the following recipe for Carbolated Kerosene Emulsion, which he says not only kills vermin, but also imparts an odor to the hen house which has cured many cases of bad cold and discharges of mucous substance from the nostrils: Half pound ordinary laundry soap; one gallon water; one quart kerosene oil; four ounces crude carbolic acid. Cut the soap in small pieces, and drop into the water and boil. When it comes to a boil, remove from the fire and add the kerosene. Shake or stir the mixture until nearly cool. Put away in a well covered vessel until wanted, at which time add about 12 to 14 quarts of hot water and the carbolic acid, and mix well. Mr. Dame sprays his hen house once a week, and is never troubled with lousy hens.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Matters of Fact That are Worth Remembering—How Mistakes are Made, and Practical Hints on Successful Work.

Watch the regulator.

No machine will teach the novice.

Uniformity of eggs give best results.

Do not expose the incubator to sunlight.

Do not allow tampering with the machines.

The fresher the egg the better the hatch.

Be regular in your duties to your machines.

Never use the full capacity of the brooder.

Pure air is necessary in the incubator room.

White-shelled eggs hatch easier than brown-shelled ones.

Do not jeopardize the hatch to satisfy visitors' curiosity.

Never have a mixture of sizes of eggs in the egg chamber.

The chicks themselves are the best thermometers in the brooders.

Three 200-egg capacity incubators are better than two 300-egg size.

Take notes as the hatch progresses; it will save a repetition of mistakes.

Before you condemn the machine see that you thoroughly understand it.

For practical work, nothing less than a 100-egg size machine should be used.

Lamp trips are good so long as they work, but they very easily get out of order.

The incubator cannot hatch better than the hen, but she does more wholesale work.

It is possible to have a successful incubator and nursery combined, but never an incubator and brooder.

It is not always safe to take incubators on trial. There is apt to be a string attached to the bargain.

Nurseries are useful for the first ten days of the chicks' life, but after that the chicks will pine for fresh air and exercise.

A. D. L., Danvers, Mass., can use a board floor in his brooding house, if he keeps the boards covered with several inches of loose dirt.

While all good machines will hatch hen, duck, turkey, geese or ostrich eggs, no machine will successfully hatch more than one variety at a time.

The Des Moines Incubator Company advise testing the eggs for the first time on the seventh day. That has always been our plan, as it completes the first week of incubation, and the germ is more plainly seen.

Incubator manufacturers should always answer inquiries from their patrons faithfully and plainly. A refusal to do so is poor business policy. We have some complaints in this direction that we are investigating.

In reply to Y. O. V., Saratoga, N. Y.: Chicks three weeks of age should have a heat of about 90 degrees. The loft of a barn would not do to raise chicks, as they must have an outside run during nice weather.

We believe Y. O. V.'s chicks are suffering from indigestion. Chicks fed a tablespoonful of charcoal, and about two tablespoonfuls of coarse sand to each quart of soft food, seldom have indigestion. Onions chopped fine, should also be fed twice a week.



MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY FOR POULTRY. Its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments.

MANN'S GREEN CUTTERS

and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

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

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



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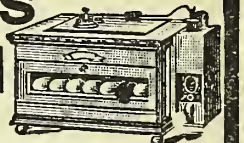
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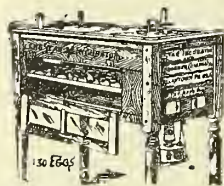
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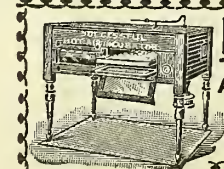
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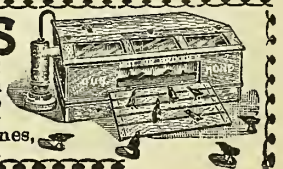
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Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Egg Foods—Valuable Table—Hints from the Experience of Practical Poultrymen.

Wheat screenings make costly food.

Meat should be cut fine for feeding.

O. W. Mapes, says too much wheat or bran is worse than too much corn.

The *Epitomist* thinks clover hay is far more important than vegetables.

Gluten, beef scraps and bran, will largely take the place of wheat, says Prof. Cushman.

Now that clover hay is ground into a meal, growers of alfalfa should try the same process.

Warm food in winter is a necessity for all classes of laying fowls, says the *Gentleman Farmer*.

Sunflower and other oily seeds, and a little oil meal daily, are recommended while fattening birds for market.

Whole corn is not the best feed for egg-production. Almost any other grain is better, except rye, says the *American Stock-Keeper*.

Here is an egg food, according to the *Epitomist*: Cut clover hay, 4 qts.; finely ground oats, 2 qts.; bran, 1 qt.; middlings, 1 qt.; ground meat, 1 to 1-2 qts.

Clover hay takes the place of green food during winter, and cut green boue is an excellent substitute for insects and worms found in a range during the summer.

Too much meat and bone produces laxity of the bowels, impairs the indigestive organs, and soft-shelled-eggs, thin-shelled eggs, and infertile eggs result, says H. S. Burdick, in *Rural New-Yorker*.

In the *Farmers' Bulletin*, No. 41, United States Department of Agriculture, Mr. Watson says: "When comfortable quarters are provided the fowls, the nutritive ratio of the food should be about 1:4; that is, 1 part protein, or muscle producing compounds, to 4 parts of carbohydrates, or heat and fat-producing compounds.

"It may be possible to raise fowls for market on a large scale, and buy all the feed, but we have no money to risk on such an enterprise," says the poultry editor of *Texas Farm and Ranch*. If the gentleman will come north on a visit, we will show him the "possibility." None of the large market poultry farms here raise their own feed.

SKUNK. I buy all kinds of FURS. Write for prices. J. J. GLEED, dealer in Raw Furs and Ginseng, East Aurora, N. Y.

Largest Supply House in America



SEND FOR 1897 CATALOGUE—FREE. Reference—A FEW HENS.

J. R. Laubach, Pennsylvania, sends A FEW HENS the following valuable table of feed stuffs, with market quotations:

Grain, etc.	Percent. of Digestible matter.			Water and Waste.	Nutritive Ratio.	Price of Grain.
	Protein.	Carbo-hydrates and Fat.	Total.			
Corn,	6.3	74.9	81.2	18.8	1:11.9	30 cts. per bushel.
Oats,	9.2	53.2	62.4	37.6	1:5.8	25 cts. per bushel.
Buckwheat,	7.8	54.8	62.6	37.4	1:7.0	50 cts. per bushel.
Wheat,	7.1	70.5	77.6	22.4	1:9.9	\$1.00 per bushel.
Rye,	6.4	70.3	76.7	23.3	1:11.0	40 cts. per bushel.
Bran,	12.0	45.4	57.4	42.6	1:3.8	75 cts. per 100 lbs.
Middlings,	12.8	60.9	73.7	26.3	1:4.8	85 cts. per 100 lbs.
Gluten Meal,	27.7	56.9	84.6	15.4	1:2.1	80 cts. per 100 lbs.
Linseed "	29.3	48.5	77.8	22.2	1:1.7	\$1.25 per 100 lbs.

Notes in Passing.

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

Utility men:

"Bumptious Individuals"—(*ala Feather*.)

"Small coterie of croakers"—(*ala Reliable Poultry Journal*.)

Success depends upon the quality and quantity of brain work put in the enterprise.

The latest break of the polished poultry writer, is to advocate egg shells for grit.

F. E. H., Iilon, N. Y., will find the flavor of Guinea meat very much like that of the wild fowl.

"Show condition and business capacity with a flock are quite different things," says Judge G. O. Brown.

"No industry offers such a chance to realize on capital invested as does poultry," writes Dr. G. M. Twitchell.

A good nesting material is a mixture of straw and tobacco stems, cut in lengths of two or three inches.

Monroe Jones, in *Poultry Topics*, says no matter what breed you keep, your best fowls will be the most quarrelsome.

A. W. R., Maryland, will be unable to run an exclusive poultry farm with only six hours' daily attention. It means from early morning until late at night.

The poultry farmer who does not read and study at the outset, and observe carefully, and note well his experience, is likely to end in disaster, says the *Gentleman Farmer*.

"When fed judiciously with a properly balanced ration," says B. S. Smith, in *Rural New-Yorker*, "the Light Brahmas will keep on laying and only 'go dry' long enough to moult and raise a clutch of healthy chicks."

It is said that Belgium imports 100 million eggs annually for her own use. Of this amount Italy furnishes between 63 and 76 million; Germany 12 to 18 million; and France the remainder. Eggs are sold by weight in Belgium.

We do not know how R. J. H., Atlantic, Mass., can prevent his hens from scratching the hay from their nests. Probably by using cut straw (two or three inches long,) and have the nests somewhat darkened, the habit may be stopped.

Don't overcrowd, says the *Wisconsin Farmer*, Practical experience has taught the fact that to have hardy stock, good layers, and birds that will not pull feathers or eat eggs, you must give ample "elbow room" to each hen or chick quartered.

Speaking of the Leghorn's flying powers, E. O. Roessle, in the *Country Gentleman*, said: "An 11-foot fence seems play for them to fly over; in fact, I do not think a 50-foot fence would be too high, if a Leghorn hen made up her mind to go over it."

"Breeding to feather requires careful study, and how far inbreeding can be carried on without detriment to the practical qualities, is a hard question to answer," admits Editor Atherton, of the *American Stock-Keeper*. Mr. Atherton is also a prominent poultry judge.

The Standard calls for yellow legs in Barded Plymouth Rocks, but in females it may shade to light straw color. W. A. R., Ephrata, Pa., will, however, find the "greenish tint," as he calls it, in the front of the legs of many Plymouth Rock pullets, which are strictly pure-bred. It is no positive proof of impurity.

A. S. B., Ayers Village, Mass., writes that he built two 4 x 4 foot houses, same as we illustrated in December number, but he put a four-light 7x9 sash, partly up in the gable end, instead of low down, as we have it. He built them from thin packing boxes, and covered with Swan's extra heavy felt, which he painted.



Pioneer Clover Meal is pure clover hay, ground fine by a new process. We use nothing but pure clover, which is the greatest known egg maker. By the use of our meal, hens will lay all winter. It is not cut clover; there is no waste in its use. Send for free sample and book, giving the endorsements of all the leading poultry editors. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25 cts., in sacks. Ask your dealer for it.

The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y.

OUR WARRANT

calls for the hatching of 80 per cent. of the fresh fertile eggs that are placed in our **RELIABLE INCUBATOR**



when the instructions are followed as laid down. You will understand how it is possible for us to make such an unparalleled guarantee, when you read our Poultry Guide

and Combined Incubator and Brooder Catalogue. A book that contains an immense amount of poultry lore, and of great value to every poultry fancier. Sent for 10c. **Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., QUINCY, ILLINOIS.**

WHITE AND SILVER WYANDOTTE EGGS.

\$2.00 FOR 13. WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

People We Know.

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

- The new title page of the *Fanciers' Monthly* is up to date.
- W. J. Darrow, publisher, Chatham, N. Y., is selling 25 cent books for only two dimes.
- The new advertisements of the Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., are handsome.
- The *Western Garden and Poultry Journal*, Des Moines, Iowa, is one of the handsomest of our exchanges.
- The Palace Incubator Co., Merriam Park, Minn., are offering a new machine elsewhere in A FEW HENS.
- F. E. Woods, Natick, Mass., is advertising a 210-egg strain of White Wyandottes—and he's got 'em, too.
- The *Poultry News*, Ayr, Ontario, Canada, devotes a full page to advertising the value of the "Poultryman's Library."
- The Prairie State Incubator Company have invented a new thermometer which cannot be turned over in the incubator.
- Emory E. Banks, proprietor of the American Poultry Supply Agency, Crittenden, N. Y., will issue the "Feathered Advertiser" this month.
- J. L. Campbell, West Elizabeth, Pa., one of the best experts on artificial incubation, has invented a new machine called the "Combination."
- The colored plate of Buff Cochins, in the January *Reliable Poultry Journal*, is by all odds the finest piece of work in that line we have ever seen.
- Chas. K. Nelson, Hamonton, N. J., wants to sell his New York poultry farm. It is a model, and those interested should look up the advertisement.
- Farm-Poultry* has started a Practical Experiment Club, and offers cash prizes for best egg record. An excellent idea, and one which should meet with success.
- E. A. Ericson Printing Co., Kennedy, N. Y., are about issuing a vest pocket edition of a valuable guide and treatise on how to obtain big profits in poultry and pet stock.
- "Out of 80 Brahma eggs set in an incubator, 72 hatched. I attribute this fertility of eggs to the use of the H-O Co.'s Poultry Feeds," writes H. M. Robinson, Danbury, Conn.
- Our new poultry houses have been lined with Cabot's Insulating Quilt, manufactured by Samuel Cabot, 70 Kilby street, Boston, Mass. We will tell you all about it next issue.
- The December number of the *Western Poultry Journal*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is out in a gorgeous holiday garb. It is one of the prettiest and best edited journals on our list.
- The *Southern Fancier*, Atlanta, Ga., promises great attractions for 1898. Editor Downs is one of those fellows who don't do much blowing. He lets his work win on its own merits.
- The Evans Manufacturing Co., Ypsilanti, Mich., are offering to poultrymen an excellent vegetable and root cutter. We expect shortly to put one in use on the experimental farm of A FEW HENS.
- Johnson & Stokes, 217 and 219 Market St., Philadelphia, Pa., are extensive poultry supply dealers and breeders of poultry, Scotch Collie dogs, pigs and sheep. They are perfectly reliable.
- The Harvey Seed Co., 65 to 69 Ellicott St., Buffalo, N. Y., have just issued a 48-page catalogue of pigeon and poultry supplies, which should be in the hands of all poultrymen. This is a reliable firm who handle none but the best goods.
- The *Fanciers' Monthly*, San Jose, Calif., begins its eighth volume with the December number. Editor Harker is a New Yorker, at one time editing the *Poultry Bulletin*. Harker's *Monthly* is one of the best edited and most valuable exchanges we receive.
- The Bowker Company, 43 Chatham St., Boston, Mass., manufacturers of Animal Meal, have just issued a handsome calendar, representing a girl two feet high, holding a hat full of chicks. It is made to hang up on the wall, or stand upon a table. It is the prettiest calendar we have seen this season.

The Christmas number of *Agricultural Advertising*—that sprightly publication of Frank B. White Company, 1706 Fisher Building, Chicago, Illinois—certainly has the stamp of prosperity upon it. There is no publication in the country that does more good work among agricultural publishers and advertisers than this enterprising journal.

We want to call attention to the Super-Carbolate of Lime, advertised in this issue, by E. Whitney & Co., Natick, Mass. Without a doubt this is one of the best insecticides on the market. At the same time it is a valuable disinfectant. It is used extensively upon the experimental farm of A FEW HENS.

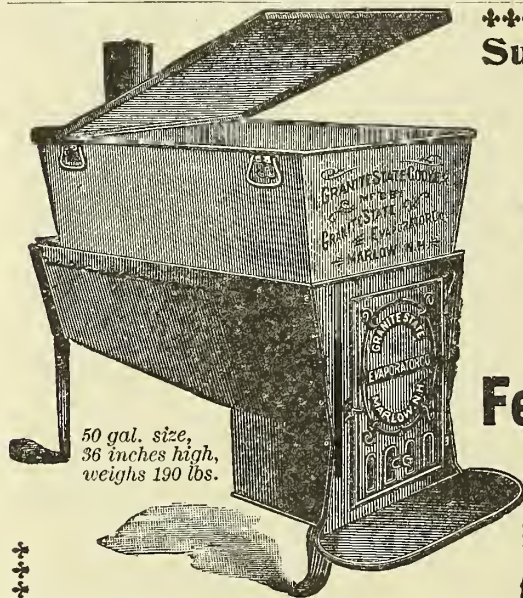
Attention has been called to the advertisement of the Granite State Evaporator Co., New York City, in this issue. They are making a feed cooker that commends itself to all poultrymen. A test of this cooker will be made on the experimental farm of A FEW HENS, and a full description and report will shortly be given in these columns.

The *American Poultry Journal*, Chicago, begins Vol. 29 with a 52-page holiday number. A new title page, a very pretty affair, at once draws attention to the magazine, which, upon examination, proves to be one of the neatest and best gotten up poultry issues of the season. A FEW HENS is pleased to note the success of this worthy enterprise.

The first issue of the *Poultry Farmer*, Des Moines, Iowa, has been received. It is a large 16 page, 64 column, monthly, devoted entirely to practical poultry culture. It makes an excellent start, and practically endorses the policy of A FEW HENS in leaving the fancy to those journals devoted to it, and clinging to that portion of poultry culture which means a supply of the meat and egg crop. The *Poultry Farmer*, and A FEW HENS, are now the only two journals devoted *exclusively* to the utility question.

WAYSIDE HOME POULTRY YARDS.
Eggs, first; points, second; stock, thoroughbred. You can improve the laying qualities of your hens by heading your pens with males of Bassler's strain of "big layers." Barred Plymouth Rocks, Golden Wyandottes, Single Comb Brown, Buff and White Leghorns for sale. Price, \$2.00 to \$3.00. A trio of Choice Light Brahmas for \$10.00.
W. E. BASSLER, Middleburg, N. Y.

Tilton's Power Job Print
NORTHWOOD RIDGE, N. H.
1 M. No. 6 Envelopes. 1 M. Packet Heads.
1 M. Shipping Tags. \$6.00 in value, for \$4.50
Send for prices on other work.



50 gal. size,
36 inches high,
weighs 190 lbs.

Guaranteed just as represented in the illustration or money will be refunded. Hundreds sold. No complaints.

Riverdale-on-Hudson, N. Y., January 4th, 1897.
GRANITE STATE EVAPORATOR CO.
Dear Sirs:—The "Granite State Feed Cooker and Water Heater" which I purchased of you some months ago gives perfect satisfaction. I am surprised at the large amount of heat which can be secured with very little fuel. Every stock raiser should own one—simply from the standpoint of economy, to say nothing of the satisfaction of knowing that you have the best. In my opinion, it is the very best on the market. You are too modest in your claims for it.
Truly yours, HENRY DECKER.



Poultry Supplies

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

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,
Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

OYSTER SHELL

100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Conn., .85
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Mass., .95
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in N. Y., \$1.00
Liberal Discount for Quantities.

First one of each 25 to answer this ad. will receive as premium, Farm-Poultry one year.

C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

Success in any business depends on the money you save, and not on your total income. If you can save ONE-HALF your feed bills you have just that much more profit. The

GRANITE STATE Feed Cooker and Heater

will save one-half the feed bills. It prepares the food so that it may be easily digested, and it will make many rough foods palatable, so that the chickens will eat everything up clean. Careful experiment has shown that cooking will increase the food value of corn meal at least one hundred per cent. Think of doubling the feeding value of your crop of corn or wheat, and then buy a GRANITE STATE FEED COOKER. Made in 7 sizes: 25 gallon, \$12; 50 gallon, \$17; 100 gallon, \$24. Send for circulars containing full description and testimonials. Sold on installments if desired.

We publish a book, "Cooking Food for Stock," which we will send free if you mention this publication when you write.

GRANITE STATE EVAPORATOR CO.
TEMPLE COURT, NEW YORK CITY.