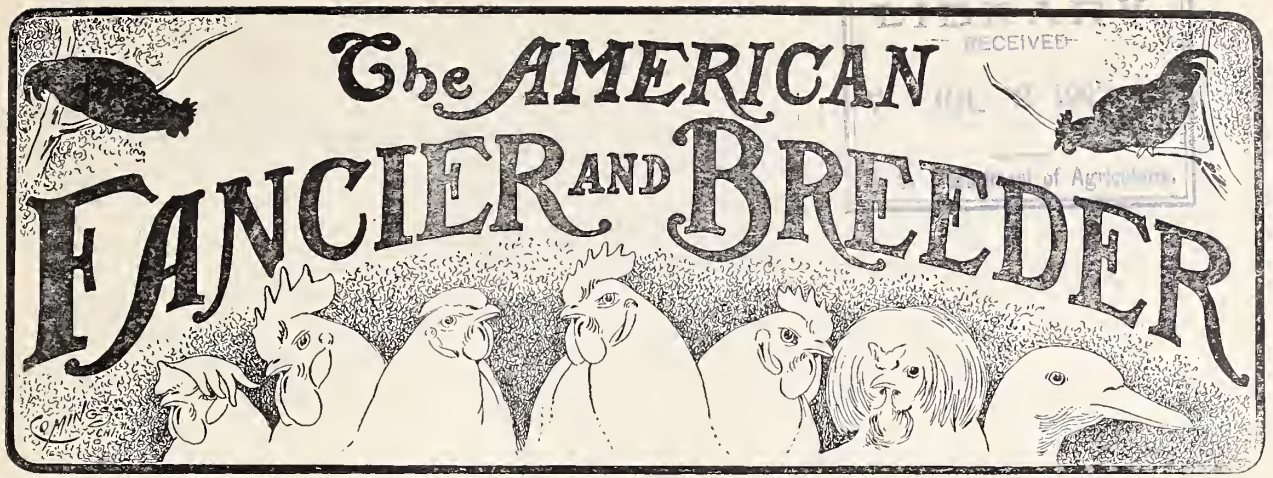


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The AMERICAN FANCIER AND BREEDER



Vol. 19.

De Kalb, Illinois, June, 1902.

No. 6.



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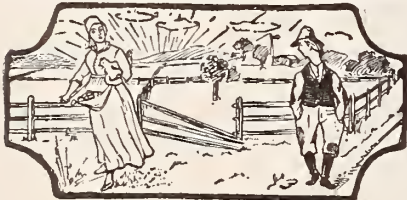
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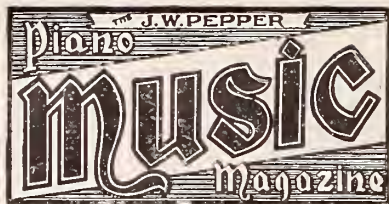
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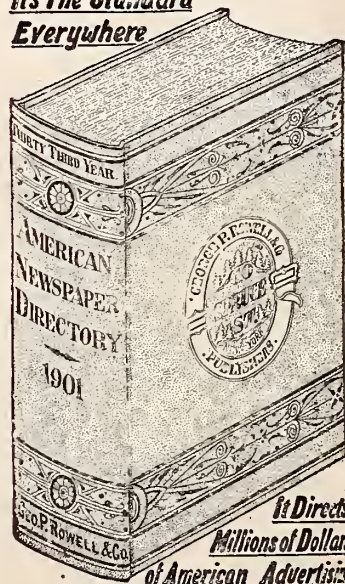
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Vol. 19

DE KALB, ILLINOIS, JUNE, 1902.

No. 6.

Feeding Young Chicks.

Many people have asked on seeing the healthy growing, full feathered young chicks, what food we were using. The winter's experience, in which a variety of grains were used, indicates that it is not so much what the food is as how the food is supplied, provided there is plenty of starchy, albuminous and green matters. In nature small seeds insects and grass furnish food for chickens. These are most abundant in the spring and summer months, and it is at this time that the chickens thrive. To secure the best results foods simulating both the composition and the mechanical character of these should be supplied. For instance, in the summer the tips of grasses are young and tender and easily broken by the chickens. For green stuff to be easily assimilable some plant should be supplied which may also be easily broken. We have found hanging a head of lettuce in the brooder by a string to exactly furnish the desired want, and be greedily, even crazily, eaten by the chickens. We have found that sifting the cracked corn, scraps and cracked wheat through sieves, so as to remove both the meal and larger pieces, gives favorable results. Millet seeds, broken rice, rolled oats and other things of this character were greedily eaten and well digested. For meat for the youngest chickens we have given the sterile eggs boiled hard and ground through a sausage machine. While it is preferable, if one has time, chop the egg fine and mix with bran, or even feed it a little at a time to the chickens, we found it satisfactory to mix it with the bran until it was crumbly and feed it in bulk, a sufficient quantity being given for the number of chickens in the brooder. Mixing the eggs with cracker did not succeed with us as well for very young chickens, although it is fed by others apparently without harm. As the chickens grew older meat scraps were substituted. These were equally sifted, added to the grain ration and strewn upon the floor of the brooder. Boiled liver and animal meal were also used but there was very little difference in the gain of the different chickens when fed upon the animal meal, meat scraps or egg.

One mixture of seeds was made as follows at the suggestion of the poultryman:

For chicks from one day to six weeks old—Mix four parts cracked oats, one of fine cracked wheat, two of rolled oats, one-half of millet seed, one-half of broken rice and

two of fine scraps.

For the first two weeks we have added one pint of millet seed, leaving out scraps during the first week. Boiled eggs, for each fifty chicks, have also been fed.

After six weeks and up to ten weeks feed the following mixture: Mix four parts cracked corn, two of fine cracked corn, one of rolled oats, one-half of millet, one-half of broken rice, one of grit and two of scraps.

For chicks kept in the colony system give for grain three parts wheat and four of cracked corn. Also give the following mash three times a week and daily after ten weeks: Mix one part ground corn, one of ground oats and one of brown shorts.

To feed the meat scraps we made the seed feed into a mash with boiling water, mixed the scraps with it and covered the mass until it was well steamed. This mash seems to hasten the growth of the chicks. While it seemed necessary to feed the youngest chicks rather oftener, those ten days old were fed mash in the morning, green food at noon and dry seeds at night, allowing them to fill their crops. When fed oftener they seemed to get satiated and had no desire to eat.—Rhode Island Experiment Station.

Timely Notes.

The bulk of the breeding season is now passed, but the late purchaser of a Green Bone and Vegetable Cutter will note a wonderful increase in the fertility of his eggs, owing to the feeding of common sense material. The egg supply during this month should be enormous, but owing to the broody condition of a great part of the poultry kept on a shiftless manner, there is at present price a good margin of profit in the sale of eggs. A fat hen makes the best sitter, but it is not profitable to have all of your nests occupied by broody hens when they should be at work making a living for themselves and turning you in a profit. Systematic feeding is the prime factor of successful poultry growing, and as complete record of your doings is the only positive evidence of your success or failure, you should note every cent expended for your poultry and give them a credit mark for every cent's worth of material that they return to you. Here is a chance to acquire knowledge of bookkeeping in a small way, and what a grand chance to start the young people in a money-making business where the expence of a start represents but a small sum and the extent of enlargement is unlimited.

Make friends of your birds and note carefully their ways of feeding when on the range. The closer you can imitate nature while the birds are confined, the more successful will you be in getting results.

Be careful to keep up the heat in the brooder, as the chick that once becomes chilled will either be set back in its growth or stunted forever. Special care must be exercised to see that the birds are not chilled through exposure to dampness.

Lettuce is one of the best green foods that can be given to chicks and poultry, and as it is easily grown it should find a place in gardens as soon as frost is out of the ground, or, better yet, start in a hot-bed and transplant.

Sunflowers planted along the fence and in little clumps furnish cool shade for the birds, and the seeds, picked when ripe make good feed, and when fed in moderate quantities during molt are especially good.

Egg Materials.

Mineral matter is essential for thrift, hence fowls need lime with their food. Grain alone will not furnish lime enough for a full supply of eggs. In a state of nature a hen would lay a single litter of eggs, hatch them, care for the chicks, and then cease for the season. The ordinary food, consisting of a variety, supplies this demand. But when a hen lays one hundred and twenty eggs she will require as much lime in a month as she would naturally get in a year. This excess must be supplied. Crushed bone and oyster shells are excellent and should always be kept within reach of the hens. It is not advisable to give egg shells unless they are broken very fine otherwise the hens may learn to break and eat eggs. When corn is given exclusively, the fowls will not thrive, as grain is deficient in lime. Fowls can not produce a particulaa article from materials not adapted to the purpose intended. A hen can not produce eggs if lime is lacking, nor she supply the growth of her body when her product takes possession of that which should support herself. Nature gives her a desire for that which she requires, and this is demonstrated by the eagerness with which fowls accept different foods from that on which they may have been fed for awhile. The lime in the food is in the best form for them. Feeding is the art of supplying the proper food, not so much in quantity as in quality. Observation of the fowls will teach better methods of feeding.

Poultry Picking.

IDA E. TILTON, IN FARM, STOCK, AND HOME.

If chicks are to perch in the general hen house, or even hens be set there, the room should first be cleaned after its winter use. Lime scattered on the runs intended for future chicks, if done before spring rains, will greatly purify the ground as it washes in.

If no regard is had to "points," it does not take much money to buy a healthy, full-blooded rooster every year. If each is of the same breed, three years will see a pretty uniform flock, especially when the mongrel horde is carefully culled and reduced first. At least, dispose of the very old and fat, and those having had feet or combs frozen, and leave none of the mongrel roosters.

A turkey-raiser to whom was loaned a fine Bronze tom had great success in the size and number of the years poults. The next year she could not borrow a breeder, and rather than buy, she rode several miles, traded around, got a scrub tom, lost all she had gained, and has never raised a large flock of poults since.

The largest turkeys are not always the heaviest. Some have loose plumage, while others show feathers overlapping each other in a solid mass.

The Maine Station has plans for a home-made trap-net, by which it has discovered some really 200-eggs-a-year hens, and some decidedly otherwise, the range being from 208 to 36 eggs a year. If there are children or old people, with time not too valuable for watching nests and releasing layers, these nests would pay even on a farm, if used long enough to discover the best layers and set only their eggs.

It is some trouble to alternate males, shutting one up every other day, but here are the advantages: It does away with favoritism, for most roosters greatly prefer certain hens. It gives an unselfish bird, that calls his harum to every choice morsel, a chance to eat and recuperate. There is no fighting. It helps to prevent feather pulling, because the cocks, more gallant than females, are apt to stand still and permit this done. A change discourages habit by interruption. Few of these advantages are secured by two males constantly with flock.

A Pennsylvania poulterer who for three years has given heed to the old woman's whim about picking out well rounded eggs for setting, rejecting any of peculiar size as well as shape, now reports pullets instead of roosters to sell during all the year. Last year there were only eight roosters in a flock of 40 chickens. Our own experience has long been similar.

An experienced broiler-raiser advises distributing the work of hatching over a considerable time, so one will not be rushed with work and omit the many little details of care which secure success. This is true but since large chicks rob and stunt smaller ones the hatches should be fed separately.

Diarrhea among chickens is caused frequently by brooder or coops becoming cold; but too wet food is often responsible.

Wood charcoal is excellent, cheap and harmless in arresting bowel looseness. Adults may sometimes have it in the form of parched corn or other grain. Little chicks can have the powdered charcoal added to their puddings. Two pens of turkeys were fed alike, except one lot had charcoal, the other had none. When killed the first averaged one and a half pounds more weight, each, and were superior in flavor and tenderness.

Summer chicks, on range, eat much grass, the tips of which are tender and easily broken. Brooder chicks likewise need some green stuff easily broken and assimilated. A head of lettuce hung in the brooder by a string seems to meet the desired want and is eagerly eaten. I was once called to visit some dying little ducklings that were so supplied with and crazy for greens that they actually ate catnip I offered them.

The poultry-breeder who wants to make the most money will hatch his chickens early, grow them into early maturity, get eggs in winter when prices are high, and sell the most of his hens before more than two years old.

The Little Chicks.

To make most profitable it is essential that the young chickens be kept growing steadily from the start.

In order to grow rapidly it is important that they be kept healthy and thrifty.

One very important item in maintaining good health is to keep dry. Their quarters should be dry. They should have comfortable quarters at night and good care should be taken to see that they are put in them.

They should be kept in out of the weeds and grass until the dew has dried off as allowing them to run through the weeds and grass early in the morning is disastrous to their health. After they are reasonably well feathered they can nearly always be given a free range but before this they must be kept dry. Another important item is to feed late in the evening and early in the morning. Provide coops where they can be fed by themselves. Have a small clean board in the center of this upon which the food can be placed and have this away from the house and by regularly and liberally a thrifty gain can be secured.

Large and Small Flocks.

There is a cost for labor when large numbers are kept, which is absolutely essential, while with small flocks of a dozen or thereabouts the item of labor is never estimated. The profit on a small flock is large because it is simply the difference between the receipts and expenses for food, much of which consists of waste material and table-scrap which have no value, but such profits would be materially reduced if credit is

given for labor. In large flocks the prevalence of contagious disease may inflict a heavy loss, and this liability of disease is due to the fact that the houses for large numbers are built more economically than for a single small flock, the house for which is made more comfortable because it is inspected daily. With a small flock the work of lice destruction may be done in a few minutes, and the lice can be kept down; but where there are many poultry houses or apartments lice can be kept down; but where there are many poultry houses or apartments lice can more easily secure lodgment and rapidly multiply before the poultryman becomes aware of the fact. The proper way to begin is to use small flocks and increase the number of fowls every year. In that manner experience will assist, and the liability of mistakes will be lessened.

Care of Setting Hens.

A little extra care by way of better food and greater variety will make a great difference in the profits of a flock of fowls, either old or young. One of the mistakes that is most frequently made in the care of fowls is in feeding out cheap food, especially grain. Too many have an idea that anything is good enough for a hen, and so they buy poor corn because they can get it for a few cents less, or they buy damaged wheat and wheat screenings; this is very poor policy for it not only greatly lessens the number of eggs, but it also has a tendency to injure the health of the fowl. Nothing but the best and sweetest of foods should be given to a flock of laying hens at this season of the year, because if they should stop laying when cold weather sets in it would be very difficult to get them to lay again until after the first of January. Hens like a variety, and always do better when given half a dozen different kinds of food. The principal food may be good sweet Indian corn, but with this should be fed oats, barley, wheat and millet. It is also important that they should have each day a few roots, which should be boiled and mixed with wheat bran; a small ration of meat is important, also ground oyster shell and coarsely ground bones. Hens also crave green vegetables, so if confined in a small yard they should be fed daily with green grass.

Growing Sunflowers.

Where a part of the feed or all of it is raised on the place for the poultry in a majority of cases it will be found a good plan to grow some of the mammoth Russian sunflowers. They can be planted in drills the same as drilled corn and can be given much the same cultivation. They are very rich and help materially to the glossy appearance of the feathers and when the fowls are intended for exhibition sunflower seeds can nearly always be fed to a good advantage. Plant at least two or three rows they will at least add to the variety and this of itself is quite an item.

In-Breeding and Its Effects.

How often we hear the words, "Don't inbreed your stock, as it impairs vigor and stamina." To me this seems absurd, for experience has taught me something that theory cannot and will not teach. Of course, theory and facts often are allies but in an experience covering twenty generations of poultry, and standard bred at that, the writer has found that these much talked of contemporaries do not dove-tail themselves sufficiently to warrant their being called colleagues. Very often we hear of a fancier who has bred in and in for eight or ten years and who has ruined his flock by it. This seems quite improbable, for with facts from another quarter we find that a certain breeder has "bred in" for as long, if not longer, and yet has not seen any effects. What is the cause of the dissimilarity of these cases which are so nearly alike in fact?

Go back to the yards of the breeder who complains of the bad effects of in-breeding and see how his stock is cared for, how his fowls are fed, housed and mated, and I dare say you will find a queer state of affairs. We personally know a fancier of this character and let us tell you a few facts in regard to him and his stock and methods.

His first stock was very fine, the best that we could purchase for him and we advised him to let other stock alone and breed this strain exclusively. On inquiry we found that, four years before the purchase, there was introduced into this strain, through a pullet, some very fine blood, both as to vigor and stamina and standard qualifications.

The result of the first year's breeding were very gratifying. The offspring were very fine and vigorous. Also, the second season's breeding seemed to tell the writer that the way he had helped the amateur to mate his pens had proved correct. But before the stock was old enough to mate for the third year's work, we moved some 300 miles away, leaving the novice to manage his own flock, much to our dislike and the failure of the breeder. While his next neighbor we urged upon him the necessity of clean yards and houses, good feed, clean water and war against lice, yet after all our help these important things (we afterwards learned) were neglected. His once well ordered poultry houses and yards went to rack and ruin; the fowls even refused to roost in the house for the fear of lice and mites; his stock deteriorated in quantity and quality and things in general went back end first. It's dollars to doughnuts that he failed to feed them at all, saying nothing about properly or with caution. The stock and breeder went down to the "bottom of the hill" and then the owner wrote me a very sad letter, as he also did to the editor of a prominent poultry paper, denouncing in-breeding, when it should have been in attention.

There is another fact to follow. The breeder who sold this stock to the writer for this "would be" fancier breeds this same strain of fowls today and has only made one infusion of new blood in that time. Ten years from one infusion to the other (both by females) and seventeen years from the first infusion to the present writing. This stock is the very best of its kind today: Vigorous, large, handsome and exceedingly prolific. The latter means lots of eggs which are very fertile. Here is a fact against a fact. Choose either. These birds are Wyandottes.

We happen to know a southern breeder of single mated Barred Rocks who has introduced no new blood for eleven years. He's afraid so he said, that he would spoil his flock. He breeds for the pleasure he derives from it; a true fancier at heart. It would be a disastrous thing for some of the best double maters to go up against his stock if he should decide to exhibit.

What can a breeder expect to do if he buys a new male each year and tries to establish a strain? The result will make him quit the business or start over again at a loss of time and much expense.

Breeders of more years experience than the writer, have practiced and are now practicing inbreeding on flocks which are inbred to a more or less extent.

Who ever heard of a strictly high class flock produced by out and out crosses? If good birds should perchance be "nicked" by this method they cannot be depended upon to reproduce themselves. In conclusion let me warn the novice and amateur to keep lice and mites where they belong (out of existence) and to be careful in selecting breeders and cautious about their management. Success in breeding depends on the manager of the flock, and truly this thought, care and work is the price of success—Theo. Cain.

♦♦♦♦♦
CARE OF TURKEYS.

The raising of turkeys is the most profitable of all fowls, and while I say most profitable, it is the most interesting. There is a much smaller capital to begin with and a larger per cent. gained. I have been very successful raising turkeys, my flocks ranging from 125 to 150 every year. First set your eggs so as to have all your turkeys come off at the same time as near as possible. If your turkeys are slow to get to setting, set some chicken hens on turkey eggs, and give them to the mother turkey when she hatches. In this way you can get a great many more eggs and make up for the eggs that should fail to hatch, as there is always some loss. Never take the little ones from the nest too soon after hatching, unless the mother is very restless, if so, slip them out as quietly as possible and keep them in a basket covered with flannel till all are hatched. Put mother and little ones in a pen where other fowls cannot disturb them, also shut the mother out from run where the



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little ones run for exercise. Close attention should be paid to their diet, for the first two weeks. I give mine hard boiled eggs chopped fine, a little hard biscuit crumpled up moistened with sweet milk. Take sweet clabber and make curd, the little fellows love it dearly. On this diet the first week.

The second week you can give them oats, cereals, chopped onion tops mixed with egg-bread moistened with sweet milk. The little ones should never be allowed to get their feet wet while drinking.

Take a saucer, turn a teacup bottom upwards and pour the water in the saucer, and they can drink without getting wet. Feed and water them about six times a day for the first two weeks, after which time turn them out, but always see that they are brought home for the night. Watch for the large gray louse, that kills more turkeys than disease or pests of any kind.

When two or three days old take a tablespoonful of lard with three drops of coal oil and with the finger grease the top of head and tip of wings just a little, as too much grease will kill.

Repeat this once a week till they are six weeks old, after which time they are out of danger.

Hoping that this may prove of some benefit to others, I am very truly,—Mrs. R. M. N. in P. C.

♦♦♦♦♦
Healthy Onion Plants.

To prevent damping off or similar troubles from killing onion seedling I know of no better plan than growing these plants in a layer of clear, sharp, new sand as we get it here along the riverside. This sand-bed, however, is only about an inch deep, and rests on a bed of old compost or well-rotted manure. Both bulb and stalk of each plant touch nothing but the clear sand, which is presumably free from infection. The roots, however, soon go down into the rich compost beneath the sand, and there find an abundance of plant-food to make a most rapid and strong growth. In transplanting, the greater portion of the roots below the sand are removed, not for fear of disease, but for easier and more convenient transplanting.

♦♦♦♦♦

Fowls thrive best in high, dry localities with a sandy soil.

The AMERICAN FANCIER and BREEDER

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The Maine State Poultry and Pet Stock Association will hold its second annual show at Lewiston, Me., Dec. 16-17-18-19, 1902.

Even at this early date, a large number of special premiums have been offered by public spirited men, and the indications are now that the next show will be even more successful than the last. Judges already secured are: A. C. Hawkins, D. J. Lambert, W. B. Atherton and Geo. P. Coffin.

A. L. Merrill, Sec'y.

THE DELINEATOR FOR JULY.

The great world event of June, the coronation of King Edward VII., of England, will picture scenes that have had no parallel in the lives of the present generation, and for this reason an article by Sir Edwin Arnold on the Coronation Festivities, and a description by the late Sir Walter Besant of the Pageants of London, in the July Delineator, are especially timely and interesting. Another of Miss. Laughlin's charming stories of authors' loves appears this month, telling of the pitiful passion of John Keats; and the concluding paper in the series on pictorial photography treats of genre pictures the illustrations being remarkably fine. There is an interesting description of the life of Clara Burton, founder of the Red Cross Society, in her picturesque home near Washington. To the series on athletics for women is added an illustrated article on bowling, by a New York woman who has won many honors in this sport. The house-

keeping department has been adapted to the many difficulties of the hot weather and the recipes for summer drinks and inexpensive desserts will be welcomed. In fiction there are two high-class stories; The Unpromising Land, by Julian Van Boskirk, and A Daughter of the Wilderness, by Francis Lynde.

To Our Readers.

Write us your experience in poultry raising. Give us your mode of feeding; how many you keep in a yard for breeding or for egg production; how many eggs do they average per month or per year; which breed you think gives the best results in eggs, for broilers and the market. If you keep ducks and turkeys tell us all about these. Write on any subject that you happen to think of it will be of interest to a great many. Don't wait for some one else, write at once. If there are any mistakes in writing we will correct them before publishing. Tell us all about your houses, how to make them; yards and runs; brood coops; how to set hens, etc. It is the experience of a great many that we want. It will interest and instruct your fellow breeders.

Bantams for Children.

Every boy on the farm should be given some young stock to raise for himself, he to attend to the same, and be induced to take an interest in the progress of the young creatures. Nothing can interest a boy or girl will take in Bantams. A boy will thus early become fond of fowls and of farming, and will be more reconciled to farm-life when grown. The boy who leaves the farm for the city is the one who has never had any opportunities, and looks upon farming as a drudgery. Labor becomes a pleasure when there is something to strive for, and the early education of the boy on the farm should be by giving him an interest in something. All children love young stock, and pet them.

Forcing Egg Production.

"The hen that is not forced for heavy egg production during the winter will produce more fertile eggs when hatching season comes," says American Poultry Journal. "The eggs will also produce stronger chicks. When nature's laws are violated something must pay the penalty." Many breeders have found that out to their sorrow. We must aim to have our breeding fowls lay their first eggs at the beginning of the breeding season and thus have strong hatchable eggs which will develop into healthy vigorous chicks. The hens kept for egg laying will need to be kept separate from those intended for breeding purposes and fed accordingly. We cannot expect one flock of fowls to be specialists in all lines.

Kerosene for Lice and Mites.

I am constrained to give you a short account of my first and last experience with hen lice and their twin nuisance, the red

mites, during my first attempts at raising chickens. Never before, in the knowledge of the oldest inhabitant, have chickens been kept within gun shot of my present location; therefore, my conclusion is that the invaders must have come with the fowls, which were full-blooded Plymouth Rocks, and which were procured from Ohio. About two weeks after I placed them in their new home I found, after my morning noon and evening visits, that I never left the house without being accompanied by a lively escort, which generally of a grayish color, and exceedingly active and enterprising in exploring various portions of my epidermis. Investigation showed the nature of the trouble, and on examining the roost I found bunches of red mites in every joint and corner, and under the ends of the floor boards. I immediately procured the kerosene oil can, and used the contents liberally. A day or two afterwards I found a few more stragglers, and gave them another banquet of oil de kerosene, and dusted the floors with insect powder. Since that time, I am happy to say that I have not seen the sign of a louse or a mite, and must therefore conclude that the remedy was effectual. The means I have indicated are at every one's hand, and I hope that my experience will prove of a benefit to some of my brothers in the poultry business.

Push the Young Chicks.

There is just as much damage done to the growth of the young chicks as to the skim milk calf and buttermilk pig by being improperly fed; overfed one time, underfed the next time and not fed at all the next time. It is not a fact that the calf and the pig are stunted and damaged in growth because they are fed on skim milk and buttermilk. If either were properly fed and regularly fed they would grow and be all right. It is the abuse in feeding that injures all kinds of young things.

The little chicks can be abused and ruined in the same way. And let me tell you there are thousands of them that die every season from abuse in feeding. Many poultry raisers do not study or try to acquire a knowledge of what the little chicks demands in the way of feed. They think the proper thing is to keep the chicks confined in a coop for a few weeks, to keep the cats from getting them, or to keep them out of the stock yards until they are old enough and active enough to take care of themselves. The matter of feed don't signify much, so long as they are given all they can eat. A mixture of raw corn meal is a handy thing and a big batch of this feed is fixed up in a sloppy mess and thrown to the little hungry chicks twice a day. Of course they gorge themselves and they are sick with indigestion; a few will die with bowel complaint; the death loss will keep up, a few will drop off each day, and the balance are turned out with the hen to live or die. "They are all going to die anyway." The change to natural feed and the absence of the raw corn

meal slop saves all that are not too badly affected. Others overcrowd the chicken lots or inclosures and lose many in this way, even where reasonably good care in feed has been provided. Others affords nothing clean and healthy in the way of water and the chicks get poisoned in the filth and disease germ impregnated water.

If the chicks are worth bothering with, they are worth giving the best of attention for the advantages of health and growth. There are feeds suited to little chicks that keep them healthy in the way of digestion, and when this is done you seldom have any trouble, except it be from lice. The feeds best suited to the little chicks from the start are baked feeds and small seeds. It matters not what baked feed you prepare for them; stale bread is excellent, baked meals, mixed stiff and crumbly, not baked, may be used, but it is not safe.

Cracked wheat and fine cracked corn is an excellent feed as soon as the chicks commence to run around and show a disposition to hunt up feed. It is not a good plan to give them big feeds of these grains, where they can cram themselves with it, eat just as long as they can hold any. The sowing of screenings, a little cracked corn and millet seed in the grass near where the hen is confined is a good plan; this exercises the chicks in getting what feed they need.—Nebraska Farmer.

Where the Incubator should be Placed.

Success in artificial incubation and rearing depends to some extent at least, upon the situation of the machines. While it is perhaps true that a thoroughly built incubator, with thick walls, will hatch in almost any situation, yet it is equally true that it will hatch much more successfully in some situations than in others. The better the situation, the better the results.

There are a few requisites of the best situation for an incubator that it will pay every operator to secure, and the first and perhaps the most important is that the machine be situated where there will be the least possible fluctuation in the temperature. While the automatic regulation is supposed to adjust itself to all variations of temperature and will do so after a time, yet it is impracticable to make it so sensitive that it will instantly respond to each change, and in the time between the change, in the temperature outside the machine and the action of the regulator to meet it, more or less injury may be done to the eggs. If the changes are both sudden and great, even the best regulator may be unable to accomplish all that is necessary; for in a sudden and a great drop in the mercury, the flame of the lamp, fully large enough to secure the requisite heat at the higher temperature, may be wholly inadequate to do this at the lower.

Even with sitting hens it has been found that situation affects the results, and the hens which sit in sheltered places produce

better results than those whose nests are in exposed situations; and hens act with more or less intelligence, it cannot, therefore be expected that a machine devoid of intelligence, can do as well in a temperature that is constantly changing as in one which is comparatively stable. For this reason an incubator should never be where the sun can shine directly upon it or in direct drafts of air, both of which tend to cause variations in the temperature, and the latter of which may extinguish the lamp.

A second important requisite of situation is that it be where fresh air can be constantly furnished without subjecting the machine so a draft.

The combustion of the oil uses up the supply of oxygen in the air and produces carbonic. If these requisites are not provided, the germs in the egg are likely to become weak and even to be destroyed, so that when the weeks of incubation are completed there will be either a lot of weakly chicks or none at all. To meet these two requisites it is advisable that the incubator be placed in some underground or partially underground room like a cellar or basement. Here the temperature changes slowly. Here too fresh air in sufficient quantity can be admitted without causing a draft. And here, also the machine can be placed out of the direct rays of the sun. Some use a building dug into a hillside, the top double in thickness and the walls carefully packed.

Brooders should have a house set apart for this operation even if they are of the outdoor pattern, early in the season especially. Later the outdoor brooders may be used in the open air successfully. I prefer a good tight floor in brooder house; windows that admit the sunlight on the southerly side of the house, and room about the brooder to secure exercise for the chickens, which if very early in the season cannot be expensive. Even a building enclosed on three sides, open to the south,—a mere shed—will answer, if one uses outdoor brooders, though an enclosed house is better. It is not necessary, however, to exercise so much care in the location of a brooder as in that of an incubator, for a hatched chick has much greater vitality than the unhatched germ.

Still the more favorable the situation of the brooder, other things equal, the more satisfactory will be the growth and development of the chickens.—Poultry Tribune.

You need not build expensive fences to separate your runs, they can be built of lath or other cheap material and answer the purpose well.

Every one who keeps poultry should arrange to save the droppings. There is always ready sale for them, if the poulterer does not wish to use them himself.

Every one who buys eggs or fowls, every one who sells eggs or fowls, and every one who eats eggs or fowls, should take a poultry paper. You can get this Journal for 25 cents per year.

NOTES.

Cement floors are too hard and will cause bumble foot.

No time should be lost in giving the fowls plenty of green food.

The smaller the poultry quarters the cleaner they must be kept.

Light, nutritious and easily digested food is what confined fowls require to do well.

Hen manure is a good top dressing for onion beds, furnishing the needed nitrogen.

Use every precaution to ward off disease, as a season's profit and all way go in a short time.

One way of losing money is to keep a lot of cockerels long after they have ceased to grow.

Roosts or perches should not be more than two feet above the ground and one should not be higher than another.

Clean up and disinfect all the feed and watering troughs. This is especially necessary if wooden troughs are used.

Don't fail to white wash the chicken house outside as well as inside. It adds to the appearance really is as much benefit as the inside work.

Remember that hens are fond of milk and will do well upon it. Sour milk can be as profitably fed in the poultry yard as in the pig pen.

Too low temperature in the brooder, improper food and injudicious feeding, even if the right kinds of food are given, each plays an important part in producing bowel disorders.

If you have some neighbors or acquaintances who are interested in poultry culture, send us their names that we may send them a sample copy of The American Fancier and Breeder.

Fresh air is good for the fowls. It's good for you, too. A breeder's life is full of pleasure. A very few find it different however. You must love to see the fowls grow and then the shows, they are simply grand.

Chicks should have free access to some kind of grit after the first day. Coarse sand makes an excellent grit for very young chickens. As they get a little older some coarser material must be provided. Milk is an excellent food for these young fowls, but requires skill in feeding.

The farmer with a moderate flock of fowls and unlimited range for them, will always find them profitable, in spite of the little attention he may pay to them. They are the scavengers of the farm, making use of many things that would otherwise go to waste, or be of no account, vegetables, or cereal refuse, weeds, worms, table scraps, etc. Hence they pay well if kept in moderate numbers.

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BUFF COCHIN BANTAMS. I have 2 fine pens mated, from which I will sell a limited number of eggs at \$3.00 per 13; or \$5.00 per 26. No stock for sale. Write for particulars. H. E. Munger, DeKalb, Ill.

GOLDEN SEBRIGHT BANTAMS bred from Crystal Palace Winners. Breeders in my yards score from 92 to 96. Eggs \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26. Send for illustrated catalogue. Free. Lea M. Munger, DeKalb, Ill.

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PIGEON Book, illustrating, describing all varieties, arranging loft, feeding, breeding, caring for, 5 cents. 1,000 Pigeons for sale, prices sent free. Wm. Bartlett & Co., Box 34. Jacksonville, Ill.

BEAUTIFUL Pedigreed Toy White French Poodle Dogs at stud. Pups sent on approval. Rathmann's Pet Kennels, 708 Rosco Blv., Chicago, Ill. -6-12.

Will our readers please send the names of 25 farmers or persons who keep and are interested in fine poultry, and the FANCIER & BREEDER will be sent to one of the number one year free, the rest will receive a sample copy.

PLEASE DON'T forget to mention the FANCIER & BREEDER when writing to our advertisers.

Cleanliness and Small Yards.

Confinement is often an unhealthy condition for fowls, because it is an unnatural one. Disease is likely to attack a flock where too many are crowded together. Cleanliness is the essential thing in preparing for fowls when they are shut up.

Scatter some lime over the floor, so that it may absorb dampness and assist in purifying the house, and then use lime in the form of whitewash on the buildings. This will give them a neat appearance. Ten hens are enough for one small yard. This will be found to be more profitable than a large number. Use more yards if you wish to have more hens. The yard should not be in a damp, shady place where the sun never gets to it to dry out the moisture. Let it be in a dry place where the chickens can have both shade and moisture, and plenty of sunshine combined with them, says the Mirror and Farmer.

Permanent success cannot be had without neatness, so the poultry raiser must pay particular attention to this fact. Remove the droppings from under the roosts and from the house altogether, and see to it that there is plenty of litter scattered over the floor. This is very necessary to the health of the fowls. Fresh straw makes the best litter. The hen is unable to do many things for herself when shut up in yards and the breeder has to do them for her. She should have a variety of articles for food. A hen will eat almost anything, but it is not best to have her do so. She will devour insects, flesh, grain and fruit with such avidity that she will prove at once that no one article of diet will prove satisfactory.

There is one very important thing to be looked after in the feeding of hen. Be sure to pound up all the bones that are found lying around the yard and feed to the hens. Fowls that are confined, especially, like pounded bones. The water in the yards should never be allowed to stand more than a day, and never let it stand until it becomes stagnant and filthy. Let the hens have plenty of clean, fresh water, by all means; it is cheap enough. Dirty water will of itself cause disease. There is another point to be considered in the care of shut up fowls. They will probably not get as much exercise as they need. If they are fed too much they will still be worse off, for they will not scratch. Make them scratch. This will require some extra work for their owner, but the ground will have to be kept full of scratching material so that they will be rewarded for scratching, or they will soon give it up.

If turned out for an hour or so before sunset they can pick up gravel, insects and other material that will quicken their circulation and add to their powers of resisting disease. To make poultry pay they must have everything they need, and everything they do not need that is harmful to them must be removed.—Commercial Poultry.

An Old Fashioned but Good Method

During the winter and early spring, sitting hens are often desired by those who depend upon the natural methods of incubation. The best way to cause hens to become broody is to make them lay as well as possible. At the end of their litters some of them will take to the nest, and with proper treatment, will do maternal duty as well in January as in June. There's an Oriental proverb. "The proper time to set a hen is when she wants to sit." It is surely improper to try to make them sit until they want to.

When a hen becomes broody and you wish her to incubate, let her remain on the laying nest for three or four days until she gets well settled down to business. Prepare the nest in a box, or in an empty barrel, laid down, put in a shovelful of dry earth, and shape the nest like a dish. On this place an inch or more of bruised straw or soft hay, and sprinkle well with Lambert's Death to Lice Powder.

Now put in the eggs or some inferior ones as a decoy. Get the hen just before or after dark and put her on the nest as gently as possible, covering up the opening with a screen, a peice of bagging or boards, and keep her confined there until the next afternoon about sunset, when she is allowed to come off for food, (principally whole corn), grit and water.

If she returns to the nest of her own accord promptly, she need not be confined again until just before hatching. If she don't return, put her there again and repeat the operation every evening until she learns what is wanted of her and comes off only as often as nature demands. If the eggs become soiled, wash them with warm water and at the same time put clean hay or staw at the bottom of the nest.

Dust thoroughly once each week with Lambert's Death to Lice Powder. It is not necessary to remove the hen from the nest to do this. Sprinkle it well among her feathers with your hand as she ruffles them up when approached. Don't be afraid of hurting the eggs in any way with this remedy as it kills nothing but bad smells and insects.

A record card tacked on the side of box or somewhere near the nest, with date when due, and marks for the chicks when hatched will be of assistance to you all though the hatching season, and these marks made when the chicks are taken from the nest, will enable you to tell just what mating a chicken is from at any age, and guide you when mating up the birds for a succeeding season's breeding.—In Lambert's Pocket Book Pointers,

Under usual conditions a variety of food is better than any medicine that can be given fowls.

Hens which have the range of the farm generally find enough materials for making egg shells and will not need to be supplied with lime.

How to Fatten Fowls.

If we have learned that it pays to fatten fowls designed for the market much better than it does to sell them when lean and scrawny, we, if we are sensible beings as most poultry men are, shall be interested in knowing how to make our poultry fat.

Probably improvement has about reached its limit in fattening fowls in the process adopted by French and English feeders, but as their methods require special apparatus and the process known as cramming, and as poultry breeders in this country are hardly as yet prepared to take up a method, which is a business in itself, we do not deem it advisable to discuss the process of cramming. What we wish to know is, how, without special apparatus and without more labor than we employ upon the care of our stock ordinarily, we can make them fat enough for our markets.

The first principal that we ought to enforce is that our chickens should be so fed from the shell up that they will be well nourished, and in not bad condition to kill at any time. This can be obtained by liberal feeding upon such foods as are employed by successful breeders, who annually raise fine specimens.

The subject of feeding chickens we may discuss in a future article, all that we desire now to say upon the subject is that our fattening process should really begin when the chickens are first hatched and be continued during their growth.

But having done this, the chickens are still susceptible to much improvement. Considerable gain in flesh, fat, and, of course, weight, can be made in a short time, and the chickens will sell better and for more money per pound in consequence thereof.

One of the most successful fatteners of chickens I know is a lady, and her method is so simple as well as effectual that I think it well to make it known. She has some coops about ten feet long by five wide, boarded up on three sides and roofed over, the fronts being made of laths nailed longitudinally. These coops are comparatively dark, still there is light enough for the chickens to see well. Into such a coop she places about twenty cockerels and feeds them upon whole corn. This is the only food they get. They have fresh water supplied them twice daily. In about three weeks they are ready to kill, and they are usually very plump, fat and heavy.

Corn in some form, either whole, cracked, or ground into meal, is one of the best foods to use in fattening fowls, as an analysis of its constituents shows that it possesses a proportion of the elements that enter into the composition of adipose tissue.

While this lady's plan is a good one, I think it can be improved upon, and I suggest from experience and observation the following substitute: Coop the chickens in a quiet place with but moderate amount of light. See to it that they are free from lice, as lice hinder the fattening process. Feed for the morning meal a mush made by cooking

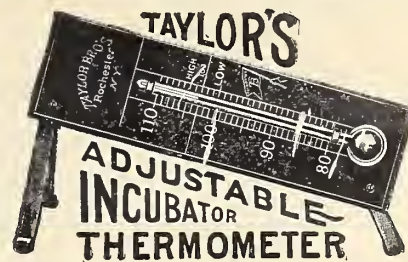
corn meal and potatoes together, about two parts meal and one part potatoes. Feed whole corn late in the afternoon. Keep plenty of fresh water before the chickens until the last week. During the last week of the fattening process remove all the water given for drink sweet milk further sweetened by stirring in two tablespoonfuls of sugar to each pint of milk. Give no other drink. A little lean meat during the process will be a valuable addition to the bill of fare, as it will help to keep up the appetite as well as furnishing food, so that the chickens will eat and digest more than if this is not given. By feeding the chickens in this way for three weeks they will be plump and fat, and should then be killed promptly. After a time, if the process is continued too long, the chickens will lose their appetites and then a loss in weight will ensue.

By this special feeding the profits of the poultry raiser will be greatly increased, while the additional cost will be but a small matter compared with the amount gained in weight and price per pound.

Managing Chicks.

Absolute cleanliness must be observed, and whatever the arrangement, everything should be portable so that it can be removed at will and thoroughly cleansed. The droppings will soon poison the air and produce disease. It will be useless to expect to succeed unless willing to give time and attention to all the little things that seem almost beneath your notice. Constant watchfulness will suggest the measures necessary for health and growth. In feeding one should seek to give all the variety possible, aiming at all times to supply natural green and animal food. The first meal should be of bread soaked in milk, and if they seem lost and waiting for the call of the hen, imitate that by gently rapping on the side of a board with a pencil. In this way the hungry little things are led to eat their first meal. Don't allow any to remain and sour. Their tiny crops can hold but little, and that should be supplied frequently during the day. Egg boiled hard and chopped fine, should be added to the crumbs, and fresh milk given them to drink. By the third or fourth day bits of cabbage cut fine may be offered, and gradually apples, turnips and onions. If there there is any second crop clover in the barn it will be relished by the chicks as they mature. By the end of one week, coarsely cracked wheat should be given at least once a day, and by the time they are two weeks old, whole wheat and a little cracked corn will be eaten with a relish. Sloppy food should not be given. Too much moisture is worse than none at all.

Where the hen houses, nest boxes, roosts, etc., are properly looked after there is no such pest about as vermin to attack the little chicks. Then why neglect the poultry yard and suffer the consequences?



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HAVE a limited number of high class White Fantails for disposal. Order quick as they will not last long. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. H. W. Schultz, Middleton, Mich. 6-12.

THE BEST CURE for slobbers or snuffles of Belgian Hares that has yet been found. A cure that has cured many will cure any. Send for particulars.—Free. Mrs. L. S. Otto, 3812 Vincennes Ave. Chicago, Ill.

RIPANS

For years I had been a sufferer with chronic stomach trouble, pressure of gas and distress of my bowels. I contracted what the doctors pronounced a low type of malaria. I could not take solid food at all, and only a very little of the lightest of diet would create fever and vomiting. The druggist sent me a box of Ripans Tablets, saying he sold more Ripans than anything else for stomach trouble. I not only found relief, but believe I have been permanently cured.

At Druggists.

The Five-Cent packet is enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 60 cents, contains a supply for a year.

HOMES

IN OLD VIRGINIA.

It is gradually brought to light that the Civil war has made great changes, freed the slaves, and in consequence has made the large land owners poor and finally freed the land from the original holders who would not sell until they were compelled to do so. There are some of the finest of land in the market at very low prices, land that produces all kinds of crops, grasses, fruits, and berries; fine for stock. You find green truck patches, such as cabbage, turnips, lettuce kale, spinach, etc, growing all the winter. The climate is the best all the year around to be found, not too cold nor too warm. Good water. Healthy. Railroads running in every direction. If you desire to know all about Virginia send 10c. for three months subscription of the VIRGINIA FARMER to the Farmer Co., Emporia, Va.

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Raise a Variety for the Chickens.

Chickens, in order to be healthy and lay well, should have a variety of feed. Corn and wheat are the staple grains but farmers can also raise other grains that add variety to their rations and also lessen the cost of feeding.

Cow peas are considered richer in protein than wheat. Experiment in feeding cow peas to poultry have proven them to be a good egg-producing food. If the cow peas will yield well it would be a more economical feed than wheat. We intend planting some dwarf variety for experiment this season, as it is wise "to make haste slowly."

Sun flower seed should be planted soon, in order to have a supply of seed to feed while the flock is moulting. If the chicken yard is in need of shade, the sun flowers will make a good substitute for shade while shade trees are growing.

It has been our experience that maple and apple trees make the best of shade, and offer the above only as a substitute. If scarce of shade, some trees should be set out in early spring.

Millet is a good feed for the young chicks and is easily raised. Some poultrymen think millet is a success as an exclusive diet for young chicks; however, we prefer a varied diet.

Everyone that keeps poultry should sow some rye in the fall if it is only a small patch. It will furnish green food that is fresh; and is cheaply and easily provided. The supply of green vegetation is an item of importance in the production of eggs in winter.

Where chickens are kept confined in the spring, which often the case with those confined in the breeding pens, beds of lettuce should be sown, and when large, pull up by the roots and feed to them, as it is much relished.—Indiana Farmer.

Buy Pure breeds.

Do not object to extending a few dollars every year for eggs from good stock, for every dollar so spent is ten dollars saved. It makes but little difference what kind of fowls you keep, from Bantams to Brahmas, or even common fowls, so that they are infused with new blood annually, thought the better the breed, the larger the profit. The hens may sometimes be any sort, but the cocks must always be from a pure breed. Breeding-up is one of the groundworks of success, and if this is adhered to the stock will gradually become more valuable, for good breeds, careful management and warm quarters always give satisfaction. Lack of vigor may often be traced to a failure to infuse new blood.

Laziness in hens is often contracted by a similar trait in their owners.

Eggs are an article of universal consumption. They are the rich man's luxury and the poor man's daily food.

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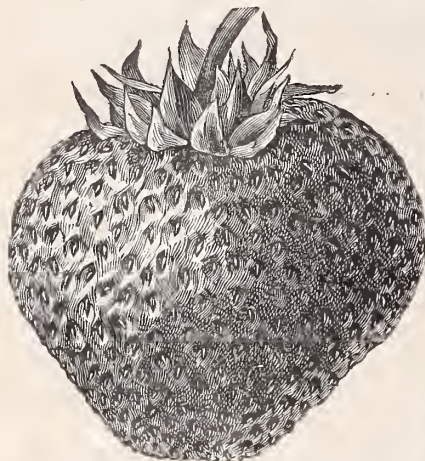
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