

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., NOV. 15, 1897.

NO. 5.

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 skin-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.

Fresh—
Plump—
Neatly Dressed Poultry—
Always Find a Ready Sale.

Exit Fall!
Welcome Winter.
Lookout for thieves.
Are the hens laying?
Have your orders obeyed.
Thanksgiving poultry next.
Are you doing honest work?
Don't think you "know it all."
Are the houses in good repair?
Clean house-keeping is a virtue.
Discharge the careless workman.
Good help never need be watched.
Our circle of readers is increasing.
Do your chickens come home to roost?
Does it pay you to feed dollar wheat?
Let your goods speak for you in market.
Beware of the man who cannot be taught.
Send us the names of your poultry friends.
How good all the poultry papers are getting.
A barbarous practice—carrying chickens by the legs.
Don't mix politics and religion with your poultry talk.
A FEW HENS makes customers for the thoroughbred breeder.

Don't make your wife feed the chickens while you pocket the money.

Emptying the drinking vessels at night prevents trouble in the morning.

A wit says A FEW HENS is like a homeopathic medicine—"small doses, but very effective."

Experimental Farm Notes.

The Young Ducks Have Also Started to Lay—Feather Pulling Among Our Wyandottes—The Ducks and Brahmans Have Given Best Satisfaction—Tests Made With Lee's Lice Killer.

Last month we stated that the old ducks again started in laying on the 12th of September, and we gave the record of 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2,—(total 11,) for the mornings of September 12th to and including 18th. Since then, up to this writing (October 13th,) the record has been:—

September 19th to end of month: 2, 1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 1, 2, 3, 3, 3,—total 28.

October 1st to and including October 13th: 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2,—total 21.

Making in all, since September 12th, a total of 60 eggs to be added to the record given in September issue. If they keep on, those ducks will be record breakers.

The oldest of the young ducks, about five months of age, laid their first egg October 6th, and their record to date (there are only eight ducks in that yard) is 1, 2, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2,—total 9 eggs.

While we are on the subject of ducks, we wish to state that, on a recent visit to the farm of A. J. Hallock, Speonk, Long Island, we purchased six Aylesbury and 18 Pekin ducks. The former are a year old, the latter of this year's (early) hatch. Mr. Hallock gave the Aylesburys a trial last year, but he finds the Pekins so far ahead of them, that he has disposed of his stock. Our object, however, is to outcross Pekin drakes on these Aylesbury ducks, believing that we can make some improvement on the stock from a market standpoint. This gives us in all seventy-five ducks (about ten of which are drakes,) which we will keep over. About five of the ducks we may reject later on, allowing us ten yards of seven each for breeding purposes.

As stated previously, we shall use our 4 x 4 feet houses for the breeding ducks. To these houses are attached runs about 7 x 50 feet, and in each inclosure will be kept six ducks and a drake. We believe that small families will

give us better fertility and more eggs. But more of this after we have given the experiment a trial.

Our readers will remember we stated in our August number that we had a mother hen which pulled feathers out of her young Wyandottes. We thought we had ended the trouble when we killed her, but, unfortunately, she must have taught her young the vice. We noticed that in that run the young continued to be more or less bare of feathers, but all the while blamed the hen for it all. Later on, when we run all the Wyandotte chicks in one big yard, we noticed some of the chicks would come out of the house in the morning with blood about their bodies. We watched for feather pullers, and as fast as we could detect a guilty bird we caught and fattened it for killing. The result is our Wyandotte stock has been considerably reduced—but we think we have cleaned out the feather-pullers.

As we mentioned in our July issue, we placed the young chicks in covered runs; we kept them there until about two months of age. These runs we moved about to grass plats about once a week. All the chicks did well in these runs so long as the old hens were with them to scratch for them and give them exercise. After the hens were taken away the chicks did not make much progress in growth, with the exception of the Brahmans. They seemed to be making steady gains. The Leghorns suffered the most. So our success was best with the Brahmans (and we doubt if free range can grow better chicks;) the Wyandottes came next; and the Leghorns last. Our ducklings beat everything. They grew like weeds from the start. It looks very much as if we must another year exclude the Leghorns from our two-acre experiment, as we cannot give them the needed range.

D. A. Mount, Jamesburg, N. J., the general agent for Lee's Lice Killer, sometime ago sent us a can of the mixture for trial. We had been fighting lice so thoroughly that we were not much bothered by them. But last week we concluded to give the mixture a test, and accordingly painted the roosts and platforms with the liquid. Goodness, how strong that odor was when we visited the house at night, after it had been closed up for an hour or more. We really expected to find our hens more or less sick from the strong smell. But, to the contrary, the next morning, when we opened up the house, the hens flew out and seemed as lively as crickets,

Then we inspected the dropping boards, when, to our surprise, there were myriads of lice and mites lying about dead. Certainly the single trial we gave made a good impression, and we intend shortly repeating it.

* * *

Out of a flock of well matured Light Brahma cockerels, we have one that has short legs, broad back, elegant breast, and chunky appearance generally. He would be a "prize winner" to any market poulterer. But he is not for sale. We are going to mate him to low-down females. In weight he is heavier than any of our Brahma cockerels, and in vigor he is "the leader of his set." When five months of age he "heralded his coming" by giving a lusty crow, and he struts about king of the walk. Nearly all his brothers are long-legged fellows, clumsy, and will hardly venture to crow for several months yet. He is as near perfection in the roaster class, as the Wyandotte is in the broiler role.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Mating for Fertility—Best Hatches Early in the Season—The Color of the Comb Has More to do With the Laying of the Fowl, than the Size.

Why the nest egg?

Lookout for the nest egg.

China nest eggs are best.

Clean the eggs before marketing.

Discourage the cold storage trade.

Is not the nest egg of an imaginary benefit?

Over \$2,000,000 worth of eggs are imported into this country annually.

Food and surroundings are the main factors that produce the good or bad quality in eggs.

Has the fancier made winter egg production possible? Or, was it the scientific work of the poulterer?

If the male bird seems to form a dislike for certain hens, better take the latter out of the breeding pens if you want fertile eggs.

The time is coming when there will be a demand for eggs from properly fed fowls that have been cared for under true sanitary conditions, predicts Judge Brown.

The Maine *Fancier* says that in measuring the market value of eggs it is well to remember that at twelve cents per dozen they give the same food value as lean beef or mutton at ten cents per pound.

He who puts the finest product in the market, says the Massachusetts *Ploughman*, reaps the richest harvest. Eggs are refined wheat, corn, grass, and they contain much that on the farm would go to waste.

There is no way of knowing which of the hens are the best unless they are closely observed truly says the *Mirror and Farmer*. Every hen that has a good record should be marked and retained, not only for laying, but also for breeding purposes.

"I am inclined to think," says B. Holmes, "that the best results can be obtained both in fertile eggs and vigor of chicks, by having two males for each pen, and using them alternate days. If one has but a few hens, say half a dozen or less, better allow the male with them but a half day at a time."

Prof. W. P. Wheeler, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says some of the best results in fertile eggs and good hatching that he has had were from ten hens mated with a year-old male. The hens were in three pens, four in one and three in each of the others. The male was in each pen one day in three.

J. E. Stevenson, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says he always had the best results for fertile eggs when he kept about 30 to 40 hens in one pen, and kept two vigorous cockerels, allowing only one of them with the hens at a time, keeping one in a coop arranged for the purpose, and changing them every day.

Uncle John Bennett, of Black Spanish fame, says in *Fancy Fowls*, that injustice has been

done him for over thirty years selling the large Spanish eggs by the dozen. It does certainly seem a shame that a dozen large Spanish eggs should bring no more in market than a dozen small Brown Leghorn eggs.

D. A. Mount prefers using enough hens for one cock in each pen; with the small active breeds, such as Leghorns, Minorcas, etc., twenty hens to one cock are about the number, and with the larger breeds, such as Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, etc., fifteen hens to one cock. With Brahmas and all very large breeds, ten hens are enough for one male.

Speaking of fertility, Fred Grundy, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says small, penned-up flocks, comprising six to twelve females and one male, will give 60 to 80 per cent of fertile eggs, and strong chicks, for 15 to 25 days at the beginning of the season. After that, the per cent of fertility decreases rapidly, and the chicks are invariably weak and never make good, vigorous breeding fowls.

One of the causes of loss of customers and loss of confidence on the part of those who purchase strictly fresh eggs, says *Mirror and Farmer*, is the fact that an occasional nest egg will find its way into the egg basket. Now it is admitted that such an accident may happen and occur only once, but that once is sufficient to destroy a reputation gained by years of care.

The color of the comb has more to do with the laying of the fowl than the size, says *Poultry Chum*. We have never noticed that Wyandottes with small combs were inferior layers to those with very large combs. Redcaps have the most magnificent combs, as far as size is concerned, of all domestic fowl, and while they are good layers there are other breeds with small combs that excel them. We believe that the egg trait must be developed in a strain of fowls by thorough and systematic selection, and not depending on external signs alone.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints on Marketing—An Ideal Roasting Fowl Wanted—“All Thoroughbreds Eventually go to the Kitchen.”

Guarantee freshness.

Tag every bird shipped.

Aim to have gilt-edged goods.

Superior broilers are quick grown.

Not all commission men are dishonest.

Never send scaly-legged carcasses to market.

Let the fowl fast at least twelve hours before killing.

The Game fowl ranks with the best for table purposes.

In killing for market, bleed the fowls in the mouth.

Never market a fowl that shows the slightest suspicion of a cold.

White-feathered chicks make the most attractive broilers in market.

Don't blame the commission man for poor returns—the fault may lie with you.

Quality, rather than weight, fixes the price of dressed poultry, says the *American Stock Keeper*.

In mating for market poultry, see that the hens have strong shanks, broad breasts and deep bodies.

Clean legs, free from feathers, and small combs, are points to be looked after in marketing broilers.

If you scald your poultry for market, keep the head and feet out of the water, and only immerse the body.

It is said that the flesh of the fowl is improved by feeding buckwheat. We have never tried the experiment.

When the fancier will give us a breed noted for its small bones and sinews, with plumpness of breast, meaty thighs, and shortness of legs and neck—a compact, blocky bird, with plenty of meat and little bone—then we shall have an ideal roasting fowl.

I. K. Felch says that he has made poultry culture his means of support since 1873. "Do you think I let any undue love of any breed stand in the way of my support and that of my family? I tell you I have had to sacrifice every taste to the base and homely demand of practical worth, and no man in America has felt the public pulse more keenly than I. Happy the man whose taste for the beautiful in fowl culture goes in line with practical demand, for all thoroughbreds eventually go to the kitchen. We enjoy them for a time, then they are eaten; the breed that has the greatest demand in the *meat* markets is the one that brings the highest average price in the *thoroughbred* market.

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

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

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

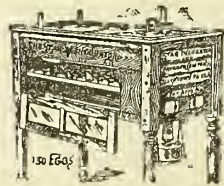
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Turkey Culture.

The White Holland—Cause of Mortality Among Pullets—Old Breeders—American Turkeys Preferred—Ants Enemies of Young Stock—Fattening for Market.

Thanksgiving turkeys!

Cooked food is best for young pullets.

Turkeys thrive on the grasshopper crop.

It is useless to doctor a very sick turkey.

White Holland hens are among the heaviest layers.

Cayenne pepper is regarded too strong for the turkey.

A teaspoonful of black pepper in a quart of meal, is a great tonic.

It is claimed that the French people are the most extensive turkey raisers in the world.

Some turkey raisers feed the young but two meals a day after they are two months of age.

An experienced turkey grower says that salt, salt meat, brine, or salt fish, will kill young turkeys.

Corn bread and curd seems to be the natural diet for young turkeys, says Rhody, in *American Stock Keeper*.

J. Ellais, in *Southern Farmer*, says: "One breed may rise, and another fall, but the White Holland turkey survives them all."

The *American Stock Keeper* tells how a lady brought a flock of turkeys to be more domestic by clipping one wing of each bird.

White Holland turkey champions claim for it a plump and symmetrical body, and flesh of the finest texture, which far surpasses the flesh of all other breeds known.

"From actual experience," says C. P. Reynolds, "I feel perfectly safe in saying that a breeder can keep turkeys until five years of age and still have them strong and vigorous."

Farm Journal thinks turkey broilers should bring extra good prices to be profitable, for when the breeder has raised them to 1 1/2 to 4 pounds his labor and tribulations are mostly over.

During the first week, little turkeys are apt to get on their backs, says *Farm and Home*, from which position they cannot rise, and will die if allowed to thus lie for any length of time.

C. P. Reynolds, in *American Agriculturist*, says he believes that the average turkey raiser makes a serious mistake in disposing of his breeding stock every year, and recruiting his flock from young and often immature birds.

It is said that if the pens of young turkeys are placed near the hills of the small red and black ants, the latter will attack the head and kill the turkeys, and if these insects are eaten, the turkeys will almost instantly choke to death.

A writer in the *American Agriculturist* says he is breeding from six and seven year old fowls, and is satisfied that his oldest hens have paid best—being better mothers, giving a larger per cent of fertile eggs, and the young possess a greater degree of vitality.

An unknown exchange says that doubtless a prevalent cause of mortality among pullets might be traced to their being allowed to linger in the poultry yard and about the barns and stables, drinking impure, stagnant water, and eating things not intended for them.

Rhody, in *American Stock Keeper*, says for the White Holland turkey: They are the hardiest turkey known; the most docile in disposition; the females the most prolific; quality of flesh surpassing all other breeds; early maturity, maturing the first season, while the Bronze requires two years or more.

American turkeys, either from Canada or the States, are preferred by the British to continental birds, their flesh being considered whiter, sweeter and higher flavored, and are in demand from the middle of November to April. At Christmas large turkeys sell well, but at other times birds ranging from eight to twelve pounds are preferred. They should be sorted as nearly as possible, birds under ten pounds being packed separately. They should be killed and plucked so as to be free from blemish or disfigurement, and the feet and legs should be spotless clean.

E. P. Cloud, the editor of *Poultry News*, is an experienced turkey raiser. His method of fattening for market is as follows: "Do not confine the flock, to be fattened, in small pens; remember the nature of the birds require liberty; rather confine those which you wish to keep over. Turkeys having full liberty will devour much food and take on fat rapidly. Fattening turkeys will not wander so much, as after being put on full feed they will be more content to remain nearer home. Give the fattening turkeys all they can eat four times a day, from the time when you commence full feeding until twenty-four hours before slaughtering time. The first three of the daily meals should be of cooked potatoes and cornmeal, or of cornmeal scalded with milk or water, and the last of whole corn varied with wheat or buckwheat. Always use corn a year old; new corn causes much trouble and may kill them. Give the first meal as soon as possible after daylight, and the last just before dark. Feed each time all they will eat up clean, but leave no food for them. Feed the pounded charcoal occasionally, and keep a supply of gravel where they can help themselves."

Ducks and Ducklings.

Indian Runners—The Green Duck—Autumn Hatches—Duck Industry Spreading—Feeding Ducklings at Night.

Ducks do not have gapes.

Water ducks three times a day.

A duck well hatched is half raised.

The weakest part of a duck is its legs.

The "green duck" is of late innovation.

A Kansas City duck farm is termed a "quack institution."

Duck eggs will hardly average 50 per cent fertility in autumn.

Omit coarse sand in the duckling food, and invite indigestion.

The oily nature of the feathers makes ducklings vermin proof.

The Indian runner duck does not fatten so readily as other varieties.

In England, it is said, quite a business is being done by setting duck eggs in autumn.

The cognomen "green duck" is applied for the reason that the bird has not yet matured.

If well fed and cared for, a Pekin duck will nearly reach its matured weight at ten weeks of age.

Keeping over ducklings for market after ten weeks of age, is a waste of feed and a reduction in price.

An English writer says it is almost useless to put a June-hatched drake with ducks to breed from in autumn.

The name Indian Runner originated in the fact that this duck has a running rather than a waddling motion.

Duck eggs are in demand by confectioners, as they impart a glaze to their icing, which cannot be had with hen eggs.

Bathing water is an injury to a soft, green duck, as it develops too much muscle, and is apt to render the carcass tough.

The duck industry is no longer confined to the New England and Middle states, but instead is also growing rapidly in the South and West.

The green duck should weigh not less than four pounds, and be not over ten weeks old (eight weeks preferred,) and should never be allowed bathing water.

In color the Indian Runner duck is a light brown or fawn shade and gray. At the joining of the head and bill there is a narrow band of white. The legs are orange.

"As an article of diet," says the *Market Basket*, "the green duck, if provided by a competent chef at a hostelry worthy of its name, will resemble the famous and fast disappearing canvasback duck."

The Indian Runner duck is erect in carriage, with a long, narrow body, well elevated in front, and closely feathered. The neck is long and slender, and the head rather flat. The bill is long and broad.

The *Kansas City Star* says the "relations of the west and the duck are similar to that of this part of the country and Presidents—we have not sent many of either to market. The east has hitherto monopolised both."

John W. Morgan, Riverton, Va., an extensive duck raiser, feeds his ducklings every three hours during the day and night—awakening them at regular intervals. The young are ready for market in six weeks owing to this night feeding.

A writer in the Cincinnati *Commercial Tribune*, makes this calculation: "Forty ducks well cared for will weigh 200 pounds at ten weeks old, and this will cost less than the same weight of pork, which it will take 25 to 30 weeks feeding to produce on a single pig."

"For making plum puddings, duck eggs are more economical than those of fowls; they are larger in size and richer," says a correspondent in the *American Stock Keeper*. In the household of A FEW HENS duck eggs are used in making all kinds of cakes, omelette, cooking generally, and they are also relished fried.

Poultry, England, says if ducks are well fed and managed, they will lay as many as thirty eggs each between August and October, and the whole of these eggs should be incubated. In this case the young ducks will come in splendidly for Christmas. On A FEW HENS experimental farm, not only have the old ducks began laying after moulting, but some of the young ones, too, at this writing, are doing noble work.

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.

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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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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.

Again we call the attention of advertisers to the fact that the circulation of this and the next issue of A FEW HENS is and will be 30,000 copies. Furthermore, that we are charging but a half cent per line per 1,000 circulation for transient orders—making our rate for next number, but 15 cents per line.

It is gratifying to note the good reports advertisers are receiving from their cards placed in A FEW HENS. An honest medium, with an honest circulation, will always bring good results.

Will you be with us in December? Give A FEW HENS a fair trial. Our readers want the best. They are in the business, or about engaging in it, for profit. If you have anything to sell that will be of benefit to them, they will be your customers.

We firmly believe that A FEW HENS will create a new interest in the poultry industry. Everybody cannot be a poultry fancier, and it would be a big mistake to encourage men to go into the fanciers' line, because it is something that only a few are adapted to, and a few can succeed in. The more general poultry raisers that can be created, the more good can be done the fancier, and it can be marked down as a fact, that the fancier who is shrewd enough to get on to the money side of this utility question and advertise his stock with more of that bearing than that of score card points, will scoop the trade. Some are beginning to see it now, and they are the ones that will win.

Moral: Cater to the utility trade, and remember the fact that A FEW HENS gives the advertiser good results.

The object of A FEW HENS is not to attempt to crowd out any other journal in order to gain a seat itself. We do not believe that there are too many poultry papers. To our way of thinking, the more the merrier. It is certainly gratifying to note the rapid strides in circulation, attractiveness, and general features, the majority of papers are making.

But this we do claim: A FEW HENS is the only practical *boiled down* paper. It says what it wants to say in a very few words. We quote considerably from our exchanges, but we quote briefly—we sift the clippings carefully, and give our readers only the *cream* of the selections. Many an item that we have condensed could readily be spread out to fill a space ten

times its size. And in many cases, it takes us longer to boil down to an inch than it would to expand to a column. That we are successful in our work, the many kind words from our friends certainly attests.

Here is a letter from John Hunter, a gentleman residing in Philadelphia, Pa., which gives us *substantial* encouragement, and one which would bear repeating by others:

"I have read the sample copies of A FEW HENS 'from cover to cover.' *Farm-Poultry* has been my ideal, and I look for it twice a month, with great pleasure. But I am often impressed that I need an expert to select the pithy parts that a busy man or woman ought to remember, and that should be always ready for reference. A FEW HENS just fills that want."

Then, to cap the climax, Mr. Hunter encloses two dollars to pay for the Poultryman's Library, and subscriptions for several of his friends. That man is a friend of A FEW HENS—and we would like to know how many more such friends we have. If every subscriber would send us a new subscription, we could soon cry "Excelsior."

We want to get a subscription list larger than any other poultry paper—at the same time we don't want our contemporaries to lose ground. We never believed in trying to build up a business at some one else's sacrifice.

* * *

The Library Bulletin, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for October, is upon our desk. It is a bibliography of poultry, compiled by Emma B. Hawks, cataloguer, under the direction of the librarian. No Bulletin ever gotten out by the Government will help the poultry cause more than this one, as it shows in a nutshell the wonderful work done, in fowldom.

All the American and foreign books on poultry are catalogued, giving their nature, size, and names of authors and publishers; past and present poultry papers and magazines, both American and foreign, are listed; and U. S. Government and State poultry publications are noted. A FEW HENS congratulates Miss Hawks upon her successful work, and the Government librarian for giving poultry culture an excellent boom.

* * *

The 1898 catalogue of the Prairie State Incubator Company, Homer City, Pa., has just been received. It is without doubt the handsomest book in that line ever issued. For the first time the company is "exposed" by giving the portraits of J. L. Nix and A. F. Cooper, the men who have not only placed excellent machines upon the market, but who for enterprise are far ahead of their competitors. The portraits of these gentlemen are given in colors—the finest work in the lithographic art we have yet seen. It is a coincidence that a cluster of daisies should help ornament the portraits, suggestive of the remark we once overheard: "Those Prairie State fellows certainly are daisies." The two pages in colors showing the different parts of their works are also a great attraction, and no less in accuracy and beauty is the outside view of "the largest incubator and brooder works in the world."

The other fine lithographic pages represent the officers of the National Poultry and Pigeon Association, Washington, D. C.; exhibit at Washington, Boston, and the Great Mid-Continental Show; sizes and styles of incubators and brooders; experimental farm of A FEW HENS; broiler plant of John Laughlin, the largest in the world; plans for houses; Long View Poultry Yards (Geo. G. Harley, manager); and incubator and brooder rooms of Cudahy Brothers Company, Fairacres Farm, Ernest Gerstenberg, C. I. Nesmith, S. B. Wilcox, Elk Ridge Poultry Farm, Rocky Dell Farm, Henry C. Jewett, Aratoma

Farm, H. R. Listern, H. P. Clarke, Maybrook Ranch, W. H. Pye, Riverton Duck Ranch, Frank Ruppert, Chatham Fields, A. J. Hallock, Niagara Farm, A. W. Romig, Rockland County Poultry Company, C. W. B. Gerner, besides hundreds of other views and portraits, including the poultry judges. Those interested in incubators and brooders, should at once send to the Prairie State Incubator Company, Homer City, Pa., for a copy of this work of art.

* * *

Mrs. Louis Marshall, of Montvale, N. J., was acquitted by a jury in the Hackensack Court, on the charge of maintaining a nuisance. The defendant is raising ducks on her place at Montvale, and has in her employ an expert poultry raiser.

Justice Crotty lives nearer to Mrs. Marshall's barn than she does. He testified that Mrs. Marshall's sixty-five ducks made so much noise at night that his wife was unable to sleep and became ill with nervous prostration. The Justice of the Peace also testified that the odor from the duck yard was so offensive that many times his family could not eat.

Fifteen or more witnesses testified that the ducks were not a nuisance. The jury was out about half an hour, and gave a verdict of not guilty.

Judge Van Valen ruled that the calls and chatter of animals and fowls in the country do not constitute a nuisance, and nobody can be legally annoyed by them. It is simply nature expressing itself, and anybody unable to stand the sounds of the country should live in cities where they can have other troubles.

* * *

J. H. Davis has a sweeping way of condemning things he knows nothing about. For instance, in *Practical Poultryman*, he recently said "Drugs are a lie and a delusion, and will do no good to anything." Accordingly, if Davis gets sick, he won't take any medicine at all. Emory Banks, in the same journal, replies to Mr. Davis by saying that drugs "do very much harm by improper and untimely use is true, but if they are used carefully and only when absolutely necessary, they will save many a valuable fowl, as well as many of the human race. Just so with tonics and condition powders."

The editor of A FEW HENS does not believe in fooling with contagious diseases, believing that there is more economy in killing the sick one than to risk the health of the remainder of the flock. But the timely use of remedies in the first stages of sickness—or in treating symptoms which may lead on to more serious troubles—we do know is not only a worthy but a proper course to pursue. It is amusing to read articles condemning condition powders, and then, in almost the same breath, advise the use of cayenne pepper in the soft food. It is about on par with the argument we once read against beer as a beverage. The writer claimed that beer was too stimulating a drink, and advised his readers to use rye whisky instead!

* * *

And this is what Editor Holmes, of the old, reliable *Poultry Monthly*, thinks: "Mr. Boyer's new paper, A FEW HENS, is what we anticipated it would be, knowing Mr. Boyer so well as we do. Each number contains 'meat' for a full meal, and must prove of great benefit to those it aims to help—the beginners.

Geo. Fisher, Michigan, not only says he is pleased with A FEW HENS—the best poultry paper he has ever had the pleasure of reading—but proves his opinion by enclosing a four year subscription. Money talks,

T. V. Donovan, Massachusetts, writes: "A few days since, I ran across your interesting, or rather very instructive little sheet, A FEW HENS. I liked it so well that I decided at once to send you my subscription for it."

C. Harvey Stokes, New Jersey, writes: "I wish to congratulate you on the success of A FEW HENS. For practical 'boiled down' information for the beginner, it is worth all the others put together. I would not be without it for five times the subscription price."

"Allow me to congratulate you on the Klondike nugget—A FEW HENS," writes W. N. Richardson, New York. "It is real metal for the man who keeps a few hens—all gold, no dross."

Mrs. Chester Camp, Illinois, writes that she finds A FEW HENS a great help to her.

The editor of A FEW HENS regretted very much that he was unable to accept the kind invitation of the Frank B. White Company, publishers of *Agricultural Advertising*, Chicago, Ill., to be present at their Sixth Annual Round-up, October 21, on which occasion a banquet was tendered to advertisers and publishers. In a personal letter to A FEW HENS, President Frank B. White says:

"The Round-up is over, and was, we believe, a very great success. To make you regret you were not with us we send you one of our menu cards. The next issue of *Agricultural Advertising* will contain a full account of the proceedings."

We do regret it. A glance over that tempting bill of fare—and the charming programme of music, and speaking, are sufficient to make any one regret missing such an event. We are pleased to note this friendly feeling existing between publishers and advertisers. It binds those two important factors of commerce more securely, and opens up a new avenue for trade. The Frank B. White Company are to be congratulated.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Seasonable Suggestions—Boiled Grain—Will It Pay to Feed Dollar Wheat?

Regularity.

Make the hens work.

Begin clover feeding.

Hang up the cabbages.

Exercise helps digestion.

Heat the corn before feeding.

Feed all they will eat up clean.

Boiled wheat is a food much relished.

Scald out the feed troughs once a week.

Proper feeding means health and profit.

Begin operations in the scratching shed.

Nellie Hawks says boiled rye produces bowel trouble.

Green bone is a valuable food for growing chicks and matured fowls.

Egg shells ground to a powder makes a good addition to the mash.

Ground oats, cornmeal and bran is a popular food among poultrymen.

Green rye is the best form for feeding; as a grain it is a poor poultry food.

Parch corn (by placing in a stove pan and roasting until brown) and feed at least once a week.

Now that cold weather is about at hand, scald the morning mash and feed it while in a warm state.

Boiled buckwheat, fed once or twice a week to the hens, makes a good alternate food for egg production.

Never place sawdust on the poultry house floor. Soft food is apt to adhere to it, and if eaten will often cause crop bound.

Boiled oats makes an excellent morning feed for a change. Boil for about three hours, then pour off the water and allow the oats to steam off a little of the surplus moisture.

A subscriber from Montgomery county, Pa., writes: "The high price of wheat raises in mind doubts as to the economy in feeding it. Do you think it would increase the egg yield enough to pay the difference? I feed in the morning a mash of equal parts bran and American poultry food, with cut clover, charcoal, and blood meal. In the middle of the day oats. The evening meal is cracked corn and oats. Cracked corn is 90 cents per 100 pounds, wheat \$1.00 per bushel, and oats 33 cents. The chickens have plenty of green stuff—cabbages and sugar beets—and are well. To substitute wheat for corn and oats means \$1.00 instead of 42 cents per bushel, and I think I am better off than if I fed wheat. Am I right?" Wheat is the most perfect egg-producing grain we have, and should be in the bill of fare. Alternated with the cracked corn and oats would make an excellent variety. At \$1.00 per bushel we do not find wheat too costly for hens or growing stock.

Geese for Profit.

Death of a 42-Year Old Goose—Cost of Raising—Pointers on Plucking.

Geese for noise.

Geese in the village are often declared a nuisance.

Be careful not to draw blood in plucking the birds.

Some writers advise plucking geese but twice a year.

Very often the largest birds have the poorest flavor.

White goose feathers are more valuable than colored ones.

Some geese raisers pluck their birds every four or six weeks.

The Canada wild goose lays only six or seven eggs at a litter.

Stephen Beale says the Embden geese take their name from the Hanoverian town whence it was many years since imported.

A writer in an exchange places the cost from hatching to time of maturity, at from 50 cents to 75 cents per head.

When the quill feathers contain blood, it is an indication that the feathers are not yet in proper condition to be plucked.

A writer in *American Stock Keeper* says that after the 28th day of incubation, goose eggs should be put in milk warm water a few moments each day.

According to the Greensburg (Pa.) *Tribune*, at West Brownville, Mrs. Kate Krepps owned a goose that recently died at the advanced age of forty-two years. This was the last of a flock of geese which was owned years ago by Aunt Betsy Hopkins, mother of Mrs. Krepps, and it is said they supplied the feathers for all the beds and pillows in the old Hopkins house.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

A Grist of Facts About Running Incubators and Brooders.

Ninety to 105° will hatch.

High temperature quickens the hatch.

A crowded incubator quickly overheats.

Uniform temperature is half the battle.

Hot water tanks should be made of copper.

Don't get up the heat too rapidly at first.

Clean out the incubator thoroughly after each hatch.

Incubator cellars should be dry and well ventilated.

The broiler business and artificial methods are inseparable.

Do not set the incubators near the windows of the room.

Moisture is used to prevent the air cells becoming too large.

"One hundred capacity" brooders are overcrowded with one hundred chicks.

Never remove the chicks from the incubator at night—wait until the next morning.

James Rankin says he has kept eggs six weeks (for an experiment) and hatched about fifty per cent.



Cackling and Crowing

are music to a poultryman—they indicate prosperity.

They herald an abundance of eggs and healthy fowls, and follow the use of

The H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed

Remember, too, the H-O Co.'s Scratching Feed for Poultry a night feed—an exercising feed.

Send for literature.

THE H-O COMPANY, New York City.

There is more danger from too much heat in the incubator than too little, writes J. E. Stevenson.

In running the machine in a cool room, the moist air in the incubator will condense on the glass doors.

White-shelled eggs can be tested on the fourth day, but for the average lot of eggs the seventh day is the best.

James H. Seeley says eggs for hatching should be kept in a dry place at a temperature of 50 or 60 degrees.

Wm. H. Truslow, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says he once left a tray of duck eggs out all night (third week,) and still the eggs hatched well.

Old eggs need more moisture, as the egg cell is larger, says W. H. Truslow. If possible, eggs of the same age should be set in each machine.

In reply to a correspondent would say that eggs must not be added to a machine after the hatch has started. To do so would chill the eggs already started.

Fred Grundy, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says that he cools the eggs in his incubator by opening the door of the machine, and leaving it thus 10 to 20 minutes, according to the temperature outside.

"With good incubators and brooders," says the Des Moines Incubator Company in their catalogue, "chicks of any kind or variety can be raised cheaper, earlier, healthier, larger and much easier than by the old method."

B. Holmes, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says in any place fit to put a machine, the temperature would not get low enough to spoil the hatch. It would be delayed from a few hours to two or three days, according to the variation and how often the neglect occurred. It would kill some of the weaker chicks that would otherwise have hatched.

A writer in *Country Gentleman* gives these reasons for his success with artificial methods: First—Keeping chicks in machine at least thirty-six hours after all were hatched.

Second—Feeding only when hungry, and not too much.

Third—Grit and bonemeal mixed with all soft feed from the first day.

Fourth—Reducing heat in brooder as quickly as possible and as soon as chicks could stand it.

Fifth—Plenty of fresh air and exercise, and as soon as possible after being placed in brooder, weather permitting.

Notes in Passing.

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

Mistakes are object lessons.

Success is according to management.

Carelessness and mistakes are twins.

"Hucksters" are not market poulterers.

The poultry business is not "automatic"—it needs attention.

He who is easily discouraged at mistakes, will never become a poultryman.

Don't let the "mental impression" theory worry you; there is nothing in it.

Miller Purvis thinks that poultry raising is a profitable adjunct to dairying.

J. E. Covel, Illinois, writes: "I have received your *A Living from Poultry*, and have been pleased with the practical commonsense it contains."

C. L. Coen, West Virginia, will find that ten fowls in a 10 x 10 foot house will not be crowded, and do far better than fifteen birds in the same sized pen.

Think of eating eggs that came from China. How is that for freshness? Yet the Secretary of Agriculture says we consumed 130,000 dozens last year that were laid by hens in the Flowery Kingdom.

The Rhode Island Agricultural College will give a short course this winter in poultry keeping. We hope all the other agricultural colleges will do the same. What we want is better poultrymen.

"An incubator that won't hold its temperature, and a man that can't hold his temper, will make a wreck of any poultry keeping establishment that they have anything to do with," is a wise saying from the *Poultry Messenger*.

The Secretary of Agriculture says we imported 1,000,000 dozen eggs into the United States last year, of which 130,000 dozen came from China, a few from Japan, but the bulk of the import (800,000 dozen) came from Canada.

"The man who attempts to make a living from poultry," writes W. H. Cambroun, in *Home and Farm*, "must see that every item counts, and let nothing go to waste." We certainly endorse that. Mindful of the little things wards off disasters and coaxes on success.

The Secretary of Agriculture recently said in an interview, "nothing is the matter with the American hen, but something is wrong with the American farmer." Then it should be considered imperative that the U. S. Agricultural Department issue more *practical* bulletins, so that the farmer may be better educated.

"Hungry humanity demands eggs and fowls for the table. Fine feathers are all right in their place, but they are not fit to eat. It is food that is wanted, and exhibition fowls don't supply it. The market does not look to fanciers for eggs and table fowls, but to the farmers." Those wise words came from *Texas Farm and Ranch*.

The *Ohio Poultry Journal* says: "In reading poultry journals one does not have to believe all that appears therein, because there is much chaff among the wheat." That's it exactly, and A FEW HENS is doing a lot of separating. We give the wheat, and allow the chaff for those editors who want to spread themselves. We might add that the *Ohio Poultry Journal* is a close second to our way of doing business.

The poultry editor of *Texas Farm and Ranch* says: "Let us first explain that this department is not, like all the poultry journals of which we have any knowledge, conducted solely in the interest of fanciers and breeders of exhibition stock." Is it possible that the editor has not seen A FEW HENS? We will send him a copy so that he may know there is at least one poultry journal that is entirely practical.

Farm Journal says an opossum eats the head and neck of his victim and kills only one or two at a time; a mink bleeds his victims in the neck and sucks the blood, and will slaughter a dozen or more birds in a night. Both leave the carcasses in the coop or house. A study of habits will help you to catch the culprit that is robbing your hen roost.

CHOICE early C'h'l's, \$2, \$3 each. From early maturing, prolific laying Brown egg strain of Lt. Brahma, Wh. Wyan. No inbreeding. Mention A Few Hens. E. L. EATON, Millington, Mass.

LT. BRAHMA COCKERELS

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

The poultry crop of 1897 is estimated by the Sprague Commission Company, of Chicago, as follows, from claimed returns numbering 500, these coming from shippers and dealers in principal poultry raising districts. Turkeys 25 per cent short, chickens 10 per cent larger, ducks 15 per cent larger, geese 15 per cent short, compared with a full crop. The claimed shortage in turkeys is ascribed to unfavorable weather conditions during the spring, and possibly more to the fact that relatively few were carried over from '96, available for raising a new crop.

The best way to clean drinking fountains (like Hood's) which cannot be reached on the inside, is to use scalding hot water and a big handful of shot. Fill the fountain about quarter full of hot water, and then pour in the shot. Shake the vessel briskly so that the shot will scrape along the bottom and sides of the fountains. This will remove the scum and leave the fountains sweet and clean.

Quite a number of the readers of A FEW HENS have inquired for the dimensions of the 4 x 4 feet houses, mentioned in our Experimental Farm Notes. The floor space is 4 x 4 feet. The roof is double pitch, and the sides are three feet high. In the end facing the south a half window sash is hung on hinges, with inch wire netting tacked on the outside of the window frame, so that the window can be left open in summer. The door opens on the east side. Matched lumber is used, and over this is tacked Neponset paper, which is afterwards painted.

The Hagerstown poultrymen, at a late agricultural fair, had a parade headed by a brass band, and followed by a hack in which there was a four sided transparency, the four sides lettered as follows: "Annual products of American hen excel in value any other one agricultural product." "Wheat crop value of United States, \$250,000,000 annually." "Wheat, export 40 per cent annually. Eggs, import value \$2,000,000,000 annually." "The American hen products of the United States, value \$300,000,000 annually."

J. H. Drevenstedt, in *American Fancier*, in referring to the White Wonders being closely allied to the White Wyandottes, and the Sherwoods to the White Plymouth Rocks—the main difference being that the Wonders and Sherwoods have feathered shanks, he remarks: "Feathers on shanks belong on Asiatic, not on American breeds. The latter are utility fowls, and a nice dead carcass with clean yellow shanks is far more preferable than one with a weak lot of feathers on the shanks. Utility men claim that fanciers breed for feathers only. What are they doing when they want useless feathers on the shanks of Sherwoods and White Wonders?" A FEW HENS agrees with Mr. Drevenstedt that feathers on the shanks are a detriment to market poultry. But then, were there more practical birds than the Brahmas and Langshans? The market poultrymen can meet this trouble by shaving the feathers from the shanks of the birds he markets.

Four Grand Poultry Contests

Open to every one that keeps a flock of not less than 10 hens.

Incubators, Poultry Supplies, etc.,

TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

NO CHARGE FOR ENTRY.

Write us to-day for full particulars and entry blanks.

The Poultry and Farm Supply Co., P. O. Box 179, Boston, Mass.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

How Much is a Dose?—Remedies for Roup, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Scaly Legs, Canker, Leg Weakness, Crop Bound, etc.

A wine glass holds two fluid ounces.
A teaspoon holds about one fluid drachm.
A tablespoon holds about a half fluid ounce.
A teaspoonful of fenugreek, in the mash for every ten fowls, is recommended for indigestion.
Sumac berries will cure cholera, says a correspondent in *Poultry Keeper*. Simply feed the berries.

Two-thirds glycerine and one-third carbolic acid, is said to be an excellent remedy for scaly legs.

A writer in *Poultry*, England, says he cured roup by giving three drops of spirits of camphor on a piece of bread.

As a preventative of cholera, says Iowa *Homestead*, add five cents worth of Venetian red to the drinking water.

In cases of diarrhoea or incipient cholera, a half-teaspoonful of paregoric once a day until checked, is recommended.

Too much salt in the food produces too great thirst, often resulting in ruptured crop. Season same as for your own eating.

For leg weakness, a pill composed of one grain sulphate of iron, five grains phosphate of lime, and half grain quinine, is recommended.

Vinegar is one of the best tonics for asthma or rattles. Ablute with water and give grown fowls one-half teaspoonful every other morning.

It is said that equal parts of vinegar and lukewarm water, used morning and evening as a wash, is excellent in cases of chicken pox and swelled head.

A teaspoonful each of cayenne pepper, salt, alum, vinegar and honey, is said to be a good preparation for canker. Used as a swab for throat and nostrils.

A mixture of ammonia, glycerine and turpentine, equal parts, shaken into a thick cream, is recommended as an ointment for smearing the nostrils in cases of roup.

Like malaria in the human race, roup in fowls is a convenient excuse for a great many ills. The diagnosis is often faulty and bad, and the remedies often far worse.

A novel roup cure is to take a stick of common five cent black licorice and steeping in water until the latter is discolored. Give a quantity of it to the affected bird every few hours.

Thomas C. Powell says ten drops of turpentine, to a fowl with roup, is the best remedy he ever tried. He gives it three nights in succession, skipping the fourth night. Four doses generally does the work.

A Canadian poultry raiser recommends the following for roup: Two ounce best vinegar; one tablespoonful pulverized alum; one tablespoonful sugar of lead; put all into one bottle. Bathe the bird's head and nostrils well night and morning.

A drop is larger with some liquids than with others. For instance, water has about sixty drops to a tablespoonful or drachm, and laudanum and all other tinctures and alcohols have 120 drops to a fluid drachm.

A New England Poultryman cures roup by taking a small glass syringe, filling once with clear whisky, and injecting in passage from roof of mouth outward through the nostrils. This remedy applied two nights in succession, he says, has never failed him.

Take oak bark and put it in an old kettle, says a lady correspondent in Iowa *Homestead*. Cover with water, boil down half; when cool give to the fowls. Keep them shut up until they drink of it, and you have a cholera cure.

Thomas C. Powell says he has cured bad cases of crop bound by making the bird take all the warm coffee he could force into it. He repeated the dose two or three times, and gave as much as a teacupful at a time.

Commonly speaking, what would be considered the dose for a child is about right for a fowl. A two weeks old chicken will need as much medicine in a day as a six months old child. At six weeks it would require the same sized dose as would be given a year old child; a half grown fowl as much as a two year old child, and an adult bird as much as a four year old child.

Largest Supply House in America



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Reference—A FEW HENS.

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

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. & W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmans, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

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Light Brahmans, Plymouth Rocks,
and White Wyandottes,
—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

CALENDAR for poultrymen. Fowls in colors. Very fine.
By mail. Stamps or silver. Twenty cents.
C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

HOMING Pigeons—strong, healthy, prolific. \$1 a pair. W. A. B. HALBACH, Lancaster, Pa.

WHITE Plymouth Rock Cockerels, White Wyandottes, cheap. C. E. Snow, Wollaston, Mass.

FISH'S "SUPERIOR" WHITE LIMESTONE GRIT,

The Standard Poultry Grit of America. Annual consumption exceeds all other Grits combined—100 lbs. 75 cents. Fish's "Superior" Cut Clover, specially cured and prepared for Poultrymen's use, 50 pound sacks, \$1.00.

FAIRACRES FARM, Joliet, Illinois.

POULTRY BOOKS. "A B C Poultry Culture," 25 cents. "500 Questions and Answers on Poultry," 25 cents. Poultry House Plans, 25 cents; or "Poultry Art of Poultry Breeding" 25 cents. *Fanciers Review*, one year, 50 cents. All \$1.00. Any two books, 40 cents; three for 50 cents. W. J. DARROW, Publisher, Chatham, N. Y.

FOR SALE. Thoroughbred Buff Leghorn and Houdan, \$1.00 and \$2.00 each. Golden Polish cocks, \$1.50 each; or to be exchanged on Buff Plymouth Rock or Buff Leghorn hens. MENZEBACH BROS., 53 Washington St., Williamsport, Pa.

This Offer Cannot be Beaten!

Farm-Poultry One Year,	- - -	\$1.00
Poultry Keeper One Year,	- - -	.50
Inter State Poultryman, One Year,	- - -	.50
A Few Hens, One Year,	- - -	.25
Four P. K. Illustrators,	- - -	\$1.00
Total,		\$3.25

All of the above sent to any readers of this paper, for only \$1.25. Address, A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

Bone and Grit.

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

IF YOU WANT Good Buffs

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

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- - -	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	- - -	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- - -	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	- - -	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- - -	25 "
Total,		\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

FARM-POULTRY.

The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.

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

Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10.

Send orders either to **MICHAEL K. BOYER,** Hammonton, N. J., or the publishers below. **I. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY,** Boston, Mass.

People We Know.

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

The *Fanciers' Review* dons a handsome cover. For a standard-bred fanciers' journal, the *American Fancier* fills the bill.

Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y., have one thousand market turkeys for sale.

The "Baby" incubator is a new invention by A. H. Whitmore, Hammonton, N. J.

J. F. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J., has placed a new meat meal upon the market.

There is wit and wisdom in the advertisements of Pollard's Poultry Farm, So. Attleboro, Mass.

Arthur G. Duston, Marlboro, Mass., is probably the most extensive White Wyandotte breeder in this country.

The *Poultry Farmer* is a new publication to be issued next month by the Homestead Company, Des Moines, Iowa.

Weber Bros., Wrentham, Mass., claim to have the largest duck farm in the world; 18,000 ducklings is their record for this season.

The *Feather*, notwithstanding that it met with a severe loss by fire, issued its October number on time. That certainly is enterprise.

Long View Poultry Yards, Hyattsville, Md., under the management of Geo. G. Harley, is now the most extensive plant in that section of the country.

The catalogue of Brown Leghorns and Buff Wyandottes, as bred by C. E. Howell, Elmira, N. Y., is the finest in that line that we have received this season.

The *American Poultry Journal* is in its 28th volume, and not 10th, as stated in October A FEW HENS. We should have said 10th year of the present management.

The Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa, have just issued an elaborate catalogue, a feature of which is a real sample of mineral wool and metal used in the construction of their machines.

F. Pyle, Wilmington, Del., writes that he has raised forty-two White Wyandottes from sixty-five eggs he purchased from Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., last spring. That certainly speaks well for Mr. Child's prolific stock.

Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H., has, without a doubt, the largest lot of Barred Plymouth Rocks and S. C. Brown Leghorns in that state. The editor of A FEW HENS made the doctor two visits and was more than pleased with his fine stock.

The H-O Company, New York city, are placing upon the market a scratching feed which will meet with a heavy sale. It is a combination of all the grains, browned—from the largest to the smallest. It is not only a complete ration, but for a variety mixture, to be thrown among scratching litter, it certainly will tempt the appetites of the fowls, keeping them busy so long as a grain remains.

The Experimental Farm of A FEW HENS having a number of surplus Light Brahma males, advertised them for sale, with excellent results. A good proof that we gave bargains, these testimonials will be sufficient:

"Received Light Brahma cock last evening O. K. He is a dandy. I am well pleased with him, and the manner in which he was shipped. He is the best built Light Brahma that ever put a foot on this place."—W. R. Buckman, Randovel Poultry Farm, Byberry, Phila., Pa.

"The cockerel arrived here on Saturday noon in good order. I am very much pleased with him. I consider him a very fine bird. I have changed males every year, and this is the best one I ever had. My wife says he is a beauty."—William Barry, Park Ridge, N. J.

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100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Conn., .85
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Liberal Discount for Quantities.

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

C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

Make Hens Lay.

How to Make Hens Lay in Winter—A Few Hints and Words of Advice that May be of Value.

Feed a variety.

Give breakfast at six.

Exercise is an egg tonic.

Hens won't lay if too fat.

Milk is a complete egg food.

The starved hen is worthless.

Feed the mash warm—not hot.

Underfed hens are poor layers.

The morning mash is imperative.

Let breakfast be only half a meal.

Overcrowded flocks give few eggs.

Cold quarters check egg production.

Feed night meal an hour before dusk.

Take the chill off the drinking water.

Green bone, clover hay and grit, are essentials.

Sheridan's Condition Powder tones the egg organs.

The laying hen consumes more feed than one not laying.

The early pullets are the profitable winter egg producers.

A box of crushed oyster shell should always be within reach.

Heat the whole grain before feeding during cold weather.

The American and Asiatic breeds are the best winter layers.

Keep cabbages hanging in the house within reach of the fowls.

The scratching shed is the workshop for the busy hen in winter.

Scatter the grain at noon among litter, so the fowls must exercise.

Filthy quarters produce sickness, and sick hens will not produce eggs.

Steeped clover, mixed with the morning mash, is a great egg producer.

Cull out the poor layers, and give the prolific hens more room to work.

After the second year, the hen's value as a winter egg producer lessens.

Hens and pullets will lay as well without the attention of a male bird as with it.

Keep the fowls indoors while there is snow on the ground, or the air cold and raw.

Build a canopy over the roost, and drop the curtain after the fowls have "gone to bed."

Corn must not be fed exclusively. It should be only a night feed during very cold weather.

The H-O Poultry Feed is a mixture of a variety of grains, ground, forming a complete ration—and that is why we indorse it.

Equal parts, by weight, of a mixture of ground oats and cornmeal, with their weight of bran added, and the whole moistened with skim-milk, is recommended by Wyckoff, the New York egg farmer.

It is a mistake to say that condition powder makes eggs. It digests the food, stimulates the egg organs to healthy action, and keeps the hens in good health. Sheridan's Powder leads in that respect. It does not force, but like Fanny Field says, it encourages them to lay.

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.

S. C. BROWN Leg's, W. P. R. Hens, at 75c. and \$1.00 each. Buff P. Rocks, Buff Leg's, old and young stock cheap. Some pullets of color, 50c. each. J. H. Hellerman, Doylestown, Pa.

Barred White, Buff Ply. Rocks; 300 large, vigorous, April and May hatched chicks. Have had unlimited range. Bred from grand layers; some non-setters. Cockerels \$2. Pullets, some laying, \$1.50. 50 June hatched Pullets, \$1.00 each.
EDWIN RIEDEL, Easthampton, Mass.

Something New!

Are You Interested in Poultry?

Are You Keeping Poultry for Profit?

Are You a Beginner in Poultry Culture?

A FEW HENS is a new Monthly Poultry Paper, only 25 cents per year. Each issue is filled to overflowing with valuable hints and pointers on Broilers, Roasters, Eggs, Ducks, Geese and Turkeys, Natural and Artificial Incubation, Foods and Feeding, Diseases and Remedies, besides a host of other Practical matter.

It is edited by MICHAEL K. BOYER, who is devoting his time to editing this paper, and conducting experiments on his poultry farm—all of which are fully noted in each issue of A FEW HENS. These experiments are very valuable for the beginner.

Can a Man Make a Living on Two Acres of Land is a subject that is being dealt with practically. Mr. Boyer, on his farm, is taking the place of the beginner, and gradually building up a plant on two acres, that is to yield an income sufficient to comfortably sustain a family.

Those contemplating going into the poultry business on a small scale, will find these articles of untold value. They show just exactly what steps must be taken, what obstacles will be met, and how to avoid the stumbling blocks.

Better send on twenty-five cents at once, and secure the paper for one full year.

For forty cents, will send you A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of Mr. Boyer's book, "A Living from Poultry," price 25 cents. Or for same price, the paper one year, and book "Profitable Poultry Farming," price 25 cents.

For sixty cents, will send A FEW HENS one year, price 25 cents, and a copy of the book, "Broilers for Profit," price 50 cents. Or for the same price, the paper one year, and the book, "Farm-Poultry Doctor, price 50 cents.

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