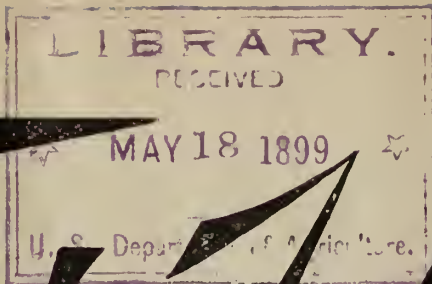


Monthly, 3 Cents.

One Year, 25 Cents.



A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., MAY 15, 1899.

NO. 11.

Your Subscription Ended

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

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

Send all money and subscriber's address, name, post office and state, (plainly written), in full to

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Shady nooks.
 Glorious May.
 Provide shade.
 Fight laziness.
 Lice court filth.
 Be at your post.
 Know your hens.
 "Git up an' git!"
 Have you patience?
 Utility on the boom.
 Are your plans right?
 Carelessness is a crime.
 A good month to hatch.
 Get rid of the mongrels.
 Study the hen's comfort.
 Steal a march on the lice.
 Are you working theories?
 Feed and breed for results.
 Are the chickens thriving?
 Keep down the foul odors.
 Have improved appliances.
 Are chicken thieves about?
 Judge a man by conditions.
 The morning sun is a tonic.
 Plant crops for the poultry.
 Beware of the Smart Aleck!
 Beware of voluntary advice.
 Lice-killers are now in order.
 Are you in love with poultry?
 Pure breeds are money makers.
 The mid-day sun is getting hot.
 The business is as you make it.
 The hot noon sun is weakening.
 The kicker generally works a bluff.
 Neat appearances create satisfaction.
 Regulate the expenses by the income.
 Cheap incubators are like mongrel stock.

Experimental Farm Notes.

More New Nest Traps—Improvements Going on—Receipt of Eggs—The Egg Yield and Prices for the Month of March.

We are still experimenting with trap nests, and have come to some conclusions which we believe will be of value to our readers. We find that all traps that are worked by pulleys or catches are apt to get out of order. Time and again we find that the doors do not work, allowing the hen on the nest without closing. What seems to be the hardest thing to overcome is a nest that will prevent two hens from getting on it at the same time.

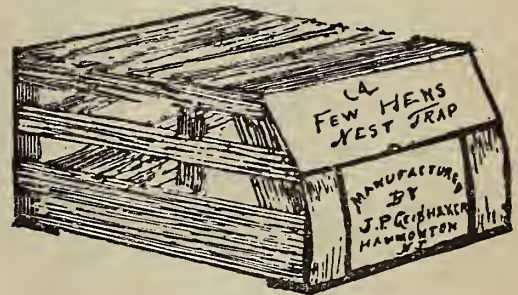
As we mentioned in our last issue, the simplest nest in our experience is the Eureka, and it will be impossible for two hens to get in it at the same time if the confining pens are done away with. Of course where no confining pens are used, the nests will have to be looked after more frequently, and there must be more nests in use. Still, for accuracy, that extra trouble is well paid for.

W. M. Lloyd, Tuckahoo, N. Y., sent in two trap nests which are an improvement on the others sent. Cords are fastened to a catch. The moment the hen steps on the nest the catch loosens and the door drops. The one nest works in front, the other in the rear. To date we have not found two hens on the same nest, and they bid fair to meet all desired wants. The boxes are large, which does away with confining pens.

John Geishaker, the Hammonton man referred to in last issue, also added two new nests. One works on four small wheels, on the order of ball bearings. It seems to be a good thing, and to date has been doing good work.

But, to cap the climax, Mr. Geishaker has invented a nest that is not only strictly first class, but gotten up in a real attractive style. It works on the order of a roller top desk. The hen steps in the box, and the moment her foot strikes a brake, which it does after her body is on the inside, the door comes down. The nest does not work the door, as is the case in Mr. Lloyd's boxes.

It is next to impossible for two hens to enter at the same time. This nest from the start so attracted our attention, that Mr. Geishaker has christened it after A FEW HENS. We give an illustration in this issue. These nests, we believe, will be shortly placed upon the market.



To date we have narrowed the contest down to the Eureka nest (without confining pen), Mr. Lloyd's latest invention, and the latest invention of Mr. Geishaker. We hope to have more to say about them in our next.

Quite a number of improvements are now underway on the Experimental Farm, which will be noted when completed. The hens are laying very well, and the voice of the chicks make things merry. The fruit trees promises a crop this year, the blossoms and foliage making a very pretty sight. There is nothing so profitable on a poultry plant as fruit trees, and we propose having plenty of them. Peaches, pears and plums do exceptionally well in hen yards.

The Experimental Farm acknowledged receipt of Rhode Island Red eggs from Prof. Samuel Cushman, Pawtucket, R. I. These eggs are very attractive in size and color, and we hope to have a good hatch from them. Mr. Cushman sent us two sittings each of the single and rose comb varieties. The eggs were set under hens, and notes will be taken from time to time as the chicks grow.

Leonard Woods, manager of the Woods Egg Holder Co., St. Louis, Mo., forwarded a sitting of Silver Wyandotte eggs. For size and color these eggs beat anything we have yet seen in the Wyandotte family. The eggs are hatching at this writing.

During March of this year, our Brahmās laid 407 eggs; Wyandottes, 743 eggs; Leghorns, 474 eggs; ducks, 212 eggs. This made a total of 1836 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction over 59 eggs. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 75, and the lowest number 44.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received during the month was 32 cents, and the lowest 14 cts.; average 18 cts.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

More Endorsement of the Fresh Egg Advice of A FEW HENS—Fertility of Eggs from Hens in Confinement—An Excellent Wyandotte Record.

Prices are down.

Market regularly.

Have clean nests.

Don't neglect your record.

Don't disappoint your customers.

We have little faith in "egg types."

Study the whims of your retail custom.

Don't market eggs laid by ailing hens.

A cool cellar is the best place to keep eggs.

You can fool an egg customer once—but only once.

Have you figured what it costs to produce an egg?

A wit asks: Can a hennery be termed "an egg plant."

When prices are low it is a good plan to turn the cheap eggs into chicks.

For successful egg farming, the breed, feed and care are important requisites.

Careful breeding, proper feeding, and the right kind of care, will produce heavy laying in any breed.

"Yes, sir, it's layer grafting to breed up your hens by introducing selected laying stock," says *Rural New-Yorker*.

Frights and excitement check laying, says *Farm Journal*. A playful puppy in the poultry yard is not an egg persuader.

We don't know how to pack away summer eggs to sell in a fresh egg market in winter—so, please, don't ask us.

The small bantam or pigeon-sized eggs frequently found denote the last of a litter. Some old people look upon them with superstition.

Until eggs are sold by the pound, says *Rural Home*, the little good layers will have the call. It only takes twelve to make a dozen, no matter the size.

The first eggs of the brown-egg layers are generally of a good color, but as the hen increases her laying she decreases the amount of color, owing to the gradual loss of the pigment which colors the eggs.

Farm Journal says that after a separation from the general flock, and a mating of 10 days with a pure-bred male, a hen may be depended on to lay eggs that will hatch out "straight" chicks.

A hen has to keep comfortable in order to do good work, says *Rural Home*. A hen that is cold, or wet, or poorly fed, will not lay eggs. That is the reason hens quit laying when there is a storm.

We believe there are hens in every flock that do not lay enough eggs to pay

their board. We also believe those same flocks have individual hens that are doing the bulk of the laying. Economy comes in by breeding from these heavy layers and getting rid of the inferior stock. To detect the good and the bad, it is necessary that trap nests be employed.

"Many breeders claim that, as a rule, it will be found that eggs from hens in confinement will not hatch as well, when placed in incubators, as eggs from stock having free range, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. We beg to differ. We find that hens comfortably quartered in runs that are not too small, with alternate yards to be sown in green stuff—and the hens made to exercise for their grain will give equally as strong fertility as when given free range. We use both incubators and hens in hatching.

There is much feeling amongst Massachusetts poultrymen that it is exceedingly unfair that "cold storage" and imported eggs are sold to unsuspecting buyers as "strictly fresh," "new laid," "home made," etc., and a movement is now on foot—indeed, a petition has been presented to the Legislature, asking that eggs be given the same protection under the law that other food products have. This movement, so far as it has taken shape, is quite as much, if not more; in the interests of the consumers as the producers, it being grossly unfair to both that stale (unfresh) eggs be palmed off as fresh laid.—*Farm-Poultry*.

If people wish to buy and consume "cold storage" and imported eggs there can be no valid objection to their doing so; but purchasers, to say nothing of the producers of fresh eggs, are certainly entitled to protection against fraudulent misrepresentation. The fraud consists in representing cold storage and imported eggs to be "strictly fresh," "new laid," etc. The movement started in Massachusetts is a good one. Consumers and producers should unite in demanding the enactment of a law such as that proposed.—*Ohio Poultry Journal*.

E. L. Prickett, Hazardville, Conn., writes: "I note with much pleasure your increased admiration for White Wyandottes, which coincides with my views exactly in that they are a grand utility fowl. This is my second season with them, and I am finding them to be the best layers I ever had. Everybody in this section of the country keeps "a few hens," but none of them could keep pace with my White Wyandottes this winter. They have laid remarkably well all winter, during all kinds of weather, and didn't let up when I mated up my breeding pens. Acting on your recommendation, I have been using Bowker's Animal Meal and Curtiss Bros. Clover, and find that they are both excellent for making hens lay. Door to my hen house has been open nearly every day this winter, and fowls allowed out in all kinds of weather, and a healthier lot of fowls I never had nor saw. That is the way I ventilate my hen house. I have also found milk to be an excellent addition to food. I enclose

my egg record for four months, and let you be the judge as to whether it is a good report or not. I enjoy reading *A FEW HENS* immensely, and every number is carefully preserved. *A FEW HENS* is my daily food.

The record which Mr. Prickett encloses shows that 41 White Wyandotte pullets laid 402 eggs in the month of December, 1898; an average of 9 8-10 eggs per hen; 13 eggs per day average for the month. January, 1898, was started with 41 pullets, but on the 11th one hen was set, on the 14th a hen was killed, and on the 21st a hen was set. This gave an average of 39 38-100 number of hens for the month, which laid 814 eggs during the month, giving an average of 20 2-3 eggs per hen, 26 eggs per day. Nearly all were laying the first week in January. February was started with 37 hens and on the 1st one was set, on the 11th one was set, on the 19th one was set and one was killed. This was the blizzard month, the hens averaged 35 64-100 in number, and yet laid 726 eggs, making an average per hen of 20 1-3; 26 eggs per day. March was begun with 34 hens, four hens were set on the 18th, and on that day one of the hens with young began laying, and on the 22d another began. The average for the month was 32 hens, and they laid 753 eggs, 23 1-2 per hen, an average of 24 9-31 eggs per day. From January 1st to March 11th, 70 days, the hens laid 1814 eggs.

SCHUYLKILL Valley Poultry Farm. Eggs from S. S. and R. C. W. Leghorns, S. C. B. Leghorns, \$1.00 per 15. J. C. KURZ, Conshohocken, Pa.

BUFF LEGHORNS, BARRED AND WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, WHITE WYANDOTTES, BLACK MINORCAS and PEKIN DUCKS; strong, vigorous, prolific laying, farm-raised stock. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 50. Circular free. GEO. A. HURLBERT, Cuyler, N. Y.

INCUBATOR EGGS

IMPERIAL PEKIN DUX, \$1.50 per sitting; \$6 per 100. BARRED PLY. ROX'S, \$1.50 per sitting; \$5 per 100.

WAITE POULTRY FARM,
27th and Olive Streets, Kansas City, Mo.

WHITE WYANDOTTES

\$1.00 per 13; \$6.00 per 100, for eggs from same pens I hatch from for my own use. Their superiors are few, if you wish size, shape, color and laying qualities along with good looks. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

Barred Ply. Rocks,

Bred for Eggs and Meat. Eggs per sitting, \$1.25. R. B. COMMERFORD, P. O. Box 432, Vineland, N. J.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Barred P. Rocks, I brown eggs; S. C. W. Leghorns from extra layers. \$1 per 15 eggs. Frank Dransfield, Rutsonville, N. Y.

MY WHITE WYANDOTTES are from the best laying strains. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. WM. NICHOLLS, 42 Church Street, Lowell, Mass.

ROUEN and Pekin Ducks, Brown Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks. Eggs, \$1.00. JAS. TAGGART, Northumberland, Pa.

BASSLER'S strains of premium fowls, Barred Plymouth Rocks; Light Brahmās; Brown, Buff and Wh. Leghorns, are **BIG LAYERS.** To know positively that this is true, try one or more sittings. 13 eggs, \$1.50; 26, \$2. Cockerels for sale, \$2 to \$3. W. E. BASSLER, "Wayside Home" Poultry Yards, Middleburgh, N. Y.

STOCK and EGGS.

White and Buff Wyandotte, White Plymouth Rock and Black Langshans, Rouen and Pekin Ducks. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1.00 per setting. A. P. BENSON, Dedham, Mass.

CHILD'S WYANDOTTES

SILVER AND WHITE.
WM. H. CHILD, . . . HATBORO, PA.

About Broilers and Roasters.

The Market is Calling for Smaller Sized Broilers—A Few Stray Remarks That May be of Use to Beginners.

Never ship in dirty boxes or barrels. You cannot grow broilers on free range. Never send a fowl to market that has a full crop.

Dry-picked poultry will stand longer shipments.

A too-fat fowl makes a very poor looking carcass.

Mongrel stock make very unsatisfactory market poultry.

Be sure the poultry are well fattened before killing time.

Never kill a fowl for market that has a pale or sickly look.

Never pack culls with good stock. Ship each in separate lots.

Prices for poultry meat have been very encouraging this season.

In dry-picking the feathers must be plucked while the body is still warm.

Beware of dark pin feathers, as they spoil the attractiveness of the carcass.

As a rule the Silver Wyandotte shows a more yellow skin than does the White variety.

Fancy broilers, two pounds to the pair, have been selling well in the New York city markets.

There should be a strict law against sending to market poultry that are not in the pink of condition.

Be careful what your market chicks pick up. Fish, onions, "scratching in the manure pile," etc., are not conducive to good flavor in meat.

J. H. Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*, was the first to advocate the Wyandotte fowl for broiler purposes—only in that day the Silver was the only variety of that family.

Have one breed or one cross. It is the keynote of success, as it gives the possible chance of marketing the stock in flocks, instead of picking here and there according to size and weight.

The printer made us say, on page 115 of March issue: "Plumb breasts." It should have been "plump." The great trouble with most of the carcasses marketed is that they are too "plumb" and not "plump" enough.

The Maine *Farmer* says if a poultryman does not get the most good, the most profit, out of his market fowls, it is because he lacks knowledge of feeding for best results. Right feeding is a science. Poultrymen should study how to feed for best results.

Arthur Duston, in the book "Artificial Incubating and Brooding" says: "Remember, it is generally the bird that can stand the greatest amount of food that makes the quickest grown broiler, and must be the bird you should adopt, as every additional day means additional cost for labor, coal and food."

While the Brahma undoubtedly is the best roasting fowl in existence, as a broiler it is not specially recommended. First, because the eggs do not hatch as readily in an incubator as do those of the American class; and, second, the feathers on their legs is against their sale.

When hatching and raising for early broilers especially, there is not much

difference in the breeds, says Maine *Farmer*, as during the first six weeks chicks of the different breeds weigh pretty much the same; but after that age the difference begins, and there will be a steady and continuous gain on the part of the larger breeds, that at maturity is often very considerable. James Rankin says: "I never sold a broiler in my life. The broiler age is just the time when all the danger of mortality has passed. The last two or three pounds can be put on much cheaper than the first. Whoever raises beef or pork knows that this is so. The price of a good roaster is higher than the price of a good broiler. So we hold our chickens until they are four and a half months old, and our pullets until they are a little over a year old."

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

The New York Station's Poultry Buildings—Cut Bone vs. Animal Meal for Egg Production—Clover Rowen vs. Cabbage for Egg Production—Analysis of American and H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed, Bowker's Animal Meal, and Bradley's Superior Meat Meal and Beef Scraps.

In the Director's Report for the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., an illustration and description is given of the new poultry house. The central portion of the building is higher than the wings, and has a basement, part of which is used for an incubator room and part occupied by a hot water heater and coal. From the incubator room two eight-inch ventilating pipes run to the loft. The first floor is used for a work room and one part as a sleeping room for the poultry man. The loft is used for storage.

Toward the end of the brooder wing are four pens in which can be used separate lamp brooders. A row of eight brooders is heated by pipes of hot water. Back of these brooders is a sunken passageway connected with the heater room of the basement. This is covered by a trap floor which may be hooked back when desired. When working in this passageway the brooders are at the height of an ordinary work bench. Four of the brooding chambers are 2 x 3 ft., and four 2 x 4 feet on the floor. Four flow pipes of hot water run through the brooders immediately over the chicks, and two larger return pipes run underneath the tight floor. The brooders are separated by air chambers or boxes from which fresh air is admitted at each end of the brooder chamber through screened covered openings. Doors from the air box open into the passageway so that pans of hot water to supply moisture may be placed on the return pipes.

These air boxes are not separated from the long enclosed space under the brooders through which the return pipe runs. A damper admits fresh air from the passageway to the space under each brooder so that a current of air may pass under the floor of the brooder over the return pipes, then

into the air box over the moisture pans and enter the brooding chamber near the flow pipes. The front of the brooding chamber is open, the floor being level with the floor of the pen, but can be closed when desired by a door of wire netting. The rear wall, partly of glass, is securely attached to the cover which is hinged and lifts against the partition. The brooder covers are strong so that collectively they form a raised walk. Wire netting doors open into each brooder pen. The wing at the loft contains a feed room and four pens for breeding stock. This wing has a tight board ceiling. Trap doors open into the loft and ventilator pipes extend through the roof. A pipe connected with the water heater runs through this wing along the floor under the water dishes and nests, so it is possible to warm the room slightly if desired during very cold weather. The sides at the rear and the outer ends of both wings are double, enclosing an air space. The windows in each wing are of one sash and hinged at the side so that they serve as doors to the open runs. Storm windows are fitted on outside for use during cold weather.

In reporting the test made of Cut Bone vs. Animal Meal for egg production, the Hatch Experiment Station, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, says the dressed fowls which had received the cut bone were slightly better than the other lot. Two hens in the cut-bone house died during the experiment, from diarrhoea; those in the other house were healthy throughout the experiment. The dry matter per egg was, where cut bone was fed, 0.877 pounds; on animal meal, 0.69 pounds. The number of sitters was 6 in the cut-bone house, 12 in the other.

FOUND

the place to buy the best at reasonable prices, from Hunter's strain Barred Plymouth Rocks. Bred for utility and egg production. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. Chas. Peterson, 85 Smith St., Perth Amboy, N. J.

Barred Ply. Rocks.

Thoroughbred stock of well-known brown egg strains. Breeders carefully selected each year for various desirable qualities. Have bred Barred Rocks exclusively for four years. No stock for sale. Eggs, \$1.50 per 13; \$6.00 per 100. Satisfaction guaranteed. P. B. METCALF, No. 30 Laurence Ave., Roxbury, Mass.

WHY DON'T YOU BUY

An Indian Game Cockerel or some Eggs, and raise some chickens worth eating?

Carpenter's Cornish Indians

Are Prize Winners wherever shown. Also breed Fine Black Minorcas. B. Plymouth Rocks bred for utility, and Muscovy Ducks. Stock and eggs for sale. H. M. CARPENTER, Sing Sing, N. Y.

EGGS, MEAT, POINTS.

I aim to produce birds that combine these three. My birds are heavy winter layers, and make me a handsome profit on eggs. They are unexcelled for broilers or roasters. The beginner about to select the breed he would adopt should investigate the merits of my

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS

My pens contain twenty birds with an average score of 92.9-20, by judge McClave. All headed by choice males, mated to produce winners.

EGGS—13, \$3.00; 26, \$5.00. FRED. E. PILE, - - - Cleveland, Ohio.

A sample of eggs from each house was subjected to analysis. Those produced on the cut bone contained rather more protein but less fat than the other. A test for cooking quality was indecisive; one of the two housekeepers having preferred one lot; the other the opposite lot.

Continuing the report says:

"The advantage in this trial is, then, clearly with the animal meal as a food for egg-production. It has given more eggs of a greater average weight and at considerable less cost than the bone; and it is, moreover, a more convenient food to use, as well as safer. The results this year are thus the opposite of those of last year. We have now repeated this experiment four times, with results twice favorable to the bone and twice to the animal meal, but have not before found so decisive a difference as this year. We repeat the experiment again this winter."

Clover Rowen vs. Cabbage for egg-production is another experiment by the Hatch Experiment Station which gives important information. The cut clover was fed in the morning mash. Instead of the clover, a fresh cabbage was kept before the fowls in the other house. The advantage seemed to lie most decidedly with the fowls fed cabbages, in so far as numbers, weight and cost of eggs are concerned. The eggs from the clover house were, however, much superior in cooking and eating quality to those from the other. Both housekeepers reporting are most emphatic in the expression of their preference for the eggs from the fowls fed the clover. One reports: "The eggs from the clover lot are in every way superior." The other says: "They are superior in color, size of yolk and flavor;" and adds that "they have the finest flavor of any eggs she ever ate."

Analysis showed the eggs from the fowls fed cabbages to contain higher percentages of dry matter, protein and fat than the others. The superior richness of these eggs apparently renders them strong in flavor.

The Feeding Stuff Inspection of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station (Orono, Maine) gives this summary of analysis of poultry foods:

The American Cereal Co.'s American Poultry Food, 14.19 per cent. protein; 5.91 per cent. fat. Corn, Oat and Barley Feed, 12.75 per cent. protein; 5.39 per cent. fat.

The H-O Co.'s Poultry Feed, 18.04 per cent. protein; 5.70 per cent. fat.

Bowker Fertilizer Co.'s Animal Meal, 42.51 per cent. protein; 12.95 per cent. fat.

Bradley Fertilizer Co.'s Superior Meat Meal, 43.56 per cent. protein; 15.95 per cent. fat. Old Fashioned Beef Scraps, 49.13 protein; 19.60 fat.

EVERYTHING FOR THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

from a leg band and poultry bit to an incubator, will be found in our Free Illustrated Catalogue of

POULTRY SUPPLIES. We have on hand the finest quality of prepared second crop cut clover hay—the great winter green food, \$1.75 per 100 lb. sack. Send for catalogue to-day. HARVEY SEED CO. 35 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Hatching and Rearing Chicks in the Natural Way—Bloated Chicks—Geo. O. Brown's Method of Feeding.

Have roomy nests.

Avoid sloppy food.

Provide plenty of shade.

Have the coops rat proof.

Vary the diet for the chicks.

Filth and dampness are fatal.

Never allow food to lie around.

Select a cool place for the broody hen.

Keep the drinking vessel out of the sun.

Always set a hen where it cannot be disturbed.

Never set more than one hen in the same apartment.

It is a mistake to set a hen twice in succession.

Get the chicks in before that storm reaches you.

Put a camphor ball in the nest when setting a hen.

Don't use harsh methods in breaking up broody hens.

Never set a hen in the house where the laying stock are kept.

Be sure the nest is free from vermin before putting in the eggs.

Feeding little and often is preferable to having the food lying around.

Do not round the nest so much that the eggs will roll toward the centre.

It is best to have the nest so arranged that the hen can get off and on at will.

Should a hen befoul the nest, all the material affected should be removed.

It is one thing to hatch chicks—and quite another to raise them—even with hens.

Painting the nest well with coal oil, before setting the hen, is a good way to kill what vermin may exist.

Do not wait until the broods are hatched out before getting the coops in readiness. Have the coops ready and waiting.

It is best not to allow a hen with young free range, at least not for the first 10 days, as she is apt to over exercise the young.

Tobacco stems, dried tansy leaves or pennyroyal stems are often used, and considered as of value to keep down vermin.

Having a certain hour to attend to the sitting hens is important. The hens will soon become accustomed to the regularity.

It is best not to set the broody hen that has a pale and sickly look. Such hens very often die before the hatch is completed.

When chickens do not feather out well, give them "bread soaked in ale, with crushed bones and oyster shells daily." So says Mrs. Arbuthnot.

A broody hen has a will of her own, and persuasion and kind treatment must be given, or else there is endless trouble and vexation of spirit.

Good management means a great deal when the season for incubation is at hand. It must also be coupled with patience and perseverance, says Geo. O. Brown.

When a chick loses its sprightliness something has gone amiss. It may be due to the food, the drinking water,

dampness or vermin. The poultryman must always be on the alert.

Where pullets are used for sitters there is absolute necessity for gentle treatment. It is their "first experience" and it will take a little time to convince them that your intentions are not hostile.

Unless one is favorably situated, and has at command suitable accommodations to combat unfavorable weather, there is little, if any, advantage to be derived from having chickens hatched out early. Warm and dry quarters must be provided artificially for chickens hatched out of season.

A writer in the old *Moore's Rural New-Yorker* says: "Screenings for chicks are neither a safe nor profitable feed. There is too much cockle, chaff and other foul seeds in it, besides the dirt and filth from vermin." That was written about 40 years ago. Are the screenings of today any improvement? The successful poultry raiser invariably gains his success by observing the conditions that are essential to such results. Geo. O. Brown says so-called "good" or "poor luck" plays no part in poultry raising. "Good luck" is merely a misnomer for good management, and "poor luck" is only a masquerade for miserable, shiftless management.

The Hen's Friend.



The Webster & Hannum Bone Cutter cuts bone, meat and gristle in just the form fowls like it best, and in the form they need it for egg production.

It is the lightest running bone cutter on the market, and requires but one hand to operate, being absolutely self-feeding and regulating. Received only award at World's Fair, Chicago.

We also make Grit Crushers and Clover Cutters. Send for free booklet.

E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6, Syracuse, N. Y.

EGGS REASONABLE—From THOROUGHBREDS

90c. for 15, From Wh., Buff and Bd. P. Rocks
\$1.75 for 30, Wh., Golden and Bl. Wyandottes,
2.50 for 45, Lt. and Dark Brahmas, Wh. and
4.00 for 75, Black Minorcas, Red Caps, S. S.
5.00 for 100, Hamburgs, S. C. Brown, Buff and
Wh. Leghorns, R. C. Wh. Leghorns, Red P. Games,
Houdans, Am. Dominiques and Pekin Ducks. Also
\$2.00 for every 15 eggs from Sherwoods, Wh. Wonders, Wh. and Cornish Ind. Games.

Fertility guaranteed. See our catalog; it's free. Stock for sale at \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. Order remitting by Post Office Order, or write your wants.

BROOKSIDE PLTY. YARDS, Nelson, Pa.

OUR INCUBATORS EQUAL THE BEST..

They have all the latest improvements and are sold at very low prices and GUARANTEED to please every customer. Send 6c. for our 148 page catalogue which contains full descriptions of our extensive line and tells how to raise poultry successfully. Send for it at once.

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

Heavy LAYING Strains

S. C. Brown Leghorns (average 187 eggs per hen). Pekin Ducks (average 143 eggs per duck). This is Thoroughbred, Standard stock. Vigorous, and raised on unlimited range till maturity, and bred for eggs only. \$1.50 per sitting.

F. CHRISTMAN, Sellersville, (Bucks Co.,) Pa.

The Baltimore *Sun* says good care and proper feeding will cause the later hatched broods—those that come when nature's conditions are suitable—to make wonderfully rapid growth. Many a late hatched brood, properly handled, has overtaken in growth some much earlier ones that did not have the convenience requisite to promote proper growth. The best results are only to be secured by giving such care as insures a continuous and unchecked growth.

Success—that is, the right kind of success—is not to be obtained by haphazard or sloughful methods. If proper treatment, furnishing a varied diet of clean, wholesome food, and providing good, substantial, roomy, vermin-proof coops, is considered too much trouble by any one, then they should change their business. Luck plays no part in chicken raising; it is simply good results or poor results according to the degree of skill and intelligence observed. Nothing less, nothing more.

Cleanliness in feeding is of as much importance as the food. Feeding boards for young chicks is a good way to keep the food clean. These boards should be about two feet long and one foot wide, and place the feed on this outside the coop, where the hen cannot reach it. The board should be kept clean, and just as it is to be used scatter a handful of clean, sharp sand upon it. After feeding hang the board up.

The practical poultry raiser always starts several hens at the same time, knowing full well it is but little more labor to care for half a dozen hens than one, says Baltimore *Sun*. There are also several other good reasons for observing such a plan. The broods can be divided up and more chicks given to a hen than she hatches. By doing this some of the hens can sooner go back to the yards, and will commence laying again in a comparatively short period.

Wanted. Broilers, Roasters and Eggs from your own yards. Write. Harry B. Cook, Lenox, Mass.

P. DUCKS, Rankin and Pollard stock. W. P. Rocks (Hawkins) B. Minorcas (Northup). Eggs \$1 per 20; \$4 per 100. C. L. McFerrer, Darlington, O.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from grand large bodied Pekin Ducks; early and prolific layers. \$1.00 per 11. O. A. STOLL, Orion, Mich.

BARRED PLY. ROCKS Hunter-Colby. Nicely barred, heavy-laying strain. \$1.00 per sitting. G. E. Chalfant, Hammonton, N. J.

\$1.00 PER SITTING

for White Wyandotte Eggs after June 1st. Hens averaged 180 eggs each the past year, clearing a profit of \$14.00 per head.

C. K. NELSON, Hammonton, N. J.

BUFF ROCKS AT A BARGAIN.

Cock; three hens. Cost \$27.00. Have secured all eggs wanted for hatching. \$15.00 takes them. J. MORRISON, 223 Keystone Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

LIVE POULTRYMAN prefer dead lice. See TOBACCO DUST advertisement.

WHITE Wyandottes,
Golden Egg Strain.

You cannot have Golden Egg or her eggs, but you can have her daughters' eggs. Try a sitting and compare them with any eggs you can get. Eggs \$2.00 per sitting; three for \$5.00. After the 1st of June, eggs \$1.00 per sitting. WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

If an egg, from any cause, gets broken in the nest and smears the other, the smeared ones should at once be washed clean with warm water. Hold the egg still in the hand and with a woolen cloth wash clean and at once wipe dry. Return the eggs to the nest and spread a cloth over them until the hen is ready to return to the nest. Unless this is done a washed egg may become fatally chilled, says G. O. Brown. Of course, if any of the nest material is soiled with the contents of a broken egg it will be necessary to remove it and replace with new.

Cornmeal mixed with cold water, where chicks are allowed to go a long time between meals, is really a dangerous feed. In the morning chicks are hungry and will partake of it as long as they can find room for it in their craws, and even then twist and contort their necks trying to work more down. The meal being mixed with cold water does not swell until it gets into the chick's craws and commences to be warmed up, and then it swells and often crop-bound results or loose bowels follow. If the meal has been mixed with boiling water the ingredients have already swollen all they will before the chicks get it. That mixed with the hot water the ingredients have already swollen all they will before the chicks get it. That mixed with the hot water is also more nourishing.

J. S. C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, writes that he has lost several chicks from bloating, and wants to know the cause and remedy. This is known as *Emphysema*, a disease that generally attacks very young chicks reared in too-close and warm quarters. It results from a rupture of the air cells, says Prof. Vale, an English authority, which have by some means become choked. The extravasated air, escaping through the connective tissue, finds its way into the neck and other parts of the body. The skin in the neighborhood of the neck is puffed out like a ball. It is generally associated with bronchitis, in which case the symptoms of that disease will be present also. Let out the air by making a small puncture through the skin, and keep the chicken in a moist warm atmosphere. If there is no sign that the chicken is also suffering from bronchitis, add one grain citrate of iron and quinine to each two ounces of its drinking water.

Here is a bill of fare advocated by Geo. O. Brown, one of the best poultry authorities in the country: For the first 36 hours after the chicks are hatched they require little food. Dry bread crumbs and dry rolled oats may be fed at first. Follow this with as much variety as possible. Corn bread well baked and then moistened with milk, squeezing all the surplus milk out before feeding, can be given in the morning, and again about 3 p. m. When the corn bread is properly baked it will have a hard, well-browned crust, and it is the crust portions that it is best to moisten, as advised. The inner portions of the loaf will be of the right persistency to properly crumble for feeding. Rice thoroughly boiled and

then set back on the stove until it has steamed and become quite free from moisture is also a good food. Cornmeal, with one-third wheat middlings, mixed thoroughly while in the dry state and then mixed with boiling water, so the mess is of a dry, crumbly nature, is a food that makes bone and muscle. Oatmeal cooked as dry as possible should be given as soon as the chicks will eat it; so should whole grain wheat of the soundest and best that can be procured.

After the chicks are four weeks old the last feed at night should be whole wheat or cracked corn, feeding the corn one evening and wheat the next. Where hominy chop can be obtained it should take the place of cornmeal every other day. Hominy chop is the heart of the best kiln-dried white corn ground fine. It takes the hot water nicely, swells and cooks, and is comparatively free from stickiness. One of the greatest foods for making chicks grow rapidly is made as follows: Take 3 quarts of hominy chips, 1 quart of wheat middlings, and 1 quart of oats ground very fine and mixed with boiling milk. This food may be given to young chicks three or more times a day, and other food in between. Young chicks for the first few weeks should be fed every two hours or so. Give them just what they will eat with apparent relish each time, but do not give them more than they require, and do not leave any food for them lying around. Remove all they do not eat so that each feed may be tempting, sweet and clean.

In early hatches it is well to supply the chicks with some kind of green food—finely chopped celery, tops and all, lettuce, and occasionally in the evening a little finely chopped onion. Fine ground green rawbone should be given every day. The bone scraps from the table may also be crushed fine and fed. Table scraps of all kinds form one of the very best foods for chicks and help to make the desired varied diet. Bear in mind that young chicks are forming flesh, muscle, bone and feathers at one and the same time. No one food will answer for all these requirements.

B. P. ROCKS, farm raised. Eggs, 13 for \$1.00. Sat. guaranteed. F. L. Bradley, Charleston, Me.

Wyckoff strain, great egg producing S. C. W. Leghorns. 15 eggs, \$1. W. J. Kilts, Milford, N. Y.

Black Langshans. Early maturing, prolific laying stock. 13 eggs, \$1.25; \$3 for 39, from high scoring birds. JOHN TUFTS, Rockport, Mass.

A. G. Wilkinson, Clifford, Mich., breeder of W. F. B. Spanish poultry. Best known egg producers. Eggs for hatching, \$1 pr. 13. Birds \$1.50 each.

White P. Rocks. Jersey Beauties. Eggs per 13 (Hawkins), \$2.00; (Empire), \$1.00. REV. W. T. DORWOOD, Stelton, N. J. (Member A. W. P. R. Club).

Heavy Laying

Single Comb Brown, White and Buff Leghorns, Black and White Minorcas; Barred, White and Buff Plymouth Rocks; S. S. Hamburgs; White and Golden Wyandottes; W. F. B. Spanish; Rose Comb Buff Leghorns; Pearl and White Guineas; P. Ducks. Eggs, \$1 per 15; \$3 per 60; \$5 per 100.

Bronze Turkeys, headed by 50 pound Tom; eggs, 25 cents each. Look up my show record.

JAMES M. SMITH,
PERKIOMENVILLE (Montg., County), Pa.

P. S. Incubator eggs from good stock B. P. Rocks and S. C. Br. and Wh. Leghorns, \$3.00 per 100; \$5.00 per 200. Send P. O. Money Order or Reg. Letter.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

*The Experiences of Noted Experts—
The Use of the Thermometer—Eggs
Must Be Cooled to Give Strong Chicks
—Ventilation and How to Run the
Ventilators—Moisture, its Use and
Abuse.*

Air the eggs daily.

Don't put off matters.

Don't become careless.

Watch the thermometer.

Regularity is imperative.

Make a study of your work.

Use plenty of commonsense.

Are the lamp burners clean?

Each hatch will teach something new.

How is the air in the incubator room?

Test the thermometer before each hatch.

Close the machine while airing the eggs.

Never allow the eggs to cool down below 85 degrees.

Eggs from weak, sickly stock will make poor hatches.

A wet or poorly ventilated cellar is the worst place for an incubator.

Never set eggs of different breeds in the same incubator at the same time.

Dark shelled eggs generally require more time to hatch than white shelled ones.

As a rule, more moisture is needed in warm weather hatching than during the winter.

In airing eggs gradually increase the time. At first they will get enough while turning the eggs.

Eggs will stand a greater variation in temperature the last week of the hatch than they will the first.

A vessel of water in the brooder, so placed that the chicks cannot get into it, is very beneficial to the young.

The same rules that apply to the operation of one make of incubators will not, necessarily, answer for another.

In a room of 60 degrees temperature, eggs will lose one degree in two minutes; in 40 degrees about one degree in one minute.

There is no better method for securing strongly fertilized eggs for incubator use, than to have two male birds for each pen, alternating daily.

To test thermometers, place them in water, warmed to 102 degrees, alongside a reliable physician's thermometer. Stir the water continually while testing.

Mr. Stevenson says, in airing eggs, if the room is 40 to 50 degrees, 10 to 15 minutes is long enough, while if 70 to 80 degrees, 20 to 30 minutes is none too long.

In a valuable article in *Rural New-Yorker*, J. E. Stevenson says there are very few machines now with automatic egg-turning devices, for turning eggs without removing from the egg chamber, and nearly all authorities prefer taking them out for turning, when they are sure to get a slight airing twice each day.

If we run the ventilators one-third open in a room with a temperature of 40 degrees, they should be all the way open if the room should be 80 degrees. Always the warmer the room the more ventilation should be given. The ventilation must, also, be regulated according to the atmosphere. Dry

climates require much less ventilation than where the air is laden with moisture. The amount can be determined only by careful observation. If the chicks come out weak, and appear sticky, not drying off nicely, there has not been enough ventilation.

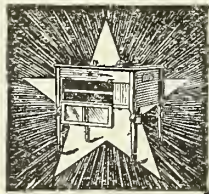
"During the last week, an egg containing a living chick will be one to two degrees warmer than an infertile egg directly beside it," says Mr. Stevenson. "Thus if the bulb were resting continually on an infertile or dead egg, we would be in the same fix as though the thermometer registered too low, and if changed from fertile to infertile, as would be the case were they not tested, we would be continually adjusting the regulator, and wondering why the machine does not regulate itself more closely. On the whole, I prefer having the thermometer hung just above the eggs; in this way, we get the temperature of the egg chamber, and all eggs are subjected to the same degrees of heat, the same as when under a hen."

In answer to the theory that cooling eggs is detrimental to the hatch, Mr. Stevenson very wisely says: If the change from 103 degrees to 60 degrees or less for the few minutes required for turning, is too great, what about the sitting hen that must come off occasionally for food and water, even though the temperature is 20 degrees or less? She will stay off in zero weather much longer than the time required to turn the eggs from an incubator. In my opinion, the change, if not long enough to chill the eggs, will give stronger chicks than the continually closed machine or the hen that sits more closely. It is much easier to get the desired air-space in

the eggs when the incubator room is at 50 degrees then when at 80 degrees, and I find it much easier to get out good hatches of strong chicks in the early spring than in hot weather.

By far more chicks never see daylight, or pass to rest quickly after hatching, on account of too much moisture than not enough, and unless sure the make of incubator and surrounding conditions require it, one should not use any moisture, or at least, not until the last few days of the hatch. Too much moisture will not only cause many chicks to die in the shell by causing an abnormal growth (the chick swelling so as so completely fill the shell that it is unable to turn and break its way out), but many of those that do hatch will not be much expense for feed, as they will not stay long. Some incubators will require moisture in the same room where others will do much better without any at all. There are a few machines that require the moisture pans to be filled at the beginning of the hatch and kept full, owing to their having both top and bottom ventilation, making a direct current of air passing through the egg chamber constantly. The best way to determine the amount of moisture required is to examine the eggs occasionally with an egg tester, and note how the air space is growing; unless it appear as though it will occupy more than one-third the shell by the end of the hatch, no moisture should be supplied. It is a good plan to set a hen at the same time one starts the incubator, and compare the eggs occasionally.

R. I. REDS. Prolific layers, Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. St'k in season. E. S. Piper, Camden, Me.
TOBACCO DUST in the nests of your hatchers? See TOBACCO DUST advertisement.



The NO MOISTURE kind.

The **Star Incubator** imitates nature more nearly than any other. You do not supply moisture for the old hen; neither need you for our machine. This is why chicks hatched in the **Star** are stronger than those hatched in other incubators. Our guarantee talks—**your money back if you want it.**
Catalogue free. **STAR INCUBATOR CO., Bound Brook, N. J.**

Poultry Supplies:

BOILED BEEF AND BONE,
BOWKER'S ANIMAL MEAL,
BRADLEY'S MEAT MEAL,
BEEF SCRAPS,
OYSTER SHELLS,
MICA CRYSTAL GRIT,
ORR'S CLEAR GRIT,
DRINKING FOUNTAINS,
CONKEY ROUP CURE,

FEED TRAYS,
LEG BANDS,
CHINA EGGS,
BONE CUTTERS,
SHELL MILLS,
CLOVER CUTTERS,
KILLING KNIVES,
WIRE NETTING,
CAPONIZING SETS,

INCUBATOR THERMOMETERS,
SULPHUR CANDLES,
EGG TESTERS,
BOOKS ON DOGS, CHICKENS,
RABBITS, CATS, PIGEONS, ETC.
SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER,
PRATT'S POULTRY FOOD,
LEE'S LICE KILLER,
GERMERZONE,

SAFETY AND PRIME EGG CASES,
MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT,
P. D. Q. FLEA POWDER,

GREELEY ROUP AND CHOLERA CURE,
LAMBERT'S DEATH TO LICE,
JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT.

Sole Manufacturers **BANNER EGG FOOD and TONIC.** Small Sample Free.
New York and Export Agents for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

Our Immense Illustrated Catalogue Free. Mention A Few Hens.

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,

W. V. RUSS, Proprietor.

28 Vesey St., New York City.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

The Morning Mash—Several Opinions on Feeding Salt—Feeding Meat—Water in Eggs—Green Cut Bone.

Feed the best.

Water twice a day.

Keep the feed troughs clean.

Have regular hours for feeding.

Never feed dead hog to poultry.

Food regulates health and profit.

Keep the soft food out of the sun.

It is impossible to have too great a variety of food.

The heavy layer is a hearty eater and a great drinker.

Change the bill of fare when there is a looseness of the bowels.

It is torture to the fowls to feed heating food during hot weather.

In feeding horse meat to poultry, be sure that the animal did not die from some disease.

Prof. Dawley says there is nearly as much water in a pound of eggs as in a pint of milk.

It is a good time now to make the noon meal either cut grass or finely chopped raw vegetables.

Depriving the fowls of fresh water is keeping them deprived of the most essential article in egg manufacture.

The Hatch Experiment Station is still at a loss to know which is the best: cut bone or animal meal. We feed the bone twice a week, and the meal daily in the mash.

Prof. F. E. Dawley says chemical analysis of different grains show wheat to contain a larger amount of albumen than any other grain. Therefore, it is the grain to make the base for egg-producing food.

Prof. W. P. Wheeler says: "One ounce per day for 100 hens can be fed with safety, and I think sometimes considerably more can be fed. For young fowls, we generally mix about four ounces of salt in every 100 pounds of feed."

The theory that soft food causes poor fertility of eggs has again been exploded on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm. The percentage of fertility was better this season than ever before and the feeding of mash is continued the year round.

RINGLET BARRED ROCKS, E. B. Thompson strain. None better. Eggs, \$1.50 to \$3.00 per sitting. Six prizes on 14 birds at Newburgh; 1st pen at Walden, N. Y. Stock for sale. H. T. BROWN, White Plains, N. Y.

⊗ ⊗ THE IMPROVED ⊗ ⊗

EMPIRE STATE BROODERS FOR 1899

Have many points far in advance of other makes; one very important item is the saving of 1-3 to 1-2 in oil. Stop this useless waste, as it means dollars to you. Brooder Lamps 60 cts. each; \$3.00 1-2 doz. Tested Thermometers 30 cts. each, by mail. Send stamps for circulars; it will pay you. Prices reasonable.

FOR SALE:—One Cream Separator, cheap. Capacity 375 pounds. Address, Empire State Brooder Co., Hall's Corners, N. Y.

How Many Eggs

can we get, and how many fine birds can we raise in a year, is our "Hobby." We will help you do the same. Barred and White Plymouth Rock eggs \$4.00 per 100; 15 for \$1.50. Send for circular. HERBERT, ESTY, Creston, Ind.

EGGS FROM PEN WHITE WYANDOTTES that have been laying since Nov. 14th, headed by cock from A. F. Hunter's great laying strain. \$1.25 per sitting. D. S. CLINGMAN, North Chicago, Illinois.

A correspondent in *American Agriculturist* says earth worms can be kept in supply by covering a rich piece of soil with litter or boards. When wanted simply throw to the hens a few shovelfuls of the soil, which will generally be full of worms.

"Fowls will leave any grain or feed for green cut bone; in fact, they seem to smell it when the feeder approaches, and set up a singing and cackling, and devour it with great avidity," says *Country Gentleman*. That fact is demonstrated twice a week on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm.

H. S. Burdick, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says salt is very useful because it makes the food more palatable, and the fowls like it, the same as all animals do. It, probably, aids digestion, but no more should be put in than would be put in the same amount of feed if for human use. Salt for poultry should be mixed with common-sense.

Those who oppose the morning mash say it makes fowls too fat, and they advise feeding it at night. We do not. Years of experience in feeding fowls has convinced us that where the quantity is limited, and the fowls kept scratching the rest of the day, the morning mash gives the best of results in health, egg production and fertility. The evening food should always be whole grain, as mash too quickly digests.

Nothing else is so valuable as a feed for egg production, as green cut bone, says *Country Gentleman*. Those who feel discouraged because their hens have not laid enough eggs, should lose no time in buying a bone cutter. The material is cheap, and now that the bone cutters have been so much improved, they are very easily run, and the labor is but slight. The green bone is very rich in phosphate of lime, which breeders appreciate.

"Meat is a valuable food for stimulating egg production, and it may be that such stimulation may be at the cost of the short life of the hen, for if not fed with great care disease is liable to follow, which may result in death or disability," says *Poultry Farmer*. "While meat is an excellent food for egg production, we should not lose sight of some of the grains as being excellent for laying hens, and especially when they have the cut clover accompaniment. It is the nitrogenous property in meat that makes it desirable, and we would not have any one believe that meat alone contained all of the nitrogen, for there are a number of other feeds which are high in nitrogen, and perhaps less expensive than meat, which might more safely be used. Among those may be found linseed meal, malt sprouts and gluten feeds. Actual cheapness must

[Continued on page 160.]

MAKE your hens happy. TOBACCO DUST will do it. See advertisement.

Heavy Laying Light Brahmas, and Single Comb White Leghorns.

Our Brahmas are bred for size, vigor, meat and winter egg production. Our Leghorns are veritable egg machines, producing a large sized egg. Eggs for hatching from either breed, \$1.25 per 15. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hamonton, N. J.

Hens lay eggs

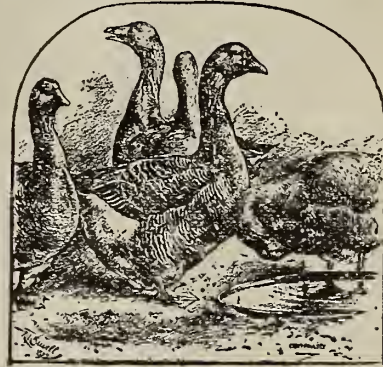
when fed with the things eggs are made of. Eggs are mostly albumen, produced by the hens from the protein they absorb from their food.

Bowker's Animal Meal gives a hen the maximum of protein and other egg making material. Always sold in yellow bags and packages.

The Bowker Co.,
43 Chatham St., Boston.

TELO-ALTO POULTRY PLACE.
Wholly Utility } Eggs, \$1.00 per sitting.
h. Wyandottes. } E. F. Youngs, W. Camp, N. Y.

YES, MY B. P. ROCKS won 10 prizes on 13 entries; 90 birds in class. Eggs from these winners, \$2.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 39. Write wants to E. B. BURNES, Milford, N. H.



Our Geese

Won Five First, Four Second and Two Third Premiums at LAST BOSTON SHOW:

They are the largest, most prolific and profitable strains. Good Africans are the surest breeders of any of the large kinds, and the most important and valuable variety. If you want lots of the most marketable goslings put genuine African males with your large Toulouse or Embden females, or African females with your Embden males. We have a few Africans that have heavy dewlaps, correct markings, and that weigh in active breeding condition, ganders 20 lbs. and geese 18 and 19 lbs. We have many others nearly as good, and finest Toulouse and Embdens; 170 pure-bred and market geese, of various qualities, in all.

EGGS FOR HATCHING at prices according to the quality. No geese for sale. Circular and price-list free. Farm at West Mansfield, Mass.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. 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.

Over 10,000 The *bona fide* sub-Subscribers. scription list—that is, the actual number of *paid* subscribers to A FEW HENS—now numbers over 10,000. Not so bad for a young publication competing with a large host of excellent and valuable poultry journals and magazines. Surely we have not too many poultry papers, the more the merrier. There is one thing that A FEW HENS is especially proud of, and that is, none of its glory or success was attained by attempts to hurt any other publication's business. We envy no one. We want to see all succeed. It is the selfish, mean disposition that thinks, like the Pharisee—"thank God I am not like other men."

It is the manner in which the matter in A FEW HENS is presented to its readers, that is enabling it to add to its subscription list by the thousands. It is that brevity plan that is winning it many friends. The day has gone by when long, windy, "theoretical" articles are in demand. The people want to be told plainly, and in a few words, what to do. The editor could fill a paper twice its size in quicker time, on the plan used by other publications, than he can compile and condense the thousand of squibs that get into the columns of A FEW HENS during the year. But we believed from the start that there was need of a journal of this class, and we were not mistaken.

A FEW HENS has not only undertaken the task of getting up an issue especially valuable to beginners, but it has brought out new advertisers, and given old advertisers more business.

Yours for G. E. Chalfant, Ham-Business. monton, N. J., is an old-time breeder of Barred Plymouth Rocks. He advertised in two of the leading poultry journals with very good success, but it remained for A FEW HENS to open his eyes. He ran, and is still running, a few line advertisement of his Plymouth Rocks, and now reports that A FEW HENS gives him more business, and at a less cost, than either of the two leaders he has been advertising in.

In Kansas City, Mo., is located the Waite Poultry Farm, of which C. R. Burnham is manager. On this farm are raised broilers, roasters, and thorough-

bred stock in Pekin ducks and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Mr. Burnham has been reading our monthly talks on advertising, and writes: "We are taking your advice, and will henceforth run an advertisement in the only practical business paper for market poultrymen—A FEW HENS." He is advertising incubator eggs. A practical business paper is "yours for business," and we know that Mr. Burnham is going to do some business through it.

Knocks 'Em Silas Dean, Oak Hill, All Out. N. Y., is a man who

has given the advertising columns of A FEW HENS a good trial. He is glad he has, for it has greatly increased his business.

"A FEW HENS knocks them all out 'for advertising, when you have 'what the people want.'"

That is a great secret in advertising. People do not answer advertisements for something they do not want. They do not send money merely to patronize the advertiser. A man looking over the advertisements for a Plymouth Rock breeder would not send his money to one who keeps nothing but Wyandottes. So, in any paper, before the advertiser tries to give the publication a black eye because his advertisement did not pay, he should first find out if he had something that the people really wanted—and also if he has stated the fact plainly in the advertisement. You cannot force people to buy.

Must Go The circulation of A Everywhere. FEW HENS is not by any means local. We cover the entire United States, all parts of Canada, and foreign countries. "Judging from our mails, A FEW HENS goes everywhere," writes Leonard Woods, of the Woods Egg-Holder Co., St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Woods speaks from experience; he is an advertiser.

Now that the egg season is about drawing to a close, many of the advertisers will be withdrawing their cards. We want to give a few words of advice. Don't take your name out of the paper; people will forget you. Taking your advertisement entirely out is like removing your sign from the store. Better continue a small advertisement during the summer season than nothing. Plain

JOHN SMITH,

BREEDER OF BLACK LANGSHANS,
Smithville, Penna.

Eggs and Stock in Season.

will be the means of keeping your name and business continually before the people. They will remember you in fall when they want stock, or next spring when in search of eggs. A few lines like that will be very little expense, and it will be "casting bread upon the waters."

A Feast of Geo. L. Moreland, Good Things. Verona, Pa.: "Allow me to say that, in my opinion, the little paper you get out can be classed with Webster's Pocket Dictionary; both are as full of information as any thing that can be published, and both are indispensable—the one to all, and the other to any one that has a few hens or many."

B. P. Mullay, Louisville Ky.: "I have been a reader of your paper since

January only, and I don't see how anyone that has any taste for poultry can get along without it, and especially a new beginner like myself. What I admire so much about your paper is the practical knowledge that one gains from reading it. It seems to me that you are not a bit selfish about what you know, and from the tone of your paper you don't seem to be satisfied unless all your readers know as much about poultry as you do yourself."

G. L. Greene, Washingtonville, N. Y.: "I have kept a few hens for many years, and read A FEW HENS since its publication. It is a good combination, a sort of balanced ration. If you have 'a few hens' and then take A FEW HENS, it does not increase the number, but it does increase your knowledge and ability to take care of them. Therefore, in the interest of 'a few hens' I hereby renew my subscription to A FEW HENS."

R. L. Chamberlin, Grand Rapids, Mich.: "I have been a reader of A FEW HENS for some time, and must say that it contains more good, sensible, concise practical pointers for practical poultrymen than any paper before the public. It certainly takes the 'cake;' may it so continue."

Milton O. Adams, Hiawatha, Kans.: "Long live A FEW HENS! Best paper on earth!"

F. C. Doig, Medix Run, Pa.: "A FEW HENS is the greatest little thing I ever saw."

Arthur A. Hopkins, Ashland, R. I.: "A FEW HENS is excelled by no other poultry publication."

C. W. Strobhar, McDonough, Ga.: "I have been taking A FEW HENS for the past year, and always enjoy every word printed in each issue."

Geo. A. Hodgkins, Syracuse, N. Y.: "Have taken A FEW HENS since first issue, and think it the best poultry paper published. Have taken a good many others, but have dropped them all."

Mrs. Annie B. Bushong, Sweet Water, Tenn.: "I very much enjoy reading A FEW HENS. There is nothing mystifying about it—all good, plain common-sense. I have tried the *practical*, and the trade appeared to demand the fancy. Inquiries would come: 'How do your birds score?' 'Are your breeders all standard?' 'Are your Barred Plymouth Rocks barred to the skin?' Then I bought 'ringlets,' bred to feather, comb and leg; culled and culled until I had four left for sale or to keep, and the egg basket failed to groan. I now intend following your ideas: size, vigor, eggs and meat, first; then just as fine feathers as these birds will carry, and advertise accordingly."

A Good Frank Lovemann, Beginning. Bridgeton, N. J., makes a start that is bound to bring good results. He writes: "I am interested in poultry so much that we have now—from a start a year ago of 18 hens—70 hens, and they are doing remarkably well. Fifty laying hens gave us last month (March) 961 eggs. We are only in it small yet, but we find that they pay, and we are going to gradually

1000 Eggs Turned in One Second, Without a Jar.



Century Revolving Egg Cabinet.
PATENTED.

High-grade eggs must be handled as little as possible, and with great care. The hand should not come into contact with them more than is absolutely necessary. Fanciers with an eye to business use system in producing and caring for the various kinds of eggs. By use of this practical device—the invention of a poultryman—one can tell at a glance just how many eggs he has on hand from each pen or hen. A tray for a pen, or a row or section of tray for each hen.

Every Farmer in the Cold-Storage Business!

Eggs have been kept with wonderful success from six to eight months in an ordinary cellar, by being turned twice a week in the "Century."

SCALE OF PRICES, F. O. B. ST. LOUIS.

1050 Egg size,	\$10 00	630 Egg size,	\$7 00
910 Egg size,	9 25	560 Egg size,	6 25
840 Egg size,	8 50	288 Egg size,	5 00
700 Egg size,	7 75	150 Egg size,	3 00

The FANCIER'S Favorite Package

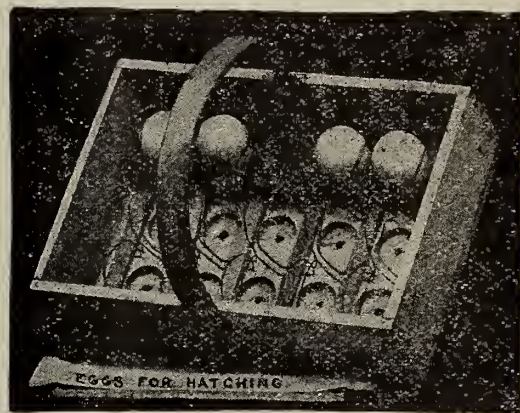
SOLVES THE PROBLEM

Of Shipping Eggs for Hatching.

If you doubt it, after reading the endorsements on this page, send us 20 cents in stamps, and we will express **FREE**, a package for trial shipment.

SIZES: 15 AND 30 EGG.

PRICES \$1 50 and \$2 25 Per Dozen, F. O. B.



PATENTED.

What Everybody Says Must Be So!

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co.

Gentlemen:—After giving it a good test, I do not hesitate to say that your "Fancier's Favorite" box for shipping eggs for hatching is about as complete and serviceable an article as I have ever tried. I am pleased with it. As for your egg cabinets, it is only necessary to state that we use them to the exclusion of everything else. We save time and increase good results by the use of the cabinets.

Hammonton, N. J., April 8, 1899.

Respectfully,
MICHAEL K. BOYER.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—The patent egg-holder for shipping eggs for hatching, came to me, all in fine and perfect shape. My mind was full of wonder for a moment, as I looked it over. But almost at once I surmised the reason of its coming. I said to my husband, "those are 'store eggs,' and the manufacturer of this egg-holder has read my article on 'shipping eggs for hatching' in the Poultry Herald, and he is just going to prove to me that 'patent contraptions' for shipping eggs are all right; and evidently this one is." And so we talked you over, and gave the entire outfit a thorough investigation. Many thanks to you, and I must say that this seems to be a piece of perfection. I will ship a customer a setting of eggs in this one. But I don't want to either. I "kinda" want to keep it as a keepsake, for I am so thoroughly, favorably impressed with the little carrier. Here is my order. I'm going to try them. I believe it's a safe investment.

Friend, Neb., April 20, 1899.

Wishing you every success, I am, sincerely yours,

NELLIE HAWKS.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—We bought a 1050 egg size "Century Revolving Egg-Cabinet" from you, in February, and we want to say to you, that it is one of the most useful and satisfactory appliances we use in our plant. No breeding outfit, of any size, can afford to be without one. We can use a separate drawer for each breeding yard, turn 1000 eggs in *two seconds*, and know that every egg is turned. Your machines are all right, and it is with pleasure that we give this unsolicited testimonial to their merit.

West Alexander, Pa.

With best wishes, we are, Fraternaly yours,

W. B. GIBSON & SONS.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—We are more than pleased with your "Fancier's Favorite" box for shipping eggs. It has given us thus far universal satisfaction. We have shipped eggs in them from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to Tennessee, and have not received a single complaint to date, regarding broken eggs. We are also using two of your egg-turning cases, and find them all O. K. for the purpose intended. Yours,

Gilliam, Mo.

F. J. GENZER.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:—I think it due you to say that your "Fancier's Favorite" boxes for shipping eggs are the best method I have yet discovered. They save time in packing, carry the eggs long distances safely, are neat, business like and great time savers. The task of wrapping a few hundred eggs with paper preparatory to shipping in baskets is no small undertaking. Your carrier does away with all this and thus saves time and patience enough to more than overbalance the difference in the price of baskets and your carriers. I cannot understand how any poultry man of spirit and taste can use the basket after having seen and used the Fancier's Favorite. I really feel grateful to you for inventing such a convenience.

Clarendon, Ark., May 15, 1899.

Yours truly,

WM. E. SPENCER.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—I have used your pony-cabinets this season and find them most satisfactory. Not only because they make it possible to keep eggs in good condition, but because they are so useful in keeping individual matings separated and readily accessible.

Bristol, Conn., April 24, 1899.

Yours very truly,

ALBERT L. SESSIONS

WOODS EGG-HOLDER Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sirs:—The instant I saw your "ad." and the cut of your revolving egg cabinet, I knew it was the thing to save time, trouble, and risk in turning eggs. No one who has seen it has anything but admiration for it. It is all you claim for it in your advertisements. We are pleased with the investment for our Poultry Section. It handles the eggs nicely and never drops one. Wishing you the best of success, we remain,

Agricultural Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C., April 27, 1899.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK E. EMERY, M. S.

WOODS EGG-HOLDER CO.,

Manufacturers of Scientific Appliances for the Transportation and Storage of Eggs.

Canadian Rights, British, French and German Patents For Sale.

211 Locust St., St. Louis, Mo.

Eastern Agents:—WEAVER, PALMER & RICHMOND, Rochester, N. Y.

increase our stock. Out of \$28 invested the first year—and we kept a strict account of everything bought and sold, excepting labor—we had \$10.11 cash, 75 head of stock at a valuation of \$60, and 80 small chicks that weighed from 1-2 to one pound each, value at that time about \$15. But since then we sold 35 of the chicks for \$14.65. So you see we are coming along right smart. A FEW HENS is the smartest little paper I ever saw, and I intend to always be on your list."

* * *

Answers In Brief. The mails of the editor of A FEW HENS seem to be growing daily. Two hundred letters a week from readers of A FEW HENS seems to be but an ordinary amount. The majority of these letters ask for a reply by mail. Nothing gives us more pleasure when we are able to do so, but to answer only a part and slight the rest is not fair; and to answer them in rotation, as we get the time, delays the answers too much. In order to treat all fairly, we have concluded to briefly reply to these questions in a special department, which we begin this month. We answer the questions in such a way that while they serve the purpose of replying to the correspondent, they, at the same time, give information to the general reader. We hope that our readers will be satisfied with this method.

* * *

Poultry as an Adjunct. The editor of A FEW HENS has always contended that the most profitable way of conducting a poultry farm was to make a combination whereby several objects could be attained at the same time. In our book "Profitable Poultry Farming" we show how cows and hens make a good partnership. How one man makes a specialty of butter and eggs, another broilers, roasting fowls and milk. Further on we point out the value of poultry and fruit, broilers and berries. The book "A Living from Poultry" makes similar allusion to the practicability of combining some other crop with the hens.

But it remained for one of A FEW HENS readers to make a success of the scheme.

Your Attention For a Moment to Our

M. M. S. Poultry Fencing.

Is stronger, yet the completed fence is 50 per cent. cheaper than the old-fashioned poultry netting. It requires only one-fourth as many posts and neither top nor bottom rail. Will not sag or buckle; neat, elastic, durable, cheap. Easily and rapidly erected. Price-list FREE. James S. Case, Colchester, Ct.

Poultry Printing

I make a specialty of poultry printing, having cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything you want in that line you will save money by asking for prices. UNION PRINTING CO., Anthony, R. I.

UTILITY POULTRY FARM

Breeder of Practical Barred Plymouth Rocks and Single Comb White Leghorns. With the object of egg production and market poultry always in view. Stock for sale, both young and old, at all times. I have 50 good, one-year-old breeders for sale at \$1.00 each. Satisfaction guaranteed. FRANK A. D. BULLARD, Segregansett, Mass.

Following is a circular which he sends out to the residents of the city he serves: "Season of 1899. To Our Patrons and Friends: Having increased facilities for producing and marketing, we are prepared to supply the family trade this season with our 'Quality Produce'—ever aiming to furnish only the best and purest goods—always exactly as represented. And we trust that by maintaining this standard, and by honest and liberal dealings, we shall merit a continuance of the patronage which has been afforded us in the past.

"Regular deliveries will be made this season as follows: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from June 1 to November 1. Tuesdays and Fridays, from November 1 to June 1. Clover-croft 'Quality' Eggs Our Specialty. "Realizing that there is an ever-increasing demand for Choice Fresh-laid Eggs, we are aiming to supply them in their purity. These eggs are carefully packed in neat pasteboard boxes, holding one dozen each. All soiled eggs are washed—thus making them attractive and inviting. Our fowls have the best of care and attention—are fed none but sweet and wholesome foods and clean drinking water—thus producing eggs of the best quality and flavor.

"Fancy Dressed Poultry, including tender, juicy broilers, chickens and fowls for roasting or for fricassee. Spring ducks and capons in season. All poultry is dressed to order—fresh killed and full-dressed the day before delivery. They are grown and fattened quickly and can be relied upon for table use.

"Gilt-Edge Print Butter. We continue to supply a choice table butter which gives excellent satisfaction. It is the best that rare skill and perfect cleanliness can produce. In one pound prints, stamped and attractively wrapped in parchment. Only a trial needed to prove our claims.

"Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. It is our intention to supply a complete assortment of fruits, vegetables, etc., this season. Fresh-picked and gathered from our own farm, thus insuring the crisp and tender qualities which are so desirable. Our specialties in the vegetable line will be Green Peas, Sweet Corn, Lima Beans, Melons and Tomatoes.

"Our Patrons and others interested are always welcome at Clovercroft Farm, and are cordially invited to inspect the methods of management at any time.

Respectfully yours, "H. C. Beers, Prop., No. Haven, Conn."

That circular tells a very interesting story. It tells of an enterprising man who has established a family trade, and furnishes it with the most staple articles. Without knowing of the profits derived, we believe that Mr. Beers has established an income that makes him independent. We publish the story to encourage others to go and do likewise.

Trap Nests. The trap nest question is becoming very interesting, and the contest that is going on at A FEW HENS Experimental Farm is commanding considerable attention. In the April issue we gave our report on the Eureka, manufactured by A. J. Silberstein, Framingham, Mass., two nests by W. M. Lloyd, Tuckahoe, N. Y., and three by John Geishaker, a Hammonton genius. In this issue we note new nests by Mr. Lloyd, and two by Mr. Geishaker.

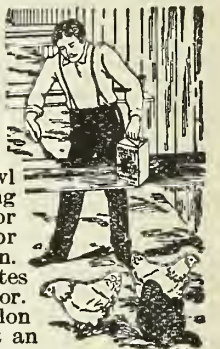
We want it understood that in our experimenting with these different nests, we reserve the right to state the facts as we find them. We are not bound to any one, and are working only to the interests of our readers. So far only one of the inventors has taken exceptions to our

THE UNEEDA

Trap nest catches the hen and tells the color of the egg, the size, and the number that hen lays during the year. If you are interested write for circular. W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

MITES AND LICE

on your poultry? Paint roosts with Lee's Lice Killer. All done. Next morning look and see all lice and mites lying dead on roost boards. Many report finding them in piles a half inch deep where each fowl roosted the night before. Seeing is believing. Same with hogs or sheep. Paint rubbing posts or sprinkle floor of sleeping pen. All done. No more lice, mites or fleas. No handling, no labor. Cheap, only 75 cts. for a gallon can. Want some? No doubt an agent near you if not in your own town. If not, take an agency yourself. Sample post paid 10 cts. Write for full particulars and new 64-page book on "Insects" and diseases of poultry and stock. Our methods make easy the extermination of all kinds of insects and vermin. GEO. H. LEE CO., Omaha, Neb. or 68 Murray St., New York



START NOW. START RIGHT.

The RELIABLE NEST BOX points out each layer and her egg. Simple, reliable, safe, cheap. Material costs but 10 cents per nest. Eggs collected at feeding times. Complete plans and directions of three styles, sent for only \$1.00. Circular and testimonials free.

M. L. NEWELL, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

DOLLAR EGGS

After June 1st, eggs from all yards **One Dollar per 15** from our best prize stock and packed with same care that early orders received at full price.

OUR BREEDS: Barred, White and Buff Pl. Rocks, Lt. Brahmas, Langshans, Buff Cochins, White Wyandottes, Buff and Brown Leghorns, Pekin Ducks. Fifteen years a successful breeder.

POULTRY SUPPLIES!

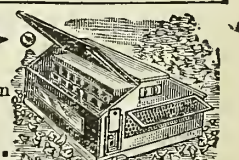
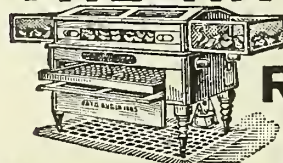
Biggest, best and cheapest stock in the United States. Nissly's Poultry Annual and catalogue of "Everything for the Poultry Yard" is a 100-page book, illustrated and full of information, valuable chapters on feed and care of poultry, treatment of diseases, etc., and tells all about "Michigan Poultry Farm" its stock, etc. Don't miss it. Sent for 4c. In stamps. Address, GEO. J. NISSLY, 17 Adrian St., Sable, Mich.

THE HATCHING HEN

HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS and BROODERS.

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 228-page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Plans for poultry houses, best way to handle, feed and market fowls, etc. **RELIABLE INCB. AND BROODER CO. Box 116, Quincy, Ill.**



Sent on receipt of 10 cents.

statement in April issue. In that number we said we did not like the confining pen attachment to the nest box of the Eureka, and it is a noted fact that not one of the other nest boxes sent us for inspection and testing had a confining pen. It is impossible for two hens to get in a Eureka nest *if the hen is kept there*, but there is nothing to prevent a hen from getting in the nest when the first hen has entered the confining pen. Now suppose that Hen No. 1 did not lay, but Hen No. 2 did, to whom belongs the egg? Suppose we find two eggs and two hens, how can we place them? But keep the hen in the nest, and we will soon find out if she laid or not, and we will make no mistake in her egg.

Mr. Silberstein has written us a rather sharp reply, of which the following are extracts:

"I am sorry to notice your paragraph *re* Eureka. Please to understand me, I am not at all sorry to have your candid expression of opinion, even though it conflicts with a former one, but sorry that through *your error* in constructing Eureka, you should have had any trouble. Sorry also that in consequence of this error you should write blaming my invention. Would it not have been more fair and just to me, had you advised me of the hitch and so enable me to set you right by pointing out faulty construction? As it is, your article has 30 days (with those who read your paper regularly) and longer time (with those who do not) to work to my detriment.

"Notice, please, wording of my advertisement on page 140, April number A FEW HENS. If what you publish is true of Eureka, then Eureka is a fraud and imposition on your readers. Pardon me, sir, but you (to my mind) present the paradox of taking my money (for which you agree to give me the benefit of your circulation) to help me market Eureka, with one hand, and at the same time of doing me as much injury as your circulation is capable of with the other.

"If my claims are exaggerated, it is your privilege and right to demand that I moderate them, or to refuse me space. The injury does not cease with Eureka sales. If Eureka is not definite, positive, absolute in its workings, then doubt must be thrown on the accuracy of my records and pedigrees; for I have relied on the Eureka absolutely to obtain them. As I have no stock nor eggs to sell, you will understand that you have touched my pride more than you can my pocket."

It seems to us that Mr. Silberstein jumps very quickly to conclusions. In not one line have we condemned the Eureka, but rather praised it. We

Eggs for hatching from prize winning Lt. Brah., S. C. W. and Br. Leg., W. Wyan., Bl. Langs., B. P. Rocks; \$1.00 pr. 13; \$2.00 per 30. S. J. Lowe, Columbia, Del.

STOCK and EGGS of all Poultry for sale. Only Prize and Standard birds used for breeding. Send stamp for illustrated catalogue to Whitewater Poultry Association, Whitewater, Wis.

PIT GAMES. Eggs, \$1.50 per 15. C. G. BAXTER, Merchantville, N. J.

EGGS from large, healthy White Holland Turkeys of the finest strains, 20 cents each. Good hatch guaranteed. THOS. HAULTON, Wigton, Pa.

BARRED ROCK EGGS from yard headed by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers, \$1.00 for 13. A few settings Indian Game eggs, yard headed by first Cockerel, Washington, D. C., December, '97. \$2.00 per 13. Pekin Duck eggs, Pollard stock, \$1.00 per 13. C. C. SHORB, McDaniel, Md.

merely state that by the use of the confining pen attachment we cannot secure that accuracy which is necessary in proper breeding or egg records. As for our "error in construction" would state that we are at a loss to know what it is. The size of the nest and compartment (confining pen) is exactly to the inch the size that Mr. S. in his instructions advises. There is no error. We are not opposed to the Eureka nests, but instead are going to continue using them in two of our houses, but they will have no confining pen attached to them.

The other day we received one of the American Trap Nest Boxes from J. H. Woodhead, Leicester, Mass. Mr. Woodhead writes that he has been using this nest for two years, and does not believe it possible to ever get two hens in at one time. We have placed it in one of our pens, but cannot state what the results will be as the hens have not yet become acquainted with its workings. We expect to be able to report in our next. We can say, that if it does not work we will be greatly mistaken, for it is about as simple as one could wish a trap nest to be.

This morning a pair of Reliable Nest Boxes came to hand, and at this writing (May 5th) they have just been placed in one of our Brahma pens. These nests are different from any of the rest, are roomy, afford plenty of ventilation so that hens do not suffer from the heat during warm weather, and have the additional feature of shutting off so the trap will not work, when it is desirable to make merely a dark nest of it. Of course we cannot comment on their workings as we have just placed them in the house, and the hens are not yet done wondering what it means. These nest plans are sold by the inventor, Maurice L. Newell, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

Our nest contest is bringing to us quite a lot of correspondence from our readers, many of them explaining private contrivances of their own invention. We have not the time to follow out these plans, and can only test those nests which are sent to us already built. We did build the Eureka from the plans Mr. Silberstein sent us, but that was before we opened this contest.

To date, the nests that are giving us satisfaction are the Eureka (without the confining pens), the Uneda (a late invention by Mr. Lloyd, as noted in the Farm Notes in this issue), Mr. Geishaker's "A FEW HENS Nest Trap," also his trap working on the order of "ball bearings." All the other nests we tried

worked very well for awhile, but finally they would get out of order.

The use and care of a good nest trap are important matters to consider. By their use each layer, and the color, size and fertility of her egg, is readily attained. We know just which are our best layers, and we can keep the pedigree more accurate. In the care they must not be neglected. They consume time, but that is fully repaid by the good results and the feed saved in not being compelled to keep the poor layers.

Our Picture Gallery. In the office of A FEW HENS is an excellent collection of portraits

of many of the shining lights of poultrydom. Our rack contains the cabinet portraits of Editor Holmes, of the *Poultry Monthly*; Mr. Hunter, of *Farm-Poultry*; Mr. Bragdon, manager of A FEW HENS; Robt. A. Braden, late editor of *Ohio Poultry Journal*; Mr. DePuy, of the *Western Garden and Poultry Journal*; Mr. Ely, present editor of *Ohio Poultry Journal*; Dr. Casey, ex-editor of *Poultry Culture*; Mr. Howard, of the *Feather*; Mr. Drevenstedt, of the *American Fancier*; Judge G. O. Brown, Judges I. K. and Arthur E. Felch, Mr. White, of *Agricultural Advertising*; D. Lincoln Orr, F. B. Zimmer, John L. Cost; Cooper & Nix, of Prairie State incubator fame; J. E. Bennett, the Pioneer clover meal man; Richard H. Young; Mann and Lee, of bone mill fame; W. W. Kulp, W. V. Russ, A. J. Hallock, Geo. H. Northup, H. A. Kuhns, Geo. G. Harley, and others. In other racks are specimens of poultry, poultry houses, appliances, and everything imaginable in the poultry line.

The editor of A FEW HENS is a crank on poultry portraits, and intends making his collection the most complete in the country. Portraits of houses, farms, etc., will be doubly welcome.

Prize Winning Barred Plymouth Rocks

Ten Pullets bred and owned by me, average score over 94 points each, and the birds that bred them are in my this season's breeding yards,

Utility Prolific Layers.

Cockerels bred from Red Headed Brown Eggs, \$3.00 to \$5.00 each. F. E. COLBY, Bow Mills, N. H.

LANGSHANS

will lay the year round; cold weather don't stop them. I have some grand birds for sale.

COCKERELS, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each.

EGGS, \$2.00 a sitting; three sittings for \$5.00. C. I. DROWNE, Sandown, N. H.



"Froze to Death

in that cold snap" has been the verdict on many a luckless brood of chicks. The fault was in the brooder. If they had been bred in

The \$5.00 Champion Brooder

they would have come through all right.

"The Champion Is Known by Its Work"

and brings its brood successfully through, even in zero weather. Best authorities say it is perfect. Don't buy a brooder until you get our catalogue and endorsements.

J. A. BENNETT & SONS, Box H. Gouverneur, N. Y.

[Pointers on Food and Feeding.—Continued.]

always cut a figure in this item of egg food, to say nothing of the physical condition of the hen."

In *Farm and Home*, Prof. Dawley says: Let us tear an egg apart with the chemist's weapons. Here we have about 1,000 grains of matter; 67 per cent. of which is water, 10 per cent., or 100 grains, lime (where are you going to get that when you only feed corn, brother farmers?) 12 per cent. albumen, 9 per cent. fat (three times as much as the law calls for in milk in this state, you see), and 1 per cent. ash. There is also a small quantity of sulphur, phosphorus, magnesia and several other bases which are found in various combinations. We cannot make something from nothing, neither can the hen; she cannot elaborate an egg out of starchy grain and patent egg food, nor can she put a shell on it unless she has given her the lime to make it from. The progressive breeders of poultry long ago found this out, and are feeding such foods as contain not only carbohydrates or starch, sugar and fat, but also the albuminoid foods such as meat, bone, clover hay, linseed meal and wheat bran.

H. J. Blanchard, in *Rural New-Yorker*, writes: "For a good many years I have fed my hens salt regularly every day in the mash. My reasons for so doing are that the salt seems to make the mash more palatable to the hens, and when my hens have food they relish, they generally do well. I believe a proper quantity of salt aids digestion in the hen as well as in animals and humans. I do not know how large a quantity can be fed safely. A very little is sufficient. If too much is fed, it interferes with digestion, causes looseness of the bowels, and in some cases death by chlorine poisoning. Fed properly, I believe it tends to ward off disease by keeping the fowls strong and vigorous; at any rate, we have never had a case of roup, cholera, or any other contagious disease among our hens. Salt should never be sprinkled in the mash, or mixed dry with the ground grain, as it cannot be evenly distributed in that way, and some of the fowls would get too much and others none. Always thoroughly dissolve salt in the hot water with which the mash is moistened. We feed eight ounces daily to our 700 laying hens."

LICE TIME is nearly here. See TOBACCO DUST advertisement.

EGGS \$1.00 per 15. White Wyan; great layers of large brown eggs. S. C. W. Leghorns prolific laying strain. All Standard bred. Nothing better. Satisfaction guaranteed. C. E. MISNER, Calla, Ohio.

Mount Pleasant Park Black Minorcas are large, healthy, farm-raised birds. Eggs 5c. each; fry them. F. H. LONGLEY, Fairport, N. Y.

EGGS. BLACK LANGSHANS. Will sell a few settings from two grand pens. Large, vigorous, healthy females mated to Standard-weight males, \$2.00 per setting; three settings, \$5.00. H. COTTERILL, Westfield, N. J.

LANGSHANS
ARE GOOD LAYERS AND I HAVE
GOOD ONES FOR SALE.
BLACK AND WHITE,
Address, Mrs. C. M. KELLY, Newark, N. Y.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

EGGS.

- C. K. N.: The Andalusians are very good layers.
J. C. P.: The Black Spanish lays the largest egg.
C. E. J.: The Light Brahma lays a large brown egg.
K. B. S.: Eggs from too-fat hens are not fertile.
H. McD.: Poultry breeders, generally, count 13 to 15 eggs for a sitting.
G. O. B.: Double-yolked eggs are caused by too much fat in the hen.
J. C. P.: The Brown Leghorn lays the smallest sized egg of the Leghorn family.
J. S.: The eggs from Langshans are of all sorts of tints, and very pretty.
J. C. C.: When the food must be purchased, it costs about one cent each to raise eggs.
E. C. B.: There is no possible way of testing the fertility of eggs before they have started incubation.
G. O. B.: White Wyandottes lay eggs of all shades in color, but breeders are gradually getting them down to the brown color.
C. K. N.: The cause of ill-shapes and soft-shelled eggs is due to a too-fat condition of the laying stock.
T. C. B.: We know of but one instance where a double-yolked egg hatched two perfect chicks. Generally they do not hatch at all.
E. L. B.: Never set eggs, received from a distance, without first allowing them to lie on their sides for 24 hours. The yolk becomes cramped when the egg stands a long while on its end.

* * *

CHICKS AND BROILERS.

- Mrs. E. G.: Rugged chicks are smart from the start.
T. C. P.: Chicks need no food for the first 36 hours.
J. E. E.: Fifty chicks are all that any brooder should hold.
Mrs. H. C.: A chick over two pounds in weight becomes a spring chicken.
A. A. B.: Broiler raising, as an industry, was inaugurated in Hammonton, N. J.
L. M.: The half-pound chicks sold in market are used as imitation of quail in restaurants.
O. P. B.: The broiler business would be a very small affair without the use of incubators and brooders.
T. C. E.: The color of the chick's down is no indication what the color of the plumage will be when the bird is matured.
Mrs. F. P.: Where the chicks are weak from the start, the fault lies either in the parent stock or the method by which the chicks were hatched.

* * *

DISEASES.

- Mrs. F. E.: Apoplexy is caused by overfat.
L. M.: Charcoal and grit are the best preventatives of indigestion.
Mrs. E. P.: We do not believe there was ever a genuine case of roup completely cured.

H. C.: Prolapse is a protusion of the bowels, caused by straining to pass an unusually large egg. General weakness is likewise a cause.

N. I. P.: Five drops of tincture of aconite in a quart of drinking water, will generally effect a cure of the first symptoms of cold.

E. P.: Roup is the final stage and combination of all classes of colds, as swelled head, cold in the head, mouth and throat, etc., and invariably is accompanied with a foetid smell.

L. E. G.: Feather-eating is a vice caused generally by idleness, due to overcrowded quarters. Never place more fowls in a pen than can be comfortably housed, keep them busy scratching in litter.

L. E. G.: Egg-eating generally starts by soft-shelled eggs in the nest, or by hens crowding in the nest and breaking the eggs. Clover hay is one of the best preventatives of soft shells, and a trap nest box will soon arrest the guilty egg eater. Such a fowl should not be tolerated.

F. H. H.: The hen is suffering from vent-gleet. Dr. Sanborn in "Farm-Poultry Doctor, gives this remedy: "Wet a piece of cotton in a solution of 10 grains sulpho-carbolate of zinc, 5 drops oil of wintergreen, 1 gill boiled water, and insert at morning and night. Or, as an injection, use sulphate zinc 5 grains, water half pint." It will run a course of 10 days. The bird should be isolated.

BLUE ANDALUSIAN, } Eggs \$1.50
BUFF LEGHORN } pr. sitting.
H. W. Farnsworth, 430 Shelton Av., New Haven, Ct.

BUFF P. ROCKS. Nuggets only. They are no strangers. Won Pa. State Medal at recent show; winning gold special Red and Blue Ribbons for six years. Eggs, 13, \$1.50; 30, \$2.50; \$4.00 for 50. KERLIN & SON, Box 4, Shenkel, Pa.

I breed for business and get business birds. S. C. W. LEGHORNS, strong, hardy birds and great layers. Pullets, '98 hatch, layed when four months old. W. WYANDOTTES, equal to the best, eggs, \$1.50 per 15. SUSQUEHANNA POULTRY FARM, A. J. LATTIN, Proprietor, Milford, N. Y.

White Wyandottes, Buff Plymouth Rocks

Pedigreed strains. Prolific layers of large brown eggs. Stock unsurpassed for vigor, shape and color. Utility and beauty combined. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15. CHARLES H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

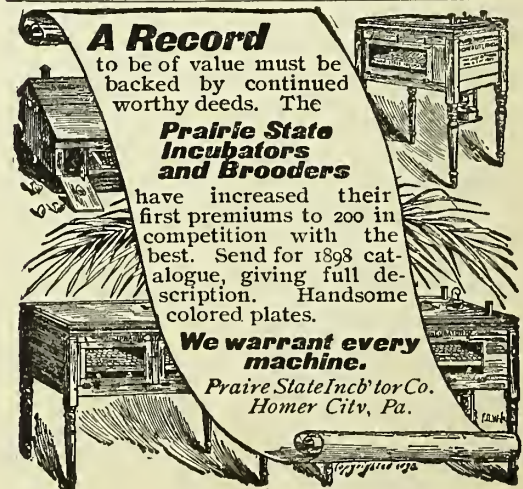
"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

A Record
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The

Prairie State Incubators and Brooders
have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome colored plates.

We warrant every machine.
Prairie State Incubator Co.
Homer City, Pa.



Notes in Passing.

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

I hear the story of a Brahma hen,
I know not where she lived—I do not care;
I only know that there are grown-up men
Just like this foolish biddy, everywhere.
Upon her nest—the throne of all her sex—
With 13 eggs this hen serenely sat,
With nothing visible her soul to vex,
With naught to do but sit there and wax fat.
She raised her feathers with tremendous fuss,
When some one put a crate of eggs beside
Her nest—the foolish biddy reasoned thus:
“I’ve covered 13 eggs and not half tried,
I want a bigger job, this one can wait!”
And puffed with foolish pride—the tale is told—
She left her nest, and brooded on the crate;
She never warmed an egg—her own grew cold.
Yes, men are like the hen—give them a job,
Humble, perhaps, but suited to their skill,
Yet, to pursue some hopeless task, they bob
Up from their nest—their honest chance to kill.
Lord, make us narrow in our self-esteem!
Narrow enough to realize and know
The shady line ’twixt commonsense and dream!
Then let us settle on our nest and grow!
—Rural New-Yorker.

Lookout for showers.
Disorder creates disgust.
Strive for better results.
Map out a plan and then work by it.
Why continue harboring the drones?
Judge the breeds by practical results.
The farmer should keep only one breed.
For want of a system the farm was lost!
Irregularity breeds “that tired feeling.”
Shiftlessness and neglect are twin brothers.
The hen is the most active worker on the farm.
June—the festive month for lice—is near at hand.
There are none so wise that they cannot be taught.
The ration for one variety may be too much for another.
Remember the mistakes of last year and try to profit by them now.
“A stitch in time saves nine,” is proved every year on the poultry farm.
Don’t keep on neglecting the white-washing. Delays are dangerous.
The “polished gentleman” is very often the poorest kind of worker. So with fowls.
“Notes and comments” in some papers means: kick at everything and thus become popular.
Inland Poultry says be mindful of the small things and thus prepare yourself to meet the more important ones.
Rightly managed, every breed has its exceeding good points and is valuable.
Likewise a good specimen of any breed is beautiful, says *Garden and Poultry*.
It will pay to give careful, intelligent, business attention to poultry raising.
When the occupation is merely given occasional attention the results will always be in accordance.
The worst man to employ on a poultry farm is the one who thinks: “You

can’t teach me anything about chickens.” Such men invariably are failures.

No business in which a person can be engaged, whether for pleasure or for profit, or both, presents such varied attractions as does the poultry business in all its branches.

Don’t get the emigration fever. As a rule, there is as good a chance for success in poultry where you are located as there will be in any other section.

If you discover an important fact, or if you are taught a valuable lesson, make note of it. You might forget it, but if in black and white it will refreshen your memory.

Fanciers very often class the utility fowl with the dunghill. No greater mistake could be made. The dunghill is the poorest kind of a utility fowl; so is the average high-scoring specimen.

The *American Fancier* says exposure in the sun and rain will cause fowls with white plumage to become brassy or yellow, and there are but few exceptions to the rule. It, of course, affects the surface color only.

THE IMPROVED **VICTOR** INCUBATOR



Hatches Chickens by Steam Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free.

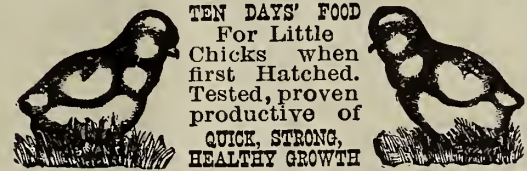
Catalogue 4cents.

GEO. ERTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.

TOWER FARM.

Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes, C. I. Games. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. I breed for business. Satisfaction guaranteed. Prairie State Sectional Brooder, complete, \$20. Stock for sale, \$1 up. E. D. Ingraham, Ransomville, N. Y.

THE F. P. C. CHICK MANNA



TEN DAYS' FOOD For Little Chicks when first Hatched. Tested, proven productive of QUICK, STRONG, HEALTHY GROWTH

Highly Prized by POULTRY RAISERS.

Send for Descriptive Price List of the F. P. C. PREPARATIONS for POULTRY, HORSES, CATTLE, Etc. MANUFACTURED ONLY BY

F. P. CASSEL, Lansdale, Pa.

Sold in the east by Joseph Breck & Sons, Boston; Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., New York City; Harvey Seed Co., Buffalo, New York; Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa.

DO YOU WANT LAYERS? My Barred Plymouth Rocks are bred for business. Will sell a few sittings for \$2.00 per 15. Eggs from pure-bred Pekin Ducks \$1.00 per 11. Stock for sale in the fall. GEORGE H. BUTLER, Eliot, Maine.

Tobacco Dust

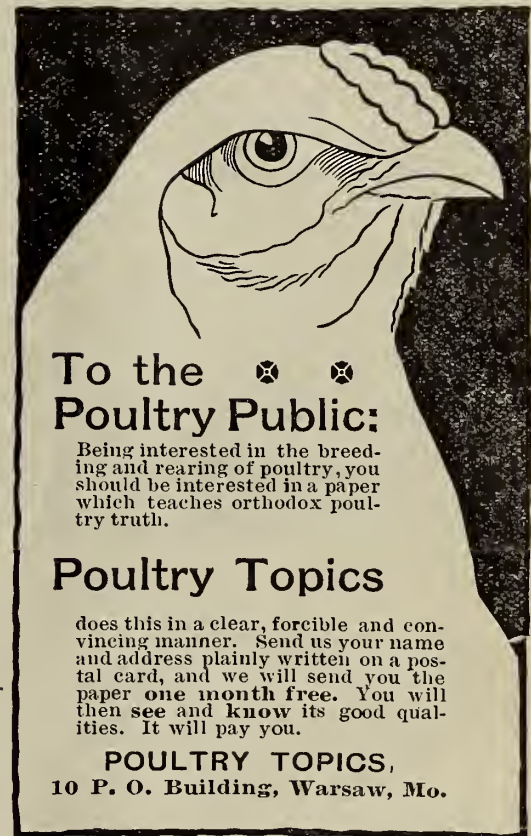
Beats the Bugs. Sure Thing.

Try it on your hens for lice, etc. Put some in the dust bath. The hens will apply it to themselves and make it touch the right spot. 2 lbs. 25c.; 5 lbs. 50c.; 15 lbs. \$1.00. WM. HAHMAN, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

MR. BOYER recommends my poultry for quality and laying. Be sure and send for catalogue for I can prove to you I have the best and give too much for the money. Winner at New York six yrs.

Barred and White Rocks, Rose and S. C. Brown Leghorns, Buff and Wh. Leghorns, Black Langshans, R. and S. C. Black Minorcas, Big White Wyandottes (Brown eggs), Light Brahmas, Pekin Ducks, Belgian Hares. EGGS, \$1.00 per set.

W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.



To the Poultry Public:

Being interested in the breeding and rearing of poultry, you should be interested in a paper which teaches orthodox poultry truth.

Poultry Topics

does this in a clear, forcible and convincing manner. Send us your name and address plainly written on a postal card, and we will send you the paper one month free. You will then see and know its good qualities. It will pay you.

POULTRY TOPICS, 10 P. O. Building, Warsaw, Mo.

Dulany & Branin,

(Successors to Haines & Branin,)

Commission Merchants,

Philadelphia Poultry; Broilers, Roasters, Fancy Capons, Squabs and Eggs.

Nos. 41, 43 and 45 Hewitt Avenue, West Washington Market, NEW YORK CITY.

Lowest-cost First-class hatcher made of fertile eggs at

Hatch CHICKENS

WITH THE **EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR**

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

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity. Catalogs Free.



RICHE'S LICE PAINT

FOR POULTRY, LIVE STOCK AND HOUSE PLANTS.

Kills Lice, Mites, Fleas, Ticks and Bed Bugs. Easy to use—Certain to kill. Will destroy all the lice in your poultry house and on your fowls in one night, by simply spraying or painting the roosts, nest boxes, dropping boards and floor. Cannot injure the fowls. Cheapest Lice Destroyer on the market. HALF GAL. CANS, each 50 CENTS; GALLON CANS, each 75 CENTS.

Send for circulars and testimonials describing this wonderful Paint.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & SONS, Boston, Mass.; HARVEY SEED CO., Buffalo, N. Y.; C. C. RICE & CO., 178 Michigan Street, Chicago, Illinois.

According to the Central Experiment Station, Ottawa, Canada, the composition of the average poultry manure is as follows: Water 66 per cent., nitrogen 8 to 2 per cent., phosphoric acid 5 to 2 per cent., potash 8 to 9 per cent. According to this analysis the value per ton will range from \$5 to \$8.50.

G. O. Brown says commonsense is a factor that has as much to do with success in poultry raising as with success in other occupations. The man who has ambition and pride in his vocation, discounts the labors that secure success. The man who hates an occupation finds his progress checked by many stumbling blocks.

The Maine *Farmer* says what Maine wants is 2,000,000 hens and pullets to come into laying before November, 1899. Thus by preparing for winter the dollars will flow in to help out expenses next winter. Don't forget the hens when planning for more revenue next year.

OF COURSE after wasting money on "plans," "soap boxes," "hardware," and labor, you will try the "Willetts Nest." Ready for use; lasting a lifetime; identifying each and every hen; each and every egg, without any failures. Two, \$4.00; four, \$7.00; six, \$9.00. W. P. WILLETT, E. Orange, N. J.

A PRESENT

For your Wife, Sister or Best Girl.

To introduce my stock, a large package Plush pieces (for fancy work) free with every order. Eggs, Pekin ducks, \$1.00 per 11. Eggs, B. P. Rocks, \$1.00 per 13. A few choice Cockerels at \$1.00 each.

C. H. HARDEN, Jr., McConnellsville, N. Y.

COBURN'S

Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes

Are beauty and business combined.

EGGS FOR HATCHING

from fourteen of the finest pens we ever mated. Send for our new circular; also catalogue of matings for 1899.

F. A. P. COBURN,

E-759 Stevens Street, Lowell, Mass.

Northup's Minorcas

NORTHUP'S 1899 Minorca Catalogue, the most complete ever published in descriptions, prices, 1000 winnings, new pictures of buildings and fowls. Contains much information fully indexed under 60 headings. Rose and Single Comb cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets at bargains.

GEORGE H. NORTHUP, Box 15, Raceville, N. Y.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.

Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

White P. Rocks

First Prize Winners wherever shown. Pure white, yellow legs, low combs, Rock shape. Eggs \$2.00 for 15. Satisfaction guaranteed. Headquarters for Poultry Foods and Supplies of every description. Illustrated catalogue of Poultry Supplies sent free. I. F. Schott, Box 194, New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., Ohio.

Over \$14 Per Head

Actual profit on a pen of White Wyandottes, as explained in January A Few Hens. Eggs for hatching (from stock that averaged 180 eggs each the past year) \$1.50 per sitting. Address,

C. K. NELSON, Hammononton, N. J.

Don't lose sight of the fact that it requires capital to run a poultry farm. Notwithstanding the fact that eggs and poultry are saleable at all times, there must be working capital to start and keep the plant in successful operation.

Before you start in the poultry business ascertain what will be the most saleable, at the best prices, in your market. Then let all your energies be in that direction. It is not so much what you would like to do, as what will bring the best returns, that you should consider.

With the May issue the *Western Poultry Journal* closes its tenth volume. It is one of the brightest, neatest, and most interesting of our exchanges. E. E. Richards, the publisher, some years ago purchased the *Poultry Guide and Friend* from the editor of A FEW HENS, and merged it into the *Journal*, making an excellent combination.

Ireland is the greatest poultry growing country in the world. It is far ahead of France, though we have always accepted France as the leading country in this industry. Ireland, with a population of not quite 5,000,000, has 14,000,000 fowls, while France with a population seven times greater has only 40,000,000.

PEKIN Ducks that are right. Eggs—12, \$1.50; 100—\$8.00; guaranteed fresh and fertile. W. H. Fordham, Seawanhaka Poultry Farm, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.

OUR WHITE WYANDOTTES are bred for business. Great brown egg layers. \$1.00 for 15. GEO. H. BROWN, Whately, Mass.

OTTER CREEK POULTRY FARM, Vergennes, Vt. Light Brahmas, B. P. Rocks and W. Wyandottes; brown eggs and bred for business. Eggs that will hatch, 15 for \$1; 60 for \$3; 100 for \$4.

BROWN LEGHORNS; winners at PITTSBURG. Our hens laid well with mercury 30 below zero. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. ZUNDEL BROS., Grapeville, Pa.

PEERLESS LEG BANDS, POULTRY PRINTING Circulars and sample leg band free. Get my prices on up-to-date printing. "Peerless Leg Bands" STAY ON AND STAY BRIGHT. They are made of Aluminum. Price postpaid, 12, 30c; 25, 50c; 50, 75c; 100, \$1.25. State bred. B. F. Huntington, Platteville, Wis.

W. WY. EGGS; 15, \$1; 30, \$1.75; 60, \$3. Norton laying strain. P. Duck same price, Rankin strain. Golden Rule Poultry Farm, C. A. DUNLAP, Falmouth, Me.

90 varieties choice Poultry, Eggs, Pigeons and Hares. Natural colored 60-page book to above, and numerous information, for only 10c. Handsome price-list free. J. A. BERGEY, Telford, Penna.

THE RECORDER NEST BOX. Do you want your 200-egg bird, and the egg? Do you want your earliest layers, your infertile egg layers, and your egg eaters? If you do, write for circular. W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

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

PEKIN DUCK EGGS from Pollard's deep keeled strain, \$1.00 per 12; \$2.00 per 30. J. A. JOHNSON, Briggs Corner, Attleboro, Mass.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

WE GUARANTEE YOU

11 Fertile eggs for \$1.50	} FROM OUR IMPROVED PEKIN DUCKS.
22 Fertile eggs for 2.50	
50 Fertile eggs for 4.00	
100 Fertile eggs for 7.00	

No Pig in the Poke about that. B. P. ROCKS, lay with the best in the land, 13 eggs, \$1; 100, \$5. One set. Dux and Rox for \$2.00.

MARYBROOK RANCH, Fannettsburg, Pa.

People We Know.

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

The *American Poultry Breeder*, Homer, Mich., is a new aspirant promised this month. Send to Frank Kline, Spring City, Pa., for his 1899 catalogue of Buff Plymouth Rocks.

The *Business Hen*, St. Paul, Minn., is a new one, and starts out in fine style. Here's hoping it may prosper!

J. H. Woodhead, Leicester, Mass., offers big bargains in Single Comb White Leghorns and Golden Wyandottes. Write for circular.

Ford Bros., Oak Hill, N. Y., forward us photos of their Newburg, N. Y. winners on Buff Plymouth Rocks. These portraits show grand stock.

D. T. Heimlich, Jacksonville, Illinois, has just issued a neat circular on Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Light Brahmas, Buff Cochins and Golden Seabright Bantams.

F. Christman, Sellersville, Pa., an advertiser in A FEW HENS, is reporting unusually strong fertility in the eggs he is selling. Mr. Christman will give good bargains for the money.

The 1899 catalogue of the Drexel Poultry Yards, Drexel, Cook Co., Illinois, is a novelty. This firm breeds Buff and Barred Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, and White and Brown Leghorns.

There are two no more popular breeds than Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes, and there is no more reliable firm than Miles Bros., Spring Hill, Pa., nor more practical stock than what they advertise. We call special attention to their low rates as given in their advertisement. We have had the pleasure of looking over testimonials they have received, and can vouch for their reliability.

The 1899 catalogue of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Company, 28 Vesey street, New York city, is before us. It is the largest book devoted to poultry supplies that has ever been issued. Mr. W. V. Russ, the proprietor, announces that he is entering upon the 10th year of business in the line of poultry supplies, and has each year been obliged to add to his stock to keep up with the orders and business within the above time. There is no firm in the country we feel more ready to endorse than this one, and advise our readers to send for this immense catalogue which explains everything offered in the poultry line.

Spokane, Wash.

Geo. H. Lee Co., Omaha, Nebr.:—I used your Lice Killer last year, and it worked like a charm; my poultry are now free from all insects. SAMUEL J. MARTIN.

Cuba, Illinois, Feb. 5, 1899.

Geo. H. Lee. Sir:—Received one-half gallon can of your L. L. K. and applied it to the costs

EGGS from the following varieties—15 to setting. S. C. B. Leghorns, Kulp and Wittman strains, 75c. Wh. Wyandottes, Duston's strain, 75c; E. B. Thompson's Ringlet Bd. Rocks, \$1.00. All good pens. Bd. Rock Cock, 10 lbs. Daniel O'Neil, Bloomsburg, Pa.

50,000 TREES \$6.00 per hundred and up. Address, LAWRENCE NURSERY Co., Lawrence, Mass.

HARDY, Northern farm-raised White Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks and Black Langshans, from best strains. Bred for good layers and choice meat. Eggs, \$2.00 for 40. Stock for sale. BIRCHMEAD YARDS, North Dunbarton, N. H.

INCUBATOR EGGS from pure-bred White Wyandottes. \$3.00 per 100, SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

Berwick Farm—Buff Leghorns, Buff Wyandottes, Ind. Games. Our strain have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows; prolific layers; egg order book now open. Norwich, N. Y.

Rose Comb Buff Leghorns. Good winter layers. Eggs for hatching, \$2.00 per 15. C. THIEME, Palos, Illinois.

Wh. Wyand., W. P. Rocks and R. I. Reds. Brown eggs from prolific winter layers at \$1.00 per 15. White Wyandotte eggs, \$4.00 per 100. C. A. SANBORN, 42 Fairmount St., Malden, Mass.

Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street,
and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of April—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	15	13	14
Philada. Roasting Chickens, 23	19	20	2-3
Broilers.....	50	40	45 3-8
Fowls.....	14	11 1-2	12 1-2
Ducks.....	40	15	29 1-5
Turkeys.....	16	16	16
Capons.....	24	23	23 1-2

PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	14	12	12 2-3
Hens, live.....	12	10	10 1-2
Hens, dressed.....	12	10	11 1-2
Roasting Chickens, live....	12	10	11 1-8
Roasting Chickens, dressed	14	12	13 1-2
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 1-8
Old Roosters, dressed.....	8	7	7 1-4
Broilers, live.....	30	18	25
Broilers, dressed.....	35	20	20 1-8
Frying chickens, live.....	18	17	17 5-6
Frying chickens, dressed..	24	17	19 5-8
Capons.....	20	18	18 1-2
Capons, slips.....	14	13	13 1-2
Ducks, live.....	11	9	10 1-2
Ducks, dressed.....	11	10	10 1-8
Geese, live.....			
Geese, dressed.....			
Turkeys, live.....	12	12	12
Turkeys, dressed.....	14	13	13 1-4

BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape....	16	15	15 1-5
Eggs, Eastern.....	15	13 1-2	14 1-5
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	15	13 1-2	14 1-5
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	15	13 1-4	13 2-5
Eggs, Southern.....	14 1-2	12 3-4	12 4-5
Eggs, Refrigerator.....			
Eggs, Limed.....			
Eggs, Duck.....	20	15	16 1-3
Eggs, Goose.....	40	20	26
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....	20	18	19 3-4
Chickens, live.....			
Fowls, dressed.....	14	13	13 1-5
Fowls, live.....	12	10 1-2	11 1-5
Roosters, live.....	7	7	7
Ducks, dressed.....	10	10	10
Geese, dressed.....	10	10	10
WESTERN DRY-PACKED:			
Turkeys, drawn.....	13	13	13
Turkeys, undrawn.....	12 1-2	12 1-2	12 1-2
Turkeys, old toms.....	10	10	10
Turkeys, heavy.....	11	11	11
Chickens.....			
Fowls.....	12 1-2	10	10 3-4
Ducks.....			
Geese.....			
Old cocks.....	8 1-2	8 1-2	8 1-2
Capons, large.....	18	17	17 2-3
Capons, small and medium	17	14	16
Capons, slips.....	11	11	11

WHEN hens feel good they lay eggs. See TOBACCO DUST advertisement.

Buff Wyandottes exclusively. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Sat. guaranteed. Geo. A. Porter, Oxford, Ohio.

W. and Barred Ply. Rocks. Fine stock; heavy layers. Eggs, \$1 for 13; \$5 per hundred. C. M. Hubbard, Box 114, New Brunswick, N. J.

PURE Buff Rocks and Buff Leghorns. Eggs, \$1 per sitting. Circular. PLEASANT POULTRY YARDS, Marysville, Pa.

Golden, Silver and Buff Wyandottes. My birds at the shows scored to 94 points. Lambert, judge. Eggs this season, \$1.25 per 13; \$3.00 per 40. Stock for sale; all farm raised. Breeder 15 years. F. S. TENNEY, Peterboro, N. H.

CHICAGO.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, Duck.....	20	12	14 1-8
Eggs, Goose.....	50	15	30 1-3
Eggs, fresh.....	12 1-2	11 1-4	12
Chickens, hens, scalded....	10	9	9 1-2
Chickens, hens, alive.....	10	9	9 1-3
Chickens, frozen stock....			
Spring chickeus, scalded..	10 1-2	9 1-2	9 1-4
Spring chicks, dry-picked..	9 1-2	9	9 1-3
Spring chickeus, live.....	10 1-2	9	8 7-8
Broilers.....	15	13	13 4-5
Capons.....	15	15	15
Capons, slips.....	12	12	12
Roosters, old, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, young, live.....	6	6	6
Roosters, dressed.....	6 1-2	6 1-2	6 1-2
Ducks, live.....	9 1-2	8	9 1-7
Ducks, dressed.....	11	9	9 3-4
Geese, live, per dozeu.....	\$5	\$5	\$5
Geese, dressed.....	9	7	8 1-3
Turkey hens, dressed.....	13	12	12 1-3
Turkey hens, live.....	10	10	10
Turkey gobbl'rs, y'n'g, dr	11	11	11
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	9	8	8 1-7

White Wyandottes and Black Minorcas. Eggs from carefully selected stock, \$1.00 per setting. GEORGE CARTWRIGHT, Box 517, Niles, O.

TREICHLER'S Poultry Farm. Offers S. C. W. Leghorn and White Wyandotte eggs from utility and beauty stock, at \$1.00 per 15; \$3 per 50; \$5 per 100. Fertility guaranteed. C. F. Treichler, Sanborn, N. Y.

AMERICAN TRAP NEST BOX.

Simple and practical. Plans \$1.00. By its use my S. C. White Leghorns produced 207 eggs per hen in 1898, and won this season 8 prizes at Madison Square, N. Y., and Danbury, Ct. Eggs, \$2 per 15. Circular free. J. H. WOODHEAD, Pleasant Poultry Yards, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

according to directions on can, and can say tonight that I have a cleau flock of fowls. I also used a box and painted the bottom with L. L. K., and when I released the fowls just one hour later, could not count the dead lice in the bottom of the box. I am well pleased with your Lice Killer. Yours truly, M. L. HILTON.

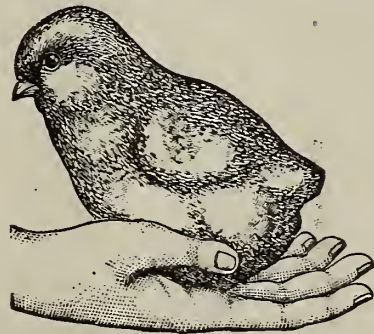
South Norwalk, Conn., Feb. 6, 1899. Geo. H. Lee Co., Omaha, Nebr.:—I received the articles by express, and I am well pleased with them, the Germozone curing chickeus of roup which ten other remedies that I tried failed to cure. The Germozone cures, and Lee's Lice Killer kills, as I have the proof of it in my poultry house. I think I can dispose of some of your goods here. Yours very truly, C. R. HOYT.

Geo. H. Northup, who is an advertiser in "A FEW HENS," was one of the first to import Minorcas to America, and has bred them exclusively ever since. He has today, undoubtedly, the largest flock of pure-bred Minorcas in the world, and never before have his fowls been in so great demand as at present. The obvious reasons for Mr. Northup's success are, that he advertises liberally to obtain customers, and then uses them so well that they stay by him year after year. "Northup's Minorcas" please the fancier by their winning qualities in the show room, and gratify the poultry farmer by their winning way of laying eggs of mammoth size, in great numbers and by tipping the scales at a pound or two above the Standard.

The problem of producing a cutter to properly prepare green bone seems to have been solved in the Webster & Hannum bone cutter, now manufactured by F. C. Stearns & Co., of Syracuse, N. Y., whose reputation as manufacturers of hardware and the Stearns bicycle is world-wide. The name of this house upon any machiue is sufficient guarantee of its superior excellence. The W. & H. machines are practically indestructible, cut meat and gristle, as well as bone; cannot clog, and are self-feeding and regulating, thus when turn-

Keep Your Chickens STRONG and HEALTHY.

Those who succeed best raising poultry for profit are those who commence with little chicks, giving small doses of SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER twice a week; then a little larger doses, and so on to the time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying, a dose say of one teaspoonful to each quart of food, and so continue to use it, as one customer says she does, "from the cradle to the grave," and you will succeed nine times in ten, and have plenty of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when prices are highest.



To make your Poultry pay, first hatch Strong, Healthy Chickens.

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the Pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food every other day, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs.

It is a fact based upon the declaration of a noble contributor to science, that through the medium of the circulating blood, any particular organ of a living animal may be reached and stimulated into renewed vigor and activity if we will only administer the proper material to produce the desired effect.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

Sheridan's Condition Powder

is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. In use over 30 years.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST. We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

BUFF LEGHORNS. 15 eggs, \$1. Most complete catalogue ever issued on this peerless breed, free. V. M. MARKEN, Frederick, Md.

Barred Ply. Rocks

Brown egg strain. Black Leghorns. Eggs, \$1.25 per 15. Matthews & O'Laughlin, Gambrells P. O., Md.

INCUBATOR EGGS. Strictly fresh. \$3.50 a hundred; \$2.00 for fifty.

C. N. TILLOTSON, Box 289, Boonton, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

My stock produces fine broilers, roasters and layers. Good hatch guaranteed. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. J. J. SMITH, Oxford, Mass.

CHAMPION POULTRY YARDS, Buxton Centre, Me. Wh. P. Rocks and Wh. Wyandottes. Pure white, large size, prolific layers of brown eggs, each pen headed by unrelated males. Buff Leghorns, fine in comb and color. Eggs, \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Circular free. B. A. Bradbury, Buxton Centre, Me.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS and PEKIN DUCKS, they are bred for good laying, and a fine market bird when dressed. Eggs for hatching from the same pens we breed from ourselves, \$1.50 pr. sitting; two sittings, \$2.50. WM. WATMORE, Moorestown, P. O., Lenola, N. J.

White Wyandottes.

Business Stock and Standard-bred. Hens prolific layers. None better. Low prices. Write for Egg Circular. RALPH WOODWARD, New Rochelle, N. Y.

ROYAL BLUE BLOOD. Write me for prices on eggs if you want best to be had. B. P. Rocks, Rose Comb Brown Leghorns, C. I. Games. They will be sold right, and guaranteed. F. M. CHESBRO, Mongo, Ind.

FERTILE EGGS 75 Per Cent. Guaranteed. S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS exclusively. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100. W. H. WARREN, Ransomville, N. Y.

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Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,
Produce Commission Merchant,
No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

75 Per Cent Fertile

Guaranteed by Niagara Farm.

Exclusive breeders of Strictly Practical Stock. Mammoth Pekin Ducks, 140 eggs in six months; December layers; extra heavy weights; long bodies; flat backs; deep keels. Pure White Wyandottes, best general purpose fowl. Prolific layers; brown eggs; quick growers; mature early; blocky shape. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100. Birds \$1.50 to \$2.00 each. Mammoth Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. Reference—Editor Boyer. Circular. W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

MILES BROS.,
SPRING HILL, PA.

BARRED PLY. ROCKS WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Bred for beauty on practical lines. Fine stock, low prices, liberal treatment. Eggs, 15, \$1.25; 30, \$2.00; 100, \$6.00. Brooder-weaned chicks, as fine as ever you saw, at moderate prices. Don't fail to write for particulars. Neat circular free.

THE ONLY ONE

Pike's Lice Destroyer is the only lice killer that is sold on a guarantee to kill lice and mites or money refunded. It is no trouble to use it as the liquid is sprinkled on the roosts and kills the vermin while the poultry sleeps.

Pike's Lice Destroyer, per gallon can \$.75
Crushed Oyster Shells, per 100 lb. bag75
Mica Crystal Grit, per 100 lb. bag75
Ground Bone, per 100 lb. bag 2.00

Much lower prices for larger quantities.

Agents wanted. Send for descriptive circulars.

Ship us **POULTRY AND EGGS**
Your
SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO.,
218 South Water St., Chicago.

ing the machine with one hand the other hand is perfectly free. It is worthy of note that this was the only bone cutter receiving an award at the World's Fair, Chicago. Address, as above, for booklet.

A NOVEL SCHEME. Mr. F. B. Mills, the enterprising seedsman of Rose Hill, N. Y., whose success has been most remarkable, made so largely on account of his enterprise and fair dealing, has devised another scheme that is equally forceful and attractive. The Ten-Cent due bill that he furnishes to all who write him for a catalogue is proving a very liberal offer, and our readers need have no fear that they will be unfairly dealt with. Better send at once for catalogue and get a due bill which will help pay for your season's seeds.

The object in making this liberal offer is to induce those who are not acquainted with Mr. Mills to try his seeds for this season. Mr. Mills feels confident that one season's trial will make a permanent customer.

For "a complete assortment" of everything in the poultry line we doubt if there is another place in the world like the establishment of W. V. Russ, 28 Vesey street, New York city. Mr. Russ's concern is known as the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Company. This is the headquarters for the Banner Egg Food and Tonic, as well as the New York agency for Prairie State incubators and brooders. Other specialties are Mica Crystal Grit, Sheridan's Condition Powder, Lambert's Death to Lice, wire hens' nests, F. P. C. Chick Manna, F. P. C. Preparations, Greeley's Cholera Cure, Greeley's Roup Cure, green bone and vegetable cutters, Farm-Poultry Series of Popular Poultry Books, as well as other works. Mr. Russ's catalogue is without a doubt the largest ever issued by a poultry supply house. Send for it.

We are living in an age of strong competition in the manufacture and sale of incubators and brooders. To make sales now, incubators and brooders must have strong merit. Price is no consideration—every one wants the best. A poor article may flourish for a year or two, but eventually it runs against a snag and is lost. Competition and time, in this, has greatly rewarded the Prairie State Incubator and Brooder Company. With all this strong competition each year their business has been increasing. Today their factory and working force is larger than any previous year. What does it mean? It means that those in search of superior articles are not slow in recognizing the many practical features of the Prairie State, and the reputation that has come to them has come purely on merit. Merit is a winner.

This is the season when poultrymen are preparing to get their chicks out of doors, and in order to do this we find it necessary to have a well-constructed outdoor brooder. Such a brooder is made by the Cyphers Incubator Co., of Wayland, N. Y. This outdoor brooder has demonstrated its superiority over others during the past season, being constructed on purely scientific principles, and embodying valuable features found in no other. Many customers have raised 100 per cent. with it. The Cyphers outdoor brooder is 5 x 3 feet, with a commodious yard run; is well ventilated; has top heat with a perfect diffusion; is absolutely safe from fire, and is covered with a metal roof, making it water proof. Everything necessary for operating accompanies the brooder. Write the Cyphers Co., for descriptions and prices of this, and also of their splendid 60-egg incubator, the counterpart of their larger machines. The only perfect small incubator on the market.

The White Plymouth Rock Club membership list now contains the names of 281 breeders and admirers of that excellent variety. The army of White Rock breeders has wonderfully increased during the past year, and in all probability the club is much larger than any other poultry specialty club in America. It is also in better financial condition. This is why it is able to place the White Plymouth Rocks so prominently before the public and benefit its members. The latter are found in 36 states and Canada, covering the territory from Maine to California, and from Minneapolis to Texas. The club is only twelve months old, and the results obtained in this period of time have never been duplicated, which fact is evidence that the club is the right thing at the right time. The most prominent poultrymen in the United States are identified with it, the list containing the names of editors, judges, lawyers, doctors, preachers, merchants, farmers and professional breeders and fanciers. The membership fee is only one dollar. By sending name and address on a postal card to Frank Heck, secretary and treasurer, New Albany, Indiana, a copy of the club's latest catalogue will be sent.



Rhode Island Reds.

OURS WON FIRST on cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, and all second premiums but one on same at last Boston show. We have ten breeding yards Single and Rose Comb birds, and are shipping eggs, best, \$3 per sitting; two for \$5; three for \$8. Second best, \$2 per sitting; two for \$3; five for \$8. No more incubator eggs this season.

Just Suit the Farmer

No stock for sale. Illustrated descriptive circular and price-list free. Farm at West Mansfield, Mass. SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.



EASY TO OPERATE.

Any boy or girl can be successful with **THE MONITOR INCUBATOR.** Automatic regulator. It makes strong and healthy chicks. We pay freight. 100-egg Old Hen Incub. and Brooder \$10. Catalogue Free. The Monitor Co. Box Moodus, Conn.



THE WINTER LAYER

will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal

It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

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A 16-page Poultry Journal of National Circulation.

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\$1.00 per sitting, straight,
FROM OUR PRIZE-WINNING STOCK.
FORD BROS., - Oak Hill, N. Y.

EGGS Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, \$1.00 for 13. Pekin Ducks, \$1.00 for 12. W. H. Turkeys, Embden Geese, 25 cents each. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setonket, L. I., N. Y.

THOROUGHbred

S. C. W. Leghorns, W. Wyandottes and Am. Dominiques. Bred for great laying. Eggs, \$1 per sitting; \$5 per 100. Stock for sale. F. J. BARNES, Turin, N. Y.