

The first point which deserves our notice is—what object has the poultry keeper in view? of course there are multitudes of farmers and cottagers who keep poultry and they simply desire to obtain eggs as many as possible, and to have a fair number of chickens. When this is the case, the only thing to do is to select the breed or cross most likely to help in this direction.

But where there is a better market for one class of produce than the other, then it is a most desirable thing to make that class the main object, and to regard the other as merely a secondary consideration. What I mean is simply that in a district where eggs are chiefly in demand, the wisest plan is to use breeds that will give the greatest number of eggs, regardless of whether they have table properties or not. The latter point must be sacrificed—in fact it will pay to do so. In the case of table poultry, we must naturally be content with fewer eggs but there the return comes, in the direction of increased flesh qualities and greater prices for the same.

There are several varieties which combine egg production and table qualities, though in neither respect do we get quite the same result as with the special breeds. Suppose that a farmer or cottager intends to take up poultry keeping, the question naturally arises upon what lines will be conduct his operations. We have heard from time to time glowing accounts of the profit that can be made from poultry-keeping and if we believe all these statements there could be no doubt that poultry-keeping would be one of the most attractive industries in the country. But the stern logic of facts shows us that the overcrowding of any animals upon a limited area means disease in the long run.

I could give numberless instances of mistakes made in this direction, but it is not necessary to do so. In the case of the farmer, I desire to induce him to regard poultry as an important branch of his live stock, to give them the same amount of attention as the larger animals and under these conditions, there is no doubt whatever that poultry can be made an important aid to the general success of his business. But he must observe the same laws as he does with cattle and sheep. That poultry might be kept to a very much larger extent than is now the case cannot be questioned. The editor of an American Poultry paper who has been on a visit to Flanders, (Belgium), where he has been travelling in the rural districts, says that

of late years there has been a remarkable development of poultry keeping. Hedges are practically unknown in that country, and the fowls are permitted to wander where they like even among the growing crops doing no harm in fact, not one thousandth part of the harm that wild rabbits do. In the Campine country, there has been a great increase in the fertility of the land during the last twenty years and this is attributed to the numbers of poultry kept. I can scarcely recommend that course to our farmers here but going back to the farmer, of course queries as to breeds and housing will come up. The best system of housing is to put the birds in good warm houses in small flocks of 25 or 30 birds in each roosting house with scratching sheds attached for winter use and grass runs for summer.

When we come to consider the case of the farmer or villager who has already a flock of poultry which he desires to improve and develop, so much is to the good, because as he knows probably what is the most profitable branch of poultry-keeping in his vicinity he has only to start in to develop his flock for that purpose. Too often, however, a great number of fowls are kept, sometimes until they die of old age, herded together in one house and allowed to run over the same ground, as they have done for years previously. This system is certainly all wrong. The first thing he must do is to get rid of every bird in the establishment more than a year and a half old and the sooner he does this the better. It will pay to cut his stock down to comparatively small limits and then to start in afresh. The first thing to be decided upon is which breed to keep and to do this the purpose for which the poultry is to be kept must be taken into consideration whether for eggs or flesh production. If you have some good early pullets or one year old hens that are good layers, and you want eggs, choose a male bird of one of the Mediterranean class whichever one you prefer and thereafter each season or at least second season buy others of his same kind and thus in a few years build up a high grade flock practically full blood so far as results go though, of course, not thoroughbred or fit for sale of settings. Its original foundation of common or mixed stock suited to that farm its care and conditions often produces more satisfaction than a full blooded flock of thoroughbred laid down at high prices. Do not understand me as opposing thoroughbred *breeds* fowls for the farmer. My idea is to show that a