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DEVOTED TO POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER.

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POULTRY AND EGG CULTURE.

HOW TO MANAGE THE STOCK.

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WRITTEN FOR THE POULTRY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

MY intention in writing this essay is to enlighten the novice who desires to go into the poultry and egg business.

Much is written about the profits made in poultry raising and egg production and about the great markets the world over. I admit the market is great, but the details as to how the stock and eggs are produced are seldom given. It is in minor things that many make serious mistakes, and consequently fail in a good paying business. There is not any money in raising chickens if we begin in May or June, when everybody has their yard full of setting hens. Imagine a vegetable grower expecting to make money out of his hot house in summer. It is when things are out of season that the highest price is obtained and the money made. A poultryman starts to hatch his chickens in December or January and continues along the winter months until the first of May. After that there is very little profit in raising poultry for market. "The early bird catches the worm" every time.

Poultry-raising has a three-fold market, one for fowls raised for consumption, one for egg production, and the other for exhibition purposes, but it does not follow that exhibition birds do not make fine table fowls and layers, as well as being beautiful to look at.

As a rule the novice imagines all he has to do when going into the poultry business is to go to the market

in the fall of the year when fowls are cheapest and buy four or five hundred chickens at forty or fifty cents a pair and take them home and feed them all they can eat, after putting them into a large barn or building without any sunshine in it or even the cracks tightly battened to prevent draughts, and thus he expects to see the eggs roll out by the hundred. Imagine a farmer going to grow vegetables of any kind in winter in a hot-house full of open cracks; naturally it would take a vast amount of fuel to keep up the heat, and just so it is with hens; the colder their house is the more food they will eat to keep themselves warm. Draughts are very dangerous to a flock of fowls, causing colds which often turn into contagious diseases. Should any of the birds take cold and the head swell, the best treatment is to bathe the swollen parts with water as hot as the back of the hand can bear, and give the bird a pellet of two grains of quinine morning and evening. This disease is called roup, and if allowed to run will go through the flock in a short time. "A stitch in time will save nine."

Chickens purchased at the market at the prices stated as a rule are not fit to flock a poultry farm with. Fowls should be carefully selected and purchased from breeders who have had some experience and who keep stock that produces good stock. For instance, a man who keeps a laying class of fowls such as Leghorns, Hamburgs, Minorcas, Andalusians, etc., will in nine cases out of ten have plenty of birds not fit for show purposes which could be bought at very reasonable figures, these birds will produce from 150 to 200 eggs per annum, as these are non-sitters. A pullet that has been bred from a long line of good layers is almost sure to be a good layer herself and should produce good laying stock. Once the fowls have been purchased notes should be taken of the dif-