

For the Poultry Weekly.

WILL POULTRY PAY?

AS that is the question many people will propound when this number of the Bee and Poultry weekly appears, it may be as well to give a few ideas and items regarding the great matter of dollars and cents. Yes! ladies and gentlemen it will pay, and pay well, but it will not pay every man. It is like the music in the fiddle; the fiddle is there but it takes the man who *knows how to get it out*. It will never pay the individual, who spends half his breath cursing those "blamed fowls" for scratching up his nicely planted garden, because he should have prepared a place beforehand to keep them out of it. Did not he know perfectly well that fowls always scratch, but then it has become so much a matter of course to blame them for having a nature at all, of any kind. The man who puts a large flock of fowls in a newly planted garden and scares the life out of them every time they lift a leg to indulge their scratching propensities, would not think for a moment of letting his cow into the cabbage patch when the heads were getting nice. But then he has been taught that a cow's or a horse's proclivities must be respected. Poultry will not pay him who begrudges them every grain of food, and only gives them enough to keep their own bodies in living condition, and on the other hand it will not pay him if he lacks the sense to observe, or is too negligent to trouble himself, whether they are eating too much so as to be too gross and fat to be useful members of the flock. If an individual is adapted for the business it *must* pay. If he likes his birds, loves to spend an hour or two talking to them; if he is quick to observe their wants, and finds it a pleasure to supply them. If he can control his temper, is gentle, and has a nature capable of faithfully fulfilling a host of small duties, then he *must* succeed. If he starts with healthy stock, clean, warm, commodious quarters, and a desire to increase his knowledge in the poultry business, which can only be obtained by practical experience, such a one is certain to make it a paying investment. There is no other kind of stock that gives such quick returns. No other stock will propagate its kind so freely, or will give such delicacies for the table, or an article of immediate cash sale, that needs no kind of preparation to fit it for market, and still be on hand to repeat the process next year, and to crown all, give the most valuable fertiliser for use on the farm, and still one other good quality, the risk is so small. The sum risked on cattle and horses before they can possibly make any re-

turn, is something enormous. Yet we never hear any complaints, though they have to be kept for two or three years. We never hear any grumbling when stables have to be cleaned, the stock fed, bedded, combed and watered. But poultry has been terribly neglected, and time grudgingly given to even give them enough chance to exist at all. When I think of the privileges open to everyone in Canada to engage in poultry farming, I am at a loss to understand the reason why it has been so overlooked. In conclusion I would say, give your birds the same chance you give to other stock and they will astonish you by the returns made. Try to interest yourself in them, and they will repay you well.

Hints to Beginners in Poultry Raising.

THERE is no better way to begin than to purchase of a reliable breeder settings of choice eggs. These can be had in every variety at from about three to five dollars per setting from the best birds in the land. If you have a suitable place you can purchase a pair of fine thoroughbred breeding birds, at from five dollars per pair up, then you can raise more chicks than you will from a setting and have the original stock left; consider what is wanted, eggs, or birds for table use, and which will pay you best in your nearest market. Select the breed that will meet your wants as you can; the surest plan is to take up one breed at a time and as you master the breeding and mating of that one you will observe much that will help you in taking up another variety.

The reason I advocate thoroughbred fowls is this: There is no guessing at what they will do. A lady said to me lately, "that old hen I call specky has been such a splendid layer, but her pullets do not take after her: they are not as large either." No - that is where it comes in, she happened to be a good layer, but it was not stamped upon her race by careful selecting and breeding. When you buy stock of the breeder and fancier you purchase with the birds his patient, careful, thoughtful labor, the result of his keen intelligent application and knowledge of mating and breeding. Had it not been for the fanciers where would our kingly Brahmas, Langshans and Cochins be to day? It is the fancier's skill and patient experiments in breeding that has given us one of the most, if not the most perfect fowl of our day for practical purposes, the silver laced Wyandottes, beautiful too, exceedingly so, though not gaudy, with its laced plumage of black and white. I suppose it has been at least a study of some