

## CLEANING UP.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

**R**EEP things clean is well worn advice. One almost needs to apologize for giving it, but the importance of the subject cannot well be over-estimated.

If one has the time it may be a good plan to clean the dropping boards daily, though this is not absolutely necessary. Once or twice a week in summer and once a week or once in two weeks in the winter, when the house is not crowded, will be found to answer very well. It is necessary to clean the houses more frequently in summer than in winter, because in warm weather the droppings continue moist and exhale disagreeable and dangerous effluvia, while in winter the cold seals up the odors quickly. Then, too, in summer vermin abound and a nasty house is what they delight in. Filth is just the breeding ground desired for germs of various diseases, and abundance if it is incompatible with the best health of the fowls.

But cleaning up includes much more than the daily, semi weekly or weekly removal of droppings. A house is not clean when it is infested with vermin. Get rid of them. There are various plans, all of which possess merit, and among them are the following :

**1st FUMIGATION.**—Sulphur is the best material. Drive the fowls out of the house, tightly close all windows and doors place in an old basin some paper saturated with kerosene or alcohol, upon which pour a pound or two of sulphur. I usually pour a little oil into the sulphur in order to make sure of more complete combustion. Place this basin afloat in a tub of water and then apply a match to the paper. As soon as the fumes begin to arise, you will need no invitation to vacate the premises. Let the house remain closed for six or eight hours. Then open, ventilate, and admit the fowls. Most of the vermin will be destroyed and disease germs will have perished. Tobacco stems may be used in the same way but are hardly as effective as sulphur.

**2nd SPRAYING.**—Use a garden pump with a spraying nozzle. Send streams into every crack and crevice. Saturate roosts and floors. For this purpose there is nothing which I have used better than refined carbolic acid, the salts that are put up for medicinal use. These are dissolved in water and sprayed over the house. But kerosene emulsion, crude petroleum, thin whitewash, solution of sulphate of copper in water and the like are valuable and to a greater

or less degree effective. The best of these I think is sulphate of copper solution. It has the advantage also of being cheap.

**3rd WHITEWASHING.**—Make a good wash from the best of lime, and add a little carbolic acid to it. Apply with brush. Nothing will make a house look better or smell cleaner than good whitewash. The only serious objection to its frequent use is the labor of applying it

**4th OILING THE ROOSTS.**—For this purpose crude petroleum is more effective than the best kerosene, and is also cheaper. Wherever petroleum strikes vermin will be destroyed.

But the house alone is not sufficient. The yards need looking after. If, as there often will be, old boards and sticks, brush, and the like, cumber the yard, rake it over and remove them. Spade up the dirt, turning it up to the action of the sun and air. Fresh air is the best disinfectant known. If necessary sprinkle the yards with a solution of sulphate of copper, not copperas which is sulphate of iron. This is especially desirable if there has been any cholera, or choleraic trouble among the fowls. If unpleasant odors arise from the ground, which may be noticed in a still summer or fall morning, sprinkle over it a thin coating of gypsum, land plaster, which will absorb them. This will do for temporary relief, but when the earth gets so full of poison as this it is advisable to remove several inches of the top soil, which makes a good fertilizer, and cart in new earth. I have found that subsoil—the yellow soil just lying beneath the loam—is admirable for this purpose. I think that it wears a little better than the loam, that is, it does not get impregnated with the droppings quite as quickly. But the loam will answer admirably until it does get impregnated. Some use sand and sand is good, but my objection to it is that it is very much less valuable when it becomes necessary to remove it and replace with fresh material. Sand, however, has the advantage of drying more quickly than loam or subsoil and a sanded yard looks neat, and perhaps these advantages more than compensate for the less value for fertilizing material. At any rate, whatever one may use, fresh earth of some kind becomes essential after the fowls have run over the same yards for several years.

## JUDGING AT THE INDUSTRIAL.

*Editor Review :*

**R**EFERRING to this matter in last issue you remarked that the Committee on Poultry at this Exhibition (of which I am a member) should stand