

Standard and try to accomplish the breeding of a bird as near as you can to the description contained therein and not keep the Standard in your office drawer, and then (like one I wot of) when told you are breeding disqualified birds run to your Standard that has lain in the drawer to see if you, or your informant are in the right. If you have a Standard you ought to be thoroughly conversant with the characteristics of the breed you keep there is no excuse for you. The "Standard of Perfection" can be procured from this office. Price one dollar. Every poultry man should have it.

#### Selecting Layers.

YOU will often see advice given as to securing a good laying race of fowls, some will tell you to "choose the long bodied females" or "those with extra large combs," or with "red eyes" or some other feature, supposed to indicate a good layer. But these are not of any practical worth as a guide to a hen's laying qualities.

My advice would be to select from personal observation, those hens for the mothers of the flock of your wished for good layers as are themselves extra good in that desirable point. There is a wonderful difference in the laying qualities of strains, or even individual birds, and every careful breeder takes note of such, and by an intelligent system of selecting and breeding secures a good family of layers, whose trait in this respect is stamped in the breeding of the bird.

A good layer from a good laying mother is more certain to have this inherit tendency to fill the egg basket and as you breed again into the same family the strain of layers becomes fixed in the race. It will pay you to observe and act upon this well grounded advice. It is no theory; any one of our readers has it in his, or her power to perfect a strain of hens that are good layers and to fix those characteristics in the breed they handle, just as we can fix the sitting or non sitting proclivities of a breed by careful selection of the breeders themselves.

So now, too, you will see how nonsensical it is to follow the old time advice of some to set the hens on the

small eggs, if you do so you raise the layers to be layers of small eggs, and as to large eggs not hatching so well that is another blown up theory and one that we are glad to see "blown up" too. A good laying hen whose eggs are fine in size as well, is worth more than double as a breeder, no matter what variety she is, to one that fails in size of eggs even though a good layer. When you get one, such as can be relied on as giving good sized eggs in plentiful supply you need not fear to keep her for five years as a breeder, and let her enjoy the honor of superannuation at last; she will well have earned her annuity, and should you raise from her a family of pullets these mated to a male from a good laying mother, you are ahead again in establishing the laying qualities of your flock. Such trouble for a few seasons will amply repay any poultry man especially those who are essentially seeking for eggs for market.

In handling fowls remember the advice of Josh Billings "Don't hurry things mi sweet friend, the best time to set a hen iz wen the hen iz red dy."

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The Rev. W. H. Barnes has returned from Baltimore, where he had gone for the benefit of his health. The Rev. gentleman is greatly improved in health, but his recent severe illness has caused the silvery hairs to appear.

#### PRESERVING EGGS.

WILL you kindly through the columns of the POULTRY WEEKLY, give me a good recipe for preserving eggs. Also do you think the month of May too early to pack for winter use.

The two following methods are reliable. But the place the vessels are kept in is very important, it must be dry and cool with no bad odor. And the eggs *must be fresh*, that is of primary importance. A high rate of interest can be obtained by the pickling or preserving of eggs, and it is a fine paying business when all the conditions are mastered there is but little risk, but one should begin slow and gain experience. May is not at all too early, I have often put them down in April; if the eggs are