

ered each day, and I am confident you will have a great deal fewer sitting hens. But you must have suitable accommodations, and with suitable houses and yards, if a hen, any of the Asiatics, shows a disposition to sit, it will be just about as easy to lift her off the nest and put her into a separate yard in which there are no hiding places, as to kick her off only to have her to go on again. If left here to meditate for a day and night upon her selfishness, in all probability she will return to work, and the strike will be over. I do not think one of the common variety could be thus easily broken up. My limited knowledge leads me to conclude that in-breeding intensifies the desire to sit. I have a Light Brahma hen which brought out a brood of chicks in May, and in five weeks commenced laying in her coop, and is still laying, never having shown any further disposition to incubate. A Buff Cochon which came off a few weeks earlier commenced laying within four weeks, and though she has four times since, when eggs were left in the nest, exhibited a desire for solitary meditation, yet, upon being gently expostulated with in the manner described, has never failed to resume labor within a few days, and though she is preparing a new winter suit at present—which puts a man in mind of house-cleaning—yet she fails not in her duty. Now these are what are known by the name of sitters, perfect Nihilists, extremists—and these two pullets were laying in February. One "Game" man had Light Brahmas, and the wretched things had black bones in their legs. I have always been at a loss to account for this, unless they were descended from a direct branch of royalty, and the blue blood had got into the bones. It is strange what black bones our brother's fowls all have if they do not happen to be the same as ours.

But this falling off is not all due to the sitting strike. In early spring the state of the weather, &c., confine the fowls to the vicinity of the barn-yard, and most of the eggs are consequently got, but as soon as the snows and ice have disappeared, and hiding places and green food, as well as animal food, are supplied in abundance, the old nesting places are deserted, and eggs begin to fail. Every now and then a nestful of a very doubtful character is found in some shady nook, but are all found? If so, what means the constant stream of chicks which come from all directions from June till November? I have heard a great deal about the wonderful success a hen always has in this line when permitted to choose her own nest; it may be so, but I have seen many come out with one and two chicks, and seldom more than two and three.

Now, in the next place, you do not produce as many eggs as you might. The reason for this is, you are too economical, too saving—hens are ex-

pected to produce eggs from nothing. Chemistry tells us that we are as unable to destroy matter as to create it, therefore are unable to do either. Yet you expect a hen to do it; while in reality she is only a machine, which, when supplied with certain elements, changes these into a substance differing materially from the original, and thus the value of what is supplied is greatly augmented. A man does not drive his reaper into the pasture field expecting to reap a crop of wheat, and pronounce the land useless because he finds nothing to reap. A lady does not hang a large kettle over a fire and expect a supply of soap unless she supply the elements necessary to the production of soap. Yet this is identically what is being done with poultry in many cases.

Again, valuable time is lost, where, if what is necessary to the producing of eggs is supplied, the conditions under which it is supplied prevents the desired result. It is well known that nearly every variety of fowls will lay in winter as well as in summer upon the conditions that they are well fed and comfortably housed, and this when eggs are worth double of what they are in summer. But you object to building one of these poultry palaces—and you are just right; you do not build a palace for your Durham cow or your Cotswold sheep, nor is there any more necessity for you to do so for your poultry. You are aware that many of the breeders of cattle have very fine places for their stock, but is that any reason why such a place is a necessity? You have proved that such is not the case, by keeping them in much more humble quarters, and with success too. But there are many reasons why your poultry should have a house for their own use, some of which I will try to enumerate in future.

Again, you do not keep those varieties which give the largest returns. You never meet a man now-a-days making enquiries for an old Canadian reaper, or maintaining that the cradle was and is the most useful implement in use at present. Nor are farmers who have tried the Berkshire pig frequently met with enquiring for the old "greyhound" hog which graced, or disgraced, the farm in the past. And do you not suppose that if the "sun-fish" tribe of the past paid better than the improved breeds of the present, that many farmers would not return to them, notwithstanding their appearance. Yet we find the majority of farm-yards stocked with an equally unprofitable article of poultry; and I am sure it is not their beauty which enables them to maintain their position against their more valuable rivals.

Now, if all the reasons which I have been able to offer why fanciers and farmers differ so widely as to the value of the productions of the poultry-yard, have been substantiated by proofs, can we