

with a spoon, but a stale egg, when boiled hard, permits the shell to be peeled off like the skin of an orange. It takes a longer time to boil a fresh egg than it does for a stale egg, and fresh eggs are more easily beaten to a froth than stale ones. You cannot, however, distinguish a fertile egg until after it has been under a hen a week, though experts can do so after the fourth day.

S. J. ANDRES.

### WHAT TO SELL.

During this season, the room in the poultry house is worth something, and the inferior birds simply keep the others back. If there are many puny males, they might as well be sold now as any other time, for they will not be worth a cent more in the future. In fact, the larger a cockerel becomes the less it will be worth, for just as soon as the comb becomes developed it goes into the market as an "old rooster," and brings less than five cents a pound. Cull out the fat hens also, for they bring the best prices and will not lay, and if there are any young pullets that are behind in growth, let them go, too, and cull the flock down to "normal." It is not economical to feed two birds when only one is giving a profit.

S. J. ANDRES.

### ABOUT ROOSTS.

The most approved roost is a 2 x 3-inch scantling, planed smooth and the edges rounded so as not to hurt the feet of the fowl. Round poles make very poor roosts: a fowl's feet become too cramped when obliged to cling to them during the whole night. On the flat (scantling) roosts, the fowl is enabled to spread its feet, giving a better rest. In placing roosts they should never be set over two feet above the ground, with a board platform placed under them to catch the droppings.

Putting roosts above one above the other or on an incline is a serious mistake. The birds will struggle to gain the topmost round and will be compelled to inhale all the foul odors from below.

S. J. ANDRES.

### PREVENTING CHICKEN MITES.

Keep your chickens healthy and your success is assured.

Keep them free from mites and there is little

danger that they will not remain so. There are many remedies, all more or less successful, but the best remedy is prevention.

The first great problem is to keep the roosting places and the nests free from the pests. To do this is often a problem.

One farmer, an acquaintance of mine, had all his perches so arranged that they could all be removed easily. Every little while he would remove them and pass them slowly through a brisk fire.

Another treats the perches, nests, and inside of the coop with a mixture of coal-oil and water, with a force pump. Still another swabs off the perches with tar water. Another keeps a dust box for the fowls to dust or wallow in. The box contains a mixture of road dust sifted coal ashes and sulphur. I have already discussed this in a former number of the JOURNAL, *As the dust-bath*. The idea is to keep the mites away.

S. J. ANDRES.

### HENS AND BROODS.

The hens will soon begin to become broody, and eggs will be given them in order to have them bring off early chicks. But how many of these chicks will be raised is another matter. Those who allow their hens to lose time at incubation should not be satisfied to have them raise only one-third of the chicks, as is usually the case.

The cause of the great loss among the little chicks (and not thirty per cent of them ever live beyond the first two weeks) is the dependence placed upon the hen.

A hen can raise chicks in May and the summer months when the weather is warm, but she cannot be as successful in March and April without assistance. She cannot hover her brood in a manner to prevent the chicks from being chilled, and it is only after the weaker ones have perished that she keeps the others alive.

It is the "survival of the fittest"; and that, too, under hardships and difficulties.

Provide a warm and sheltered place for the hens and broods, and look after them carefully.

It will pay to save the early chicks, as they bring the highest prices.

S. J. ANDRES.

