

code. Those who pursue such a system need not expect for themselves anything better than the contempt and censure of the profession. We are happy to say that those who adopt this method of securing their own purpose to the detriment of their patrons' interest are very few in number. We are glad to say that nearly all our exchanges are pervaded by the true, manly, journalistic spirit, scorning dishonorable tactics, honestly carrying out their professions, and treating both subscribers, advertisers and contemporaries with fair-play, courtesy, and a spirit of enterprising devotion to the specialties they advocate. We hope the time is not distant, when by the reformation of the erring, all will be entitled to the same praise; and we trust, feebly it may be and far behind, yet with all earnestness and sincerity, to follow in the wake of those who have made journalism a credit to their country, and a blessing and benefit to mankind.

### Hen Houses.

As we have received a number of letters from subscribers asking for our ideas as to the best manner of constructing hen houses, we will give them, hoping that they may contain some hints which may be found of benefit to these about to build. On account of the cheapness of lumber in this country, most of the hen houses will be built of this material, therefore our hints will be confined to this class. As the style of building must be in accordance with its surrounding, we will offer nothing on that subject.

**THE WALLS.**—It is merely waste of lumber making the walls, at the highest part, more than eight feet; when this height little difficulty will be experienced in getting at all parts to whitewash or otherwise clean them; anything over that height will be found only so much more space to keep in order without any benefit whatever. The best foundation is one of brick or stone, but suitable posts, well set into the ground, six feet apart, will do very well. Sills, 4 x 4 scantling; for rest of frame 2 x 4 will be sufficient. Side up with inch boards and batten, nailing firmly on sill, plate and in centre. The inside should also be closely covered with inch boards, and either lathed and plastered or covered throughout with tarred paper; the former will be found most expensive, but will last much longer, and require the least repairs. The roof must be well shingled. Small windows should be made in the gables, as near the roof as possible, for ventilators, and hinged so that they can be opened and closed at will.

**FLOORS.**—Great difference of opinion is entertained by breeders as to what constitutes the best floor for the hen house. Taking all things into consideration, a wooden one will be found best.

It is easily cleaned, and when covered with a few inches of sand, has all the advantages of an earthen floor without its drawbacks.

**PARTITIONS.**—These should be made of lattice, in sections, and movable, so that they can be taken down with ease to be cleaned. Two feet high of the bottoms should be covered with light material to prevent the birds fighting through. The lattice work should be as light as possible.

**ROOSTS.**—2 x 4 scantling dressed, and rounded slightly on the upper side, makes a good roost. Bore  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch holes into the floor joists, and into these set rods the length you wish your roosts to be in height; bore corresponding holes about three quarters through roost pieces and fit on ends of rods. Cross pieces can be welded on the rods, about six inches from the top to sustain a shelf to contain the droppings. This shelf can be bored through so as to fit on rods also. Roosts should never be connected with the walls. To prevent the fowls pushing each other off, pieces of boards may be nailed on the ends of the roosts. The advantages of this plan are, in being easily kept free from vermin, and facility with which the droppings can be removed. Roosts should never be placed very high; 18 inches to two feet for Asiatics, and three feet for the smaller varieties. Place them below the windows and in places free from draughts.

**NESTS.**—All things considered, movable nests will be found best; to keep them in good condition they require to be easy of access; when stationery it is very difficult to keep them free from vermin, especially if used for hatching purposes. Our idea of a good nest was given in a former issue.

**SIZE OF PENS.**—Eight feet square will give good accommodation in winter to a breeding pen of 7 or 8 fowls; in summer, when only used by them as laying and roosting places, a few more may be added, but it is always better not to crowd.

If possible secure a southern aspect for pens and yards. Each pen should have a window; if a single sash, make it to slide, it being more out of the way if so arranged than hinged and less liable to get broken.

In building the hen house, one object should never be lost sight of: all parts should be easy of access to whitewash or otherwise clean. Take precautions against lice now; an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure in this case.

Our readers will be pleased to again hear from our old friend Thomas. We hope to be able to serve up his "hash" often, knowing it will be relished by all.

A small quantity of pure bone meal in soft food will assert the development of bone and prevent leg weakness; Asiatics especially will be greatly benefitted by it. Give Douglas' mixture in water also.