

bred has won. Fanciers are continually trying to improve both the appearance and useful qualities of their flocks and are succeeding wonderfully well.

#### ENTHUSIASM TRANSFORMS

Most of the arduous and drudging work about poultry keeping turns into a pleasant pastime. It causes a person to take a delight in keeping the house clean, and attractive; it causes him to take pride in the appearance of his fowls; it causes him to feed judiciously and regularly and enjoy being in their company; in short it causes him to take pride in performing all the duties pertaining to the business.

Eggs, like milk, contain in proper proportions all the elements needed to sustain life. Being highly concentrated, however, they lack the bulk necessary to keep the excretory organs in perfect condition.

Serve with them such food as bread, rice or cereals but do not serve eggs in any way at the same meal with beef, mutton or fowl. Pork, such as bacon, may in winter be served with eggs. While one pound of eggs is equal in nourishment to one pound of beef the latter will be borne for a longer time and would in the end be a much better food. The mineral matter in the egg is small in quantity, but rich in quality and the albumen is in a form most easily digested. We must bear in mind, however, that the egg albumen coagulates at a lower temperature than that in meat which teaches us at once that to be easily digested eggs must be lightly cooked. A hard-boiled egg, one in which the white is rendered hard, may be digested by a man laboring in the open air, but is unfit for food for the man who works in an office, or shop, or for the person whose digestion is weak or for children of any age.

#### PRIZE WINNERS

While a desire to possess the best may be the main object of some, the most enticing incentive is the excellency of one's competitor. A scholar at school will study and learn, not particularly to know the lesson well, but to reach the head of the class, and to receive applause for it. Winning at

exhibitions is often accredited to the tricks of the trade, while those who win with birds of their own rearing and fitting know differently. Success is possible in close competition only to those who breed or own really good birds and have them in proper condition for the battle.

On this one point, condition, hangs the "greatest trick of all." Good strong winners can be ruined by neglect, moderately good ones improved by care. In close competition men have won the much coveted breeding pen prize, on one-quarter of a point, suppose they worked a week for this fraction that just bridged them over, were they not well repaid for their work? If their birds were short of weight they have fed them on sugar with bread and milk by lamp-light every night before going to bed while they had all the grain they could stow away in the day-time; they give a choice cockerel a room — yes, and in some cases a whole house rather than it should get set back one single fraction of a point before going into the show-pen.

They have shaped the tail night after night until his sickle feathers took the proper shape and curve, and when they have gained the highest honors it is not considered the rewards of tricksters: simply the result of care and energy.

Condition is not made in a single day; you must begin in the early spring to bring out the best points of any variety or breed, you must start with healthy breeding stock kept under favorable conditions so as to get strong fertile eggs and vigorous progeny. Not over ten or twelve chicks should be allowed with one hen in roomy brood coops. Growing chicks are often cramped as they huddle or roost in small boxes, one sided, hunched back birds are the results. Roosts that are too close to the wall will cause cockerels tails to bob up like bouquets on the end of their backs and no amount of coaxing will make them assume the desired curve.

Separating the sexes as they begin to materialize is no secret or trick, yet it tends to better growth of both pullets and cockerels for breeding or show purposes. A barred Plymouth Rock male kept from the sun, wind and rain, while he is growing his adult or new plumage will look cleaner in feather than those that ran wild every day. Pullets that are cooped by themselves, not allowed to begin to lay by changing them from pen to pen, one room to another, look their prettiest in the show pen, and are larger and finer birds for the trouble.