

all the ancestors of a hen for, say, six generations back have been either good layers, or (in the case of the cocks) bred from good layers, the presumption that the hen herself will be a good layer is reduced almost to a certainty. If the mother only is a good layer, and nothing is known as to the laying qualities of the ancestors, there is only a chance that some of the progeny may possess the desired characteristics.

THE CARE OF CHICKS FROM SIX WEEKS OLD ONWARD.

A PAPER READ BY MR. S. M. CLEMO BEFORE A RECENT MEETING OF THE GALT POULTRY AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

THERE are a great many methods of caring for chicks, some are good, others not so good as many are forced to admit when they look back on past experiences, and I am one who can look back to mistakes and have profited by the experience. The desire is natural to produce the best results possible in any vocation. Imprudence dwarfs the enterprise and shadows ones hopes for success, false judgment as to the proper management undermines the industry. The business of poultry raising is not one learned in a day. All men who enter it are not born fanciers or poultrymen, neither can they grasp the opportunities presented when occasion demands, yet by close study of the conditions necessary to success and a strict observance of the duties attached, poultry raising may be made profitable whether on a large or small scale. If a small stock be kept every effort should be made to have it yield as much in proportion as if it were a large one conducted for a livelihood. This will establish a system that is essential to the development of the industry. Personal attention is to be desired above all things in the management of your flock, and the pleasure derived therefrom will be added to by the realization of having advanced financially and intellectually through your own work and study one of the most fascinating pursuits in which one can engage.

At the age of six weeks the chicks are if possible more interesting than when you are awaiting the twenty-first day to see how many a certain sitting that one has paid long a price for will yield. At this age they begin to show markings or no markings which is either pleasing or displeasing to the experienced eye. They have arrived at a period when they need and can stand stronger food to supply the heavy demand on the system to furnish feather which they are rapidly donning. Until recently I have fed largely on wet food, but from my experience and what I have gathered from

other reliable sources, better results are obtained from dryer food. If I wet the food at all it is just so it will crumble. I only feed it once a week. I feed dry bread ground with a sausage machine for breakfast, middle of forenoon screenings or cracked corn, middle of afternoon bread and potatoes, night cracked corn and broken barley, not every day, in same rotation. I change just enough to give variety, three time a week meat ground, I feed all kinds but salt pork, no salted meat is good for them. There can be no fixed quantity for growing chicks. Just feed what they will eat clean, keep them anxious to see you coming with something for them. As you get in the habit of giving them changes of food they will be the more anxious to see what is coming each time. I keep plenty of fresh water before them at all times. I think as much disease can be traced to dirty water and dirty drinking vessels as any or all other sources unless it be lice. I always keep some kind of grit handy. This year I am using much Crystal Grit with grand results. Shade of some sort for birds is just as important as anything. If you have no trees make a frame and cover with some old bagging, carpets, etc. Keep them growing, when they stop they seem to like it as it is so hard to induce them to start again. I find it is better if one can to separate cockerels from pullets from ten to twelve weeks old, especially so with early maturing varieties, as the cockerels chase and worry the pullets and it keeps both from growing. Do not allow them to roost until three or four months old as early roosting causes crooked breast bones.

If you get cholera in your flock look for lice, this disease may be known by thin greenish droppings, great thirst, refusal to eat and general dejected anxious look. If they mope around seemingly discouraged look for lice. In fact if anything goes wrong look for lice. Look for lice any way, you may be rewarded, if you never find any lice after looking properly you are a fortunate mortal and will get good results. As fall approaches prepare you winter houses, close them up tight, burn a few pounds of brimstone, then whitewash, put two table spoonsful crude carbolic acid, four table spoonsful chloride of lime to sixteen quarts of whitewash, sweep walls, etc., before whitewashing. When you go into winter quarters, above all things avoid crowding, better have too few than too many, you will get better results from the few well cared for than you will from a larger number.

Now that you have them in winter quarters feed sparingly with plenty variety; keep the house clean; furnish a dust bath; grit; fresh water; plenty of light; plenty of chaff or litter of some kind, leaves are good, and if you do not get eggs it is not your fault. Now, I do not expect every one to agree with all I have said, but if I have succeeded in throwing one ray of light on this subject to any hitherto inexperienced mind or otherwise, I have succeeded in obliterating so much ignorance in this one of the greatest industries in our land.