

### Seasonable Hints.

So many new names are added to our subscription list, we almost feel it a duty to review a portion of our December's "Hints" for their benefit. The suggestions are indeed more applicable now than then, as this month and next is the trial time in the show room. It will not be honest in you, as breeders, to exhaust the vitality of your best breeding stock by exhibiting them all over the country, then to offer their eggs for sale for hatching. You should feel it an honor and a trust if orders accompanied by cash come to you for eggs. You should feel it also a breach of honor to sell the eggs if your poultry are not in condition to furnish them worth the money. Feed both cocks and cockerels well. In the travelling to and from shows, guard your birds against exposure to draught and cold. Remember the excitement of change and exposure to strange surroundings, renders them more sensitive and liable to illness. On their return from their travels, it is well to give them a feed of bread sopped in ale. It will tone up their systems and enable them to throw off any slight attack of cold.

Remember, now is the time of preparation for the possessions next autumn. As you select and mate now, so will shape and feathers tell then.—Care through the spring and summer will give size and condition, but it is the ingredients you throw together now that produce the inherent qualities that prove unchangeable. If last fall's results were failures, examine why, and mend your plans for the future. Do not let a mistake or a failure discourage you, but let each one point the way to success.

The question, shall our chicks be seasonable or forced, early or late, is a vexed one. If age were counted by months at the shows, and a January bird were obliged to attain proportionally greater size and weight than a May or June chick, the query would be answered. May and June birds would take precedence. During winter there is a risk if the poultry quarters are cold, of dwarfing by chill, gaining, however, a sturdier constitution, a more compact feathering and earlier maturity, but by an expenditure of money, time and anxiety. If, on the contrary, the housing is warmed, there will be size at the expense of stamina and loose feathering. The birds will be hot-house plants.

Nature has her times and seasons. When we bide her time we have the vantage of everything in our favor. The "seasonable hint" of Nature for us in the temperate regions now, is, rest. The reduced action of light and heat are unfavorable to growth and action. Nature demands but a certain result from every life, her economy is so to average the rest and labor that the demand shall equal

the supply. If two years' work are crowded into one, the second will be barren. If we permit Nature to act, if our efforts are simply to assist, not to forestall, the result will more nearly attain perfection, and with less labor.

Did you ever buy a tomato plant from a greenhouse, and, placing it in your garden beside a seedling that has scarcely developed beyond the embryo? Did you ever time the growth, giving care to each with impartial hand? Have you ever noted how the former remained so long at a standstill, apparently having to go back and take up its work, prepare its tissues and modify its texture and working materials to suit the new actions, while the tiny seedling, accustomed at once to light and air, being prepared to assimilate what it received, grew and soon was neck and neck in the race, bearing fruit almost as soon? Take Nature's advice; rest now. Let your fowls gather strength. Feed now for stamina and condition, and as old wives used to say,—“Wait till the sign comes right.” When earth and air and sun are propitious, and the natural food furnished is that which shall furnish the best materials for growth and the preservation of life; then, have your young stock at hand to take advantage of gifts art can never fully furnish, and but poorly simulate. This is for exhibition birds. Where poultry raising is for market, and the profit consists in supplying artificially what is denied naturally, of course this advice is not timely. Indeed it takes a wise head to make the most of poultry and eggs for market.—Eggs are highest about Easter and through Lent, the season when but certain kinds of fowls lay naturally; but it is one of the peculiar fitness of things that the birds that lay then, may be hatched and raised when “spring chickens” are lowest, and eggs are cheapest; and, moreover, the very breeds that are least desirable for table use as chicks, are the best winter layers and mothers. There is unquestionably money in eggs and poultry upon the market, but there must be management. Still with the best of management, sometimes contingencies arise. Labor combines against capital, and the egg basket finds no further duty than to be filled at the granary to be emptied into insatiable crops. If your poultry house is not heated, and the weather freezing, empty the water from the drinking dishes at night. If the dishes are of tin, it may save breaking through them with a hatchet in the morning, when you try to break the ice formed through the night. If the dishes are earthen, the ice may break them for you. A little precaution or forethought will prove the ounce of prevention so valuable to the poultry breeder. Supply water freely. Do not trust to snow unless you wish to reduce the flesh of your stock.

The rule for feeding poultry, to be much revised,