

WHILE ON REPORTS

we may say that from a glimpse which we have had of that of the Poultry Association of Ontario, we think it will exceed anything of a similar nature yet put out. It will be illustrated with some fifteen or twenty full page cuts of modern design, many of which our readers have already seen in REVIEW.

ANOTHER SUFFERER FROM FIRE

is the well known and popular Judge, Mr. L. G. Jarvis, whose premises, together with contents, were lately entirely consumed. A total loss even to the wearing apparel of Mr. Jarvis and his family was the result.

POULTRY

CHICKENS' ROOSTING HOUSE.

BY W. HAY, CORRIE, ARRAN, SCOTLAND.

ROOSTING.—Chickens are better to be bedded down until they are two months old, when they should be allowed to roost in a small well-ventilated house apart from the other fowls, preparatory to being introduced to the ordinary fowl house.

ARTIFICIAL HEAT.—Some writers on poultry recommend the use of artificial heat in the roosting house in severe weather, but we have often noticed that fowls so treated contract disease more readily than others to which no heat is given.

LIGHT.—A little movable window is a great convenience in the chicken house. In warm weather it should be kept open during the night to improve the ventilation. It should be placed high above the roosting perches, that the birds may not be subjected to a draught.

PERCHES.—The perches should be placed eighteen inches apart at an elevation of no more than two feet from the ground, as the delicate breast-bones of chickens are frequently injured on alighting from high roosting places. This height should not be exceeded in the ordinary roosting houses, and the heavy breeds, even in the moulting season, will be able to reach them. The precaution of adopting low perches may seem unnecessary when we remember that fowls often roost on high trees, from which they descend to the ground without injury; but it will be noticed that they always fly down with a gradual swoop, which in a confined fowl house they are unable to do. As round rough perches

seem to be preferred by chickens as well as adult fowls, the bark should be kept on.

FLOOR.—The ordinary flooring materials are to be condemned for a roosting house, being too hard, and causing injury, as we have said, to the breast-bones and feet of the fowls. A floor composed of loose earth, dry ashes and mortar mixed in equal proportions, is more suitable than anything we have seen tried. The ground should be levelled and the materials beaten together to a uniform depth of from four to six inches. A little water may require to be added when the work is being done to render the mass compact. This forms an excellent floor, sufficiently flexible for the feet of the fowls, and will last for years. Dry earth should be used in preference to straw, hay, or other litter, as the manure adheres readily to this, and can be easily removed. The health of the chickens will be impaired if dirt be allowed to accumulate on the floor from week to week. Cleanliness in the roosting-house is an important matter, meriting more attention than it generally receives, and the neglect of which often produces fatal results.

CLEANING ROOSTING-HOUSE.—The manure should be removed at least once a week, and this will be a very easy matter, and add to the comfort of the fowls, if the duty be regularly performed. A little dry sifted earth should always be in readiness for this purpose, and for use in the chicken coops. As the chickens at this age will be able to take a larger supply of food at a time, three or four meals daily will be sufficient for them; but the morning meal should always be of soft food and served warm. After their long nights' fast this kind of food is necessary, as the chickens derive always immediate benefit from it. The last should consist entirely of grain, which will provide warmth and sustenance for a longer time than soft food.

COCKERELS.—At the age of three months the cockerels should be separated from the pullets. The most promising of them only should be preserved for stock purposes and the remainder fattened for table use.

FRESH BLOOD.—As in-breeding causes degeneracy in fowls, a few unrelated cockerels should occasionally be introduced to infuse fresh blood into the stock. Precocious pullets that are intended to be used for stock purposes should not be encouraged to lay before they are fully grown. To retard egg production, the pullets should be moved about from place to place and excluded from the society of the male fowls.

SHED FOR CHICKENS.—A prominent feature in every poultry yard should be an open shed, where the chickens can find shelter in severe weather. Perches should be erected at a suitable distance from the ground, and these