

kept one year, and they are increased to nine the next year, there are not more eggs produced just through the autumn and winter months, and, in seven cases out of ten, the nine fowls do not lay 100 more eggs in the twelve months than the six did previously.

In the first place, a few fowls together always pay best. There is usually refuse from the table, whether the house be large or small, such as cooked vegetables, fat meat, and grissel from bones. Fowls fed liberally on this kind of food, and also on good grain, always lay more eggs than when fed on any meal that can be manufactured. The nine hens do not get any more scraps than the six did previously. The scraps make a great deal of difference in the egg table.

Another reason is that the larger number have no more room in the run or sleeping house. At this time of the year poultry houses are usually overcrowded, and especially where there is not much accommodation for poultry, as those hens which are intended to be sold or killed are kept as long as they will lay eggs before they moult. Then there are usually a few late-hatched chickens or overgrown cockerels. These are usually allowed to crowd into the house together. This not only stops the hen's laying, but keeps the early pullets back, and the younger broods at four months of age are not so large as they ought to be at two months old. This kind of poultry keeping is very common. In some cases the owners want to make a large profit, but they learn only too often that they do not pay so well.

The owner is not only out of pocket, but the fowls themselves have to suffer, as they are crowded together at nights, and then they are usually all out in the morning before it is light. Then they get a chill, and stand with their feathers ruffled, and one leg up under their feathers. Their appetite fails them, and running at the nostrils follows, and, if not attended to, roup also.

When poultry keepers are short of sleeping room, they ought to allow their young ones to sleep in a large coop or box, or even if they sleep in an open shed it will not hurt them, but, if so brought up, will be all the better for them.

Under no circumstances should they be put suddenly from a warm house into an open shed. If so, it will bring coughing and sneezing on at once.

As I have stated previously, poultry at this time of the year require generous treatment, and the coming month is the worst time in the whole year for poultry. There may be a few hens already through their moult, and are not affected by the cold, but it is not so with those that have not commenced. It is a most trying time with them. Those which moult early usually go through their moult much easier than those which moult later. After this time of the year it is most trying, as they are not only losing their feathers, and their bodies are exposed to all weathers, but the pores of the skin are all open, and at the same time

the young quill feathers commence to grow. This is a great strain on their system. It is quite time that old hens which are not to be kept for another year should be sorted out and killed, or disposed of in some way. Those which are through their moult, and are fair layers, ought not to be disposed of, as they will usually lay as many eggs through the winter as pullets will, and also much larger; therefore, if they are fair layers, and there is room for them, it is not wise to part with them. It is better to clear the late-hatched chickens out than those hens which are already through their moult. Do not mind if they are two or even three years old, if they are through their moult and reddening up, as they usually lay through the winter. I have had them do so when they have been three or four years old. These were selected hens, and laid quite as well as pullets. Those which are not moulted at this time of the year ought not to be kept unless they are very good layers and are in their moult. Some hens will lay up to the end of October, and I have known a few to lay partly through November. These are usually hens which have brought up broods of chickens. If these hens are kept on account of their laying qualities, it is best to put them in a warm box or coop in a fairly warm outhouse. In the fowl house will do if there is sufficient room. It is well to let them run out for an hour or two in the middle of the day twice or three times a week. This keeps them healthy. A good laying hen is worth bestowing a little pains on, but an indifferent layer is not worth the trouble. Where there are only a few hens kept the best layers and also those which have not finished moulting can soon be distinguished, if they are examined when they are on the perch at night. The best layers usually have the largest crops, and those which have not finished laying will have their crops full, and those which have stopped for the season will not have their crops more than half full, and often not so much as this. This is one of the best signs to go by, when the owner does not know which are the best layers, and which to keep for another year.

(To be continued.)

Commencing to Keep Fancy Poultry.

Editor Review:

Under the above heading I read some very good advice to beginners in poultry raising.

I especially indorse the remarks about in-breeding, and the reluctance of the amateur breeder to purchase other male birds, when he perhaps has two or three good ones of his own breeding. If an old breeder gives advice in this respect, especially if he owns stock of the same variety as the amateur, his interest is likely to be construed into a desire to sell some surplus cocks or cockerels, and the *knowing one* eyes him, consequently, with suspicion. But there is in this good article one little bit of ad-