

hurt the fowls. Two or three can be put in the one house if needed. I cap them in fall to prevent cold and wet. In midsummer a few panes of glass can be removed and their place filled with lath strips or wire netting, but be sure the window is not just over any roosting place even in summer, as the birds would be having what wind there might be blowing directly upon them.

Breeding for Size.

IT may not be generally known that in breeding fowls if a large body is required in the progeny, the size will be largely governed by the mother, and not, as is erroneously supposed, by the sire of the chick. In selecting your breeders, where large size is desired, you must have large hens for the breeding pen, and it is far better that the sire be of medium growth, bred however from a fine large mother. A very heavy male is not so reliable for breeding, and their use will only result in many unfertile eggs. Moreover they injure the hens, and I have seen them often with their ribs laid bare through the heaviness and consequent clumsiness of their partners.

Not long since I was called upon to look at a very handsome large hen whose owner could not tell what was wrong with her. She would continually sit in a corner and refused to walk. On obliging her to move I saw that the feathers round one of her thighs were soiled, and guessed at once what was the matter. She had been torn completely down the right side to the flesh and the whole joint was exposed so that we could see the entire joint in flesh alone. This had been done some days before and the skin was quite dry, so it was of no use to sew it, and as the flesh looked bad I got my friend to pour over the whole part Electric oil and plenty of it. Then we shut her up without a perch and with just a little short straw in her pen—anything that would entangle her feet would, of course, open the sore afresh, or if she had a perch and tried to fly when nearly cured, the sore would open again most likely. However she is well now and as handsome as ever.

Another evil in the use of very heavy males (of course I am speaking of heavy breeds) is that the hens refuse the ad-

vances of their mate oftener than they otherwise would. I believe there is more in that item, than in the heavy breeds of hens being thought so generally to be too fat, when eggs do not hatch. I am speaking from close observation in the matter.

How can I Tell.

SINCE the first number of the **POULTRY WEEKLY** appeared I have been applied to many times by persons desiring to know how they can tell when a bird is pure bred, and "how do you find out what the different varieties ought to look like?" is one of the latest. This latter remark shows that the **POULTRY WEEKLY** is entering into a field where poultry culture is not followed to any great extent, and we must not forget that as an educator of those young in the "fancy" it will be necessary to explain many things which are as a.b.c. to those who have bred poultry even for a few years. Well sir querist, the way to find out what a breed should be, in plumage, weight and style; and also what faults would disqualify a specimen of the breed from competition in the show room, is to buy a copy of the "Standard of Perfection," which fully describes every standard variety of fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, in every detail of plumage, form and weight. You must study it by comparing it with the specimens of the breed you have and note where the bird falls short of the description, always remembering that the Standard by its description, supposes a perfect bird in all its parts. The nearer the specimen approaches that ideal the more perfect it is and if for exhibition the greater its chance of obtaining a prize.

But the great difficulty is, most amateurs take the Standard expecting that the birds will fit in to it just nicely, and if the bird (as it most assuredly will) falls short in some point, they feel discouraged and even disgusted and feel they should have selected some other breed that would be more like the description, such as self-colored birds in either black, white, or buff. But here he would find no escape from blemishes such as bad color, form, comb, size, style, etc. So gentlemen study your