

now a days is not considered of equal importance to variety in rations or the fresh air and the absence of dampness which existed to a greater or less extent in the old-fashioned poultry houses.

CARE OF BREEDING STOCK.

Q. Just one more question which is connected with this branch of the subject. Do the hens lay more freely when the male bird is allowed to associate with them or not? By which method do you get the best results?

A. It does not seem to make any difference. My own practice was, as I have explained frequently in my reports, to keep the male birds away from the hens which we feed and gently stimulate to lay in winter. I was at a largely attended meeting in Sussex, N.B., a few years ago when one of the audience asked what I thought had caused the sudden death of a fine male bird. I asked if he had kept the bird with his laying stock. He replied 'yes.' I then explained that he had probably been feeding his fowls generously in order to make them lay and he had probably overfed the cockerel, which had most likely died of apoplexy, the usual consequence of over-feeding. For that reason I kept away the male birds from our breeding hens. Another difficulty is that the male birds become over fat and in the spring time are no good as breeders. Another point. The germs are apt to be weakly in the spring time, and a small percentage of chickens the result.

Q. I am speaking of a very poor laying strain?

A. It really does not matter.

THE FEEDING OF MEAT.

By Mr. Clements:

Q. Regarding the matter of exercise, I have in mind a very successful poultry man in my district who makes a good many hundreds of dollars each year out of his poultry. He is very successful, at least he considers that he is from his standpoint, and I want to know if you approve of his methods. He hangs in his building a number of pig's livers and lights and other offal, at a certain distance from the ground in order to give the poultry exercise in getting at it. Do you approve of feeding such a form of meat to fowls?

A. Yes, when fed in that way fowls are not so likely to take too much as if they were deprived of meat for some time and then given it in liberal quantity, when they are apt to over gorge themselves.

Q. This man claims that livers and lights are one of the best foods that he can possibly feed to his chickens. If deprived of that, what do you offer as a substitute?

A. I would substitute some of the preparations of meat which are made by the large manufacturing concerns and sold at from 4 to 5 cents a pound, such as beef scrap.

By Mr. Lewis:

Q. Is it better to feed meat cooked or raw?

A. It depends upon the manner of feeding. If the livers, &c., have been fed raw, do not change; if fed cooked, do not give it raw, or diarrhoea may result.

By Mr. MacLaren (Perth):

Q. Should it be cooked in all cases?

A. I prefer its use when cooked, but it really does not matter. The principal point is to give the fowls meat in some shape.