

STANDARD WEIGHTS.

Cock, - - 10½ lbs. Hen, - - 8½ lbs.
Cockerel, - 8½ lbs. Pullet, - - 7 lbs.

Allowing one point per pound for any excess, and deducting two points per pound for any deficit from above weights.

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Poultry on the Farm.

(Continued.)

Editor Review,

Mr. Anderson evidently believes that poultry pay, and pay all the better when well attended to. It is a pity that some of the local papers, at least, should not reproduce this letter, either wholly or in part, for the benefit of their readers who will never catch sight of it under present circumstances. Your correspondent cannot be accused of too hasty conclusion in this matter, but after many years' decides not only in favor of poultry, but of the thorough-bred ones.

I am also pleased to see that "J. L." takes up this subject in his usual concise and practical style. Doubtless it will be to the advantage of the fancy in general if farmers are induced to take a greater interest in poultry. Have not some of the keepers of poultry, who have not yet contributed anything upon this subject, something to offer; and even if they are of the opinion that there is no channel of outlet here for the extension of trade, or that the channel is too securely blocked up by prejudice, or any such obstructions, let us have it. One step towards success is to ascertain where the difficulty lies.

Farmers manifested the same reluctance some years ago to receive an improvement in cattle; yet, by a long and strong pull, great improvement has taken place. The writer remembers some twenty years ago of a farmer purchasing a thorough-bred cow, the first that had been seen in that locality; and though she was admired by many, still it was regarded as a very foolish speculation, as such animals were altogether unsuited to our climate and country; in fact, the usual objections one hears at present to pure-bred poultry.

What a change has taken place in that time. You can scarcely go into a farm-yard now but you will detect the thorough-bred in both cattle and pigs, so marked and general has the improvement been in that time here.

And how, we may ask, has this change been brought about? No doubt a great deal has been done by agricultural shows and societies, but to the press belongs the greater part of the credit. It is through this medium that the history of the past is made to do duty at the present by enabling us to avoid the errors which retarded the progress of the past; and by adopting those systems which

have proved successful, we may reasonably expect to make much more rapid progress than they. And as the pen has done so much in the past, let us "Use the pen, there's magic in it."

Now, friend farmer, let us have a chat about poultry on the farm. I have already stated that you do not receive as much as you might from your poultry. It seems to me that there are two reasons for this, which are simply these: you do not receive all or nearly all which is produced, and secondly, there is not as much produced as might be.

I need not take you far from your own farm to prove the correctness of this first statement—that is if you keep fowls as they are generally kept on the farm. Why is it that ninety per cent. at least of farmers will admit that if hens layed anything like they do for seven or eight weeks in the spring they would pay well indeed, but after these few weeks the falling off is very great, so great that instead of being able to sell from fifteen to twenty dozens per week, barely enough are obtained for the house. Now, my friend, why is this? for I admit there is a great deal of truth in it. The most common solution of this problem is, "Oh! they are all sitting." Yet when non-sitters are put into the place of the old sitter no great improvement is made. I sold eggs from Black Spanish two years ago to a farmer who kept previously a very poor class of fowls some of which, though they had never seen an Asiatic, would sit to perfection. I saw one sitting upon a beam on an old currycomb handle, and the boys who attended the horses told me they had kicked her off daily for eight weeks, and I am confident this was the truth. I do not think we have a Light Brahma in America which could beat this. But there is very little improvement this year in this case, though they have a very nice flock of Spanish. Still, no doubt, having hens sitting will diminish the number of eggs. But do not farmers have too many sitting, more than there is any need of having if properly cared for? What would you think would be the effect upon a man who had contracted the habit of stealing, or of drunkenness, and who wishes to reform, to leave money within easy reach of the former every day, in such a position that he could take it without being seen, or of exposing the latter to the smell or sight of good brandy? We fear that in either case the man would fall again. Now in the hen you have a creature disposed by nature to perform this work of propagation, and while you desire her to indulge in it very sparingly you put an overwhelming temptation in her way in the shape of a nest full of eggs. I do not know how it is with older fanciers, but I have never failed to excite a hen to sit within a very short time by putting in a good nest of eggs. Therefore let the eggs be carefully gath-