

ready to lay you can often stop them by changing the hens from one pen to another and do not allow them a nest egg, or any sly corners to induce them to deposit an egg. It seems strange that this can be done for one would imagine if the hen was ready to lay she would have to. But she doesn't. Some persons have not been slow to contradict us on this point but it is a well known fact to every experienced poultry man. As to what becomes of the egg, that it would seem ought to be laid, is a matter of conjecture only. We are inclined to think that if the egg has so far progressed to maturity for the shell to be formed that it will and must be ejected, or cause great suffering and perhaps fatal results. But otherwise the hen seems capable of controlling the final development of egg, or it is eliminated by absorption into the animal economy of the hen. The action of a fright, or sudden change in surroundings may so effect the nervous and generative structure as to paralyze them for a time and render them totally inactive. But it is a fact that laying, even while the hen is in full condition with the eggs in every stage of development, can be arrested, and that without any disastrous results to the bird itself. We have seen it recommended to make the hens too fat to lay early or when not required and then bring them down by the time they are wanted. But our advice is never do it! it is a suicidal policy, for the bird is weakened and lowered in vitality by excess of fat and to bring fat hens down to laying condition is a finer stroke of business than most men can take in hand and come out at the successful end of the horn. Another item is not to feed sulphur, even though I. K. Felch says so. At least not in the north of Ontario. It will not work either to fertilize eggs or make feathers: it is a mistake that many have paid dear to learn.

Farmer vs. Fancier.

FARMERS should be the best and most successful exhibitors at both the agricultural and winter poultry shows. I think I hear many of them say, how so? "Why we cannot get birds up to the perfection and into the same splendid condition that you fanciers do." You pay so much attention to them, feed them all kinds of food, give them gravel, oyster shell, gather clover and do all manner of things to give them green meat. Yes I have heard that meat is often bought for them and then they must have a good warm building and these in some cases are warmer than many working-men's houses. We can't do all this it takes too much time, and with the many other things that we have to attend to there's no time to look after hens.

Now some of this is correct. Fanciers certainly do as much as they possibly can to insure their pets comfort and to keep them in prime condition, but why they purchase oyster shells and see that they have gravel etc., is because as a rule their places are small and the range that the birds have is very limited. Many of them have several breeds and manage to keep them all O. K. in small yards. Now the farmer has unlimited range for his birds so it is not necessary for him to get all these things as the birds get them naturally. As to feed, this item is merely nothing as the so-to-speak, waste or refuse grain would be used and give a splendid profit.

Regarding warm quarters you have these for your horses, cattle, etc., and why not put out a trifle to make old Biddy warm and comfortable during the cold weather, and this can be done with very little outlay.

Now for being successful at the different shows, say that only one variety is kept. This does away with any care as to the progeny being anything but pure according to the parent stock. Suppose we say one has Barred Rocks. Now it is no unusual thing for farmers to raise a hundred chicks during the season, so Mr. Farmer you have a hundred birds to choose your exhibition birds from. Not so with the fancier who perhaps with 7, 8 or more varieties, can only raise the small number in each of perhaps 20 birds, so that the farmer

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