

us for eggs? Or at the time the first lot of eggs failed, duplicate the order at half price, but do not send any more than an equal number of settings for this reduced price?

Now what is a fair hatch? If a hen averages eight chickens on a farm, taking all the hens set for the season, then no matter what one pays for a setting of eggs, this must be the highest average number of chicks he can expect. From this number will come all the average deductions by accident. What percentage should we consider these accidents—twenty-five per cent? If so, the average number of chicks raised from eggs sold for hatching purposes can not be beyond six per setting, no matter how many eggs a breeder, in his good nature, may send you.

This problem will, I think, be solved by making a price at which the eggs will be sold and no duplicates sent under any circumstances. If you have been selling your eggs at five dollars, and sell them at four dollars you take twenty per cent. of the risk, the purchaser five per cent; he then understands that he will in all probability get six chicks on an average. That is all any reasonable man can expect. Unless he is willing each thoroughbred chick shall cost him one dollar when it is fairly on its feet, he would better conclude not to buy eggs. There is not a breeder of prime exhibition stock that does not consider his stock cheaply hatched at a cost of one dollar each when two weeks old. Fifty cents cost beyond this, in grain consumed, will place them at a marketable age to sell.

These cases of bad faith have been uncommonly large this season, for I have taken a little pains to investigate. The hypothetical case I cite I can give town, dates of hatch, and names—and others with them. As most articles are those reflecting on the seller, I thought it wise to let it be known that there are dishonest buyers, or selfish men who

demand twice of others what they are willing to give themselves. The question may with profit be discussed.

One thing in this article to be remembered:—In the early season, before setting a hen, put your hand under her and see if there is an unnatural heat to her body, for if there is not, you will lose your eggs. If you are setting Asiatics, Wyandots, or Leghorn eggs, examine the three hens you are setting. Let all sit four days before putting the eggs under them; then to the hottest hen give the Asiatic eggs, to the next hottest one the Wyandot eggs, and to the other the Leghorn eggs, and they will probably all hatch at once. Reverse it, and the Asiatic eggs may not hatch at all, while the Leghorns will in some cases come out in nineteen days, but the chicks will not be as good as if hatched on the twentieth or twenty-first day. This last kernel of wheat may give some new beginner to read the whole article. Any one who would spend fifteen dollars for eggs would better put five dollars more with it and buy a trio of fowls.

Read, ponder, and do what is right. Let not the rogue sour you against all honest men, nor do your business so loosely as to be a prey to the egg sharks.

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CONCERNING EGGS.

If the saying is correct in regard to persons that "familiarity breeds contempt," it can with equal force be applied to articles and commodities, eggs being one of those common commodities which are apt to be neglected and undervalued, alike from a commercial, dietary, and medicinal point of view. As an article of commerce on the part of producers, who are mainly the

farming community, eggs most certainly do not receive that share of attention in this country to which they are entitled. Grain-growing, which formerly formed one of the principal items of the farmer's income, is by no means what it used to be in value. Potatoes too have for several years failed to "turn the hand" of the farmer. In fact many farmers have been driven to fall back on the dairy produce and the poultry yard to make up their leeway; and, be it known, these are means which used to be considered trifling as compared with the art of farming, and were very often set apart as the producing source of pocket-money for the guidwife and children, the manager of the poultry-yard usually being some worn-out domestic known as the "hen-wife." The millions of eggs that are annually imported into the United Kingdom (last year the number was given as one thousand and thirty-four million) furnishes ample proof that the producing power of these millions must be based on a systematic and paying principle, else the supply would soon cease; and were the same care and skill brought to bear on the subject in this country as in France, there seems no reason why the production of eggs should not form a very important and paying portion of the industries of our agricultural districts. I say agricultural districts, for there the neglect is most apparent, as there the best facilities lie. Farmers are very often much prejudiced against the idea of a hen paying her way, believing in the old saying that "there never was a hen but died in debt." We have proved to our own satisfaction that a hen can, with care and skill, based on an economic point of view, be made to pay her way and something more, in strict confinement, with every particle of food to be paid for. This, as well as all economic matters, requires knowledge, and that of a kind which can only be acquired by study and practice; and far be it