

overdo the watering. A very good plan was suggested as follows: A shallow pan, about an inch deep, made the size of the window sill, the plants to rest on an inverted flower-pot saucer so that the water would percolate up through the porous earthenware, thus furnishing a regular supply of moisture and at the same time keeping the flower-pots from becoming dry and hot, to the destruction of the small root fibers on the inside. It is just as great a mistake to water too often as too seldom. No set rule can be laid down as to "how often," as it depends upon other conditions so largely. Experience will soon teach this matter, and one can tell by tapping on the pot whether water is needed or not. Ventilation is also important. Draughts of cold air should be carefully guarded against, and when the temperature permits, it is better to raise the sash only an inch or two in the middle of the day or to open another window in order to avoid strong draughts on the foliage. All house plants should have their foliage washed with water, to which may be added a little soap, or better, fir-tree oil, about once a week to free them from dust and insects. The several kinds of insects which are most troublesome on house plants were described and specimens shown; of the different methods of treating them, tobacco smoke was recommended for the aphids or green fly, it being necessary, however, to confine the smoke around the plant for some little time. Some valuable suggestions were also given on transplanting and repotting of plants. In transplanting it is necessary to have good earth: a mixture of one-half old sods, one-quarter leaf mould, and the balance well-decayed manure and sand, would suit most plants. The soil should neither be too wet nor too dry, and after placing some broken crockery or similar substance in the bottom of the pot for drainage, the earth should be firmly pressed around the roots. As to repotting, the time to change plants from a small to a larger pot is shown by the roots beginning to mat around the outside of the ball of earth against the inner side of the pot. To dislodge a plant from the pot it is only necessary to reverse the pot and give it one or two smart raps on the edge of table or bench and the contents will come out like jelly out of a mould.

## POULTRY.

### Pine Grove Stock Farm.

Our poultry illustration represents a few of the males now mated in the yards of Capt. A. W. Young, Pine Grove Stock Farm, Tupperville, Ont. The Dorking in the center of the group is an immense bird, very handsome and vigorous. The Minorca (Duff's stock) is bent forward and does not show his really fine form.

The yards comprise sixteen varieties, of which only matured stock will be disposed of during the fall and winter of 1896-97. They are Golden Wyandottes, Houdans, Buff and Partridge Cochins, White Wyandottes (Forsyth's strain), and White Leghorns. From the following varieties a limited number of eggs will be disposed of as per advertisement: Barred P. Rocks (Lenton's stock), White P. Rocks, Derbyshire Red Caps, Black Spanish, Silver Gray Dorkings (two strains), Brown Leghorns (two pens), Black Minorcas, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, and Light Brahmas.

Capt. Young, being desirous of pushing a winter trade, erected a commodious poultry house, 12 x 60 feet, last summer, at a cost of \$135.00, exclusive of labor. It is furnished with a warm room for winter, and a cool shed for summer, which conduces to the health of the fowls.

Upon the Pine Grove Farm are also kept nice flocks of Pekin ducks and Toulouse geese. The stock drake was purchased from Hallock, Long Island.

Capt. Young may be better known to our readers as an extensive breeder of Poland-China hogs, of which he has a large herd of good individuals, headed by Canada's Wilkes—277—and James Blain—811—, noted alike for their breeding and prize-winning careers. He has also made a promising start with a small consignment of Dorset Horn sheep. Bees and honey, too, form quite an extensive branch of the Captain's business. The proprietor has decided to issue a complete illustrated catalogue of Pine Grove stock. It will be ready by the fifteenth of the present month.

### "Poultry on the Farm."

BY D. F. WILSON, DAUPHIN.

(Continued from page 121.)

If hens are allowed to hatch in the nest-boxes it causes a good deal of trouble, as other hens want to lay in the nests that they have been used to, and consequently lay in the nests that the hens are hatching in. I have found it a good plan, in setting hens, to scrape a hollow in the ground and make a nest in it with a little straw, then take a common barrel, saw it in half, and cover the nest with a half barrel. The eggs are put in the nest and a hatching hen slipped under the barrel at night. It is better to put china eggs in the nest till the hen settles down to business, although if she really wants to hatch she will give no trouble, being in darkness. The hen should be let off to feed and water as it is getting dusk in the evening; she will then be easily caught to put back, and in a few days will go back of her own accord, when she may be let off in the middle of the day. By this plan hens can be set anywhere after the weather gets fine, and are very little trouble to look after, as all the hatches can be turned off and let on at the same time. It also makes the conditions as near those of the stolen nest as possible. A little sulphur or insect-powder shaken in the nest and among the hen's feathers when hatching begins and again just before the chicks are hatched will prevent lice, which are so destructive among young chicks. A dipper of warm water poured over the eggs two or three times at intervals will dampen the earth under the nest and supply the necessary moisture in the best way. The young chicks should be fed for a few days on bread crumbs steeped in milk, followed by chopped wheat, also soaked in milk, and this may be their

that they had never been able to get eggs in winter until they got them, but evidently thought she had been very extravagant when she paid a dollar for the setting of eggs from which those fowls had sprung.

As to the best breed for the farmer—and it is generally better that he keep but one breed, as it will save much trouble—one of the general purpose breeds will probably be the best. Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes are both suitable, and are both good layers; the Rocks are the largest and the best built, having a better breast, and their neat, close rose comb is an advantage in this climate. In both these breeds the White varieties will be the most suitable for the farm, as the Barred Rocks and Laced Wyandottes, unless carefully bred, lose much of their beauty, while the Whites will be more likely to retain that uniformity which is so pleasing to the eye. The Light Brahma is another useful farm bird, and is the largest breed. They generally get the credit of being great hatchers, and so they are when they go at it; but they are not always hatching, as some people imagine. When they do hatch, it is after laying all winter, for they are great winter layers, and there is no harder breed. I have now some two-year-old L. B. hens which have not yet wanted to hatch. If a farmer keeps any of the non-sitting breeds he will have to keep some other hens to do the hatching. There are lots of breeds to choose from, each having different characteristics. These should be studied by the farmer, and then the breed chosen which comes nearest to his requirements.

Turkeys, geese, and ducks should be kept separate from the hens; they should have a comfortable building, get plenty to eat and drink, and be turned out of doors for a time every day. As they do not lay till spring, they do not require the special care that hens do, and they are also much harder.

The farmer who thinks that the poultry is too small a branch of the farm stock for him to bother with had better get the statistics regarding the value of Canada's products, and he will find that though the hen herself is small, her product is by no means a small one.

### Do Hens Pay?

SIR,—On the subject of the keeping of fowls in the city, I herewith send a statement which might be of interest to some. Especially those situated like myself, whose premises are limited, and also having to pay the highest prices for food, consider that it would not pay.

On December the 1st, 1894, I had three hens, four pullets, and one cock, of mixed breeds. On that day one of the pullets laid. I then thought it would not be a bad idea to

keep an account of the cost and returns for one year, which, with the help of my young son, I have done.

In addition to the bought food, of course they got the waste from the kitchen; but, being an economical household and small family, the amount therefrom was not extensive.

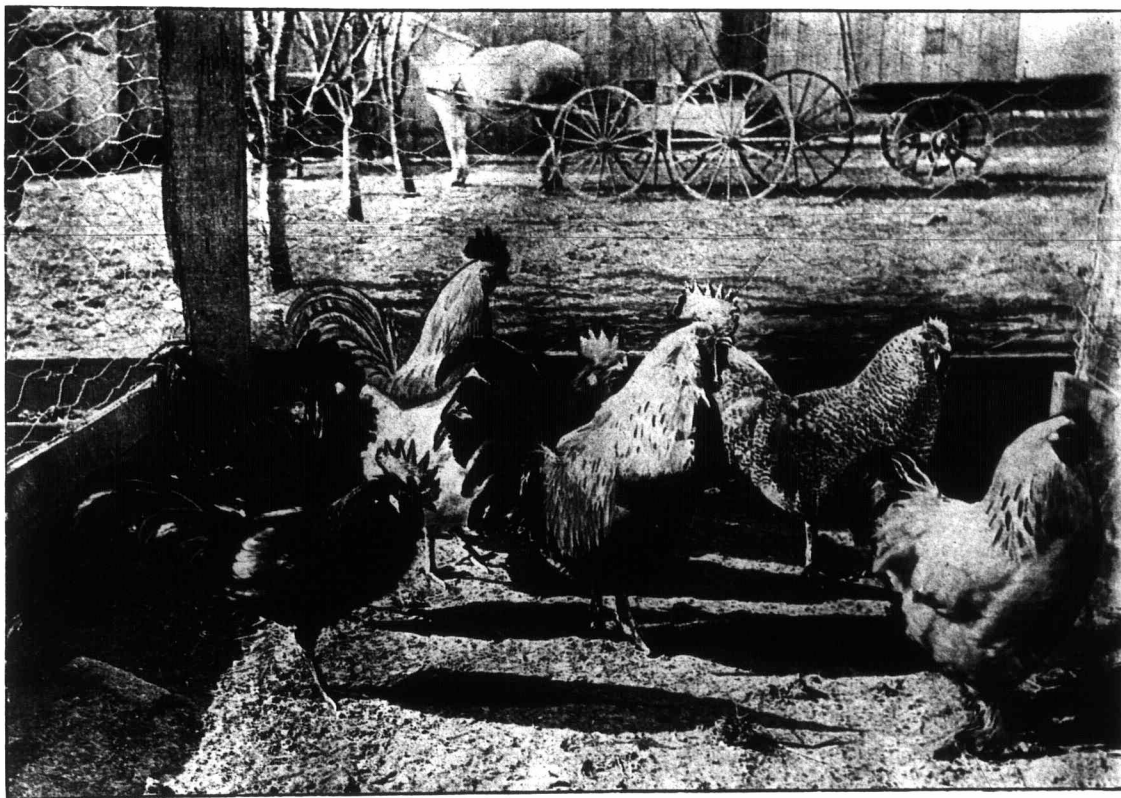
The enclosure is 10 x 30 feet and separated from the lawn by a two-inch meshed wire fence. The house is 7 feet square, of boards, battened and lined with tar paper, with one window two feet square. A wide board is placed underneath the roost, about a foot lower, to catch the droppings. On this I always spread a good layer of fresh dry earth after every cleaning. Occasionally I pour a little coal oil along the roost, etc., and have never seen a sign of vermin. Their yard I dig up about once a week and throw the dirt up in heaps, which they pitch into with the greatest delight. The young chickens have always the privilege of the lawn as long as they can force themselves through, and all hands have an outing for about an hour each day. I have put the prices of the eggs and young chickens under the advice of a friend who is extensively engaged in the business.

The total number of eggs for the year from the 7 hens was 1,104; and chickens, 32.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| March 28, 1895. Eggs to date—16 dozen at 25c. \$ 4 00                 |         |
| Nov. 30, 1895. Bal. Eggs to date—76 dozen at 15c. ....                | 11 40   |
| Nov. 30, 1895. 32 Chickens at 20c. each. ....                         | 6 40    |
| Total Returns. ....                                                   | 21 80   |
| Feed (mixture of corn, wheat, and buckwheat) at 80c. per bushel. .... | 11 40   |
| Net Profit. ....                                                      | \$10 40 |

Toronto.

C. W. COLEMAN.



POULTRY AT PINE GROVE FARM.

staple food for some time, supplemented with what the hen finds for them. Skim milk to drink is also a great advantage to them; in fact, if a trough can be kept supplied with milk for all the fowls it is one of the finest things they can get. If the milk is not abundant, a slatted coop should be made, in which the milk-mixed food can be put so that the chicks can get to it, but prevents the old birds from doing so.

There are many opinions as to the best kind of hens to keep. It is often recommended that farmers should get pure-bred roosters and use them on their common stock; and this is no doubt good advice, though if followed for a few years, and each new rooster is of a different breed, the progeny will be a very nondescript lot and their qualities very much varied. I have at present a few very fine young hens bred from common black hens and a Light Brahma cock; they are large and heavy but active hens, and are excellent layers; black in color, with more or less gray in hackle and breast, and with very small combs. If I wanted to raise chickens from them, I think I would make a mistake if I used any other than the Light Brahma rooster. It is generally acknowledged that a cross of two pure breeds makes the most serviceable fowls. I. K. Felch says that the most useful hen is a cross of Light Brahma and White Leghorn. I have one of the best hens I ever owned in a bird which was a chance cross of Light Brahma and Wyandotte. The trouble is, however, that the first cross is as far as it should go; in more crossing deterioration takes place. All things considered, pure-bred poultry are the best, and so small of starting a flock of pure-bred fowl is the cost that there is no reason why farmers should not keep them. I called at a farm not long ago and saw some very nice Brown Leghorns, and on inquiring about them was told by the farmer's wife