

and like breeds are, beyond all question, the best. For these latter, however, very comfortable quarters must be provided during winter.

While it is true that some common fowls that are native to the climate are hardy, and thrive better than perhaps some pure breeds may, yet the observation of the farmer will convince him, after due time, that the greatest profit is from the pure bred stock, provided he will learn the characteristics of the breeds. It is just as much the duty of the farmer to know all about the different breeds as it is to know how to plow and cultivate. It would surprise any farmer if his family physician should inform him that he could not distinguish one disease from another; yet there are thousands of farmers who cannot go into a herd or a flock and distinguish the different breeds. Are such farmers really farmers? Have they completely "learned their trade?"

What is common stock? It is said that there are a great many different breeds. There are more different kinds of common fowls than there are pure breeds. There is at least one uniformity in a pure breed. One hundred Leghorns, or Plymouth Rocks, or other breeds, will be so nearly alike that the farmer will be unable to note any difference, but it is seldom that two common fowls are alike. All common fowls are not just alike in characteristics. One flock may contain some excellent layers, while another flock may be useless. If a good flock is found, it is often the case that it is the result of indiscriminate crossing from some pure-bred fowls, and the common stock has repeatedly been praised for excellence when the credit really belongs to pure breeds.

Those who ridicule the enterprising farmer for expending an extra sum for pure-bred males never fail to come around at some time and request to "change eggs." They might as well, with equal propriety, ask to exchange a mongrel calf for a Jersey; but they know that a kind neighbor will oblige them with the eggs rather than break friendship, and they take advantage of his enterprise. It pays to buy pure-bred stock, however, even when one has to "change eggs" with those who do not encourage pure breeds.

A very good poultry house can be constructed on the South side of a barn. I would recommend it to be double boarded. My idea is to first of all run tarred paper across the uprights (2 x 4 scantling) on the outside, then put on the boards. Tar paper again on the inside of the uprights and board. This will leave an air space of four inches which will undoubtedly add much to the comfort of the building. I would either shingle the roof or cover it with some warm waterproof paper. Have most of the windows facing the south, one small window to every six feet of run

I consider sufficient. A large window admits more heat and light during the day, but it radiates the heat rapidly at night. One of the most essential requirements in a poultry house is light, as the hens will abandon a darkened house during the day time, no matter how warm it is. Instead of using very large windows there should be small windows in front and at the ends, so as to render the house light and cheerful in every part. Another advantage of using a number of small windows is that they are cheaper than large ones, and the cost is increased but little. They also admit the sunlight from all quarters during the whole day, and aid in more rapidly drying the floor, should it be damp. Be sure and locate the house on a dry spot. I prefer an earth floor as it can be so much more readily cleaned out and fresh dry sand put in. I would divide the house off into sections, keeping not more than twenty or twenty-five fowl in each section. At least six square feet of floor space should be allowed for each fowl. A house constructed as above should be warm enough for any variety.

Another good plan would be to have the sleeping apartment on the inside of the barn and a shed to run in, on the south side. If this were done single boards would be sufficient for the shed.

I would recommend that the roosts be at least eighteen inches from the wall so that no part of the fowl would come in contact with the building. Provide dropping boards (three feet wide) under the roosts so that the manure could be readily scraped off with a hoe.

A poultry house should be kept scrupulously clean. The oftener it is cleaned the better, but it should never be left for more than a week at a time without being thoroughly cleaned out and coal oil put on the roosts. I would strongly recommend that the manure be taken and put on the land at once before it loses its strength. It would be found of great value for garden produce or asparagus.

FEEDING.—Do not feed too much or too little. Fowls require a change. It is absurd to suppose that a continuous supply of wheat without change of variety will do. For egg production, I would recommend the following:

In the morning I would give a warm feed composed of shorts, bran and oatmeal, having first thoroughly scalded it. A few boiled turnips, or potatoes, or some clover mixed with this would be much relished by the fowl and increase the egg output. This should not be made sloppy, but should be just wet enough so as to nicely roll into a ball. I would recommend this to be fed in a trough about two inches deep, placed against the wall, so that the fowl could not get their feet into it. Do not allow them to gorge themselves as it makes them lazy. A hen should be active—always busy. These are the best layers.