

I will admit that bottom-heated brooders will help greatly the diseases, but if your chicks have plenty of exercise the two very troublesome diseases will leave you very much to yourself.

In April we have frequent showers, but they soon clear away, and the warm sunshine brings out tender grass, and chicks hatched in this month, if they have a good, warm, dry place to sleep, have nothing to do but scratch and grow, provided their owners do their part. Oh! give me April for the fancy chickens to appear, and you may also include the beginning of May. The object of the egg is to reproduce and perpetuate the breed. The breeder must work on the eggs in order to produce his ideal fowl. If the hens are not properly fed the right quantity and quality of food, their eggs will be poverty stricken and their offspring a failure.

A man claims to have a certain strain of birds and the original birds are fine specimens, but their offspring do not appear to be much like them. Can you tell me the cause? If you cannot I can. The owner does not possess the wisdom of the originator in the management of his breeders. Whatever operates against the good health and vigor of the breeding stock, will show itself in the offspring and whatever is helpful to the breeding will tell in the chicks.

Let the hens ramble about the premises, pick up whatever they can find and go to roost at night with their crops filled with filth and their eggs are poor and will produce chicks of but little vitality. Then the owner asks again why are my chickens so small and thin and with pale face and without glossy plumage? They have no muscle, they have no bone. They are wrecks from the beginning, and the owner expects to raise prize stock from hens left to look after themselves. Oh, no, Mr. Fancier, first see you are feeding your breeding stock right and that they



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have plenty of exercise, then begin to expect success.

If I was to get a setting of eggs from a fancier and perhaps out of fifteen eggs I got five chicks and they grew up small, thin and without rosy face and comb and glossy plumage, I would say of the fancier from whom I purchased the eggs that he had better learn to look after his breeding stock before he takes the liberty to advertise. When one packs fifteen eggs for some distant breeder he should realize that he is selling chickens, not eggs. If he is not willing to go to the trouble and expense to furnish eggs with all the elements of strength in them, he should not offer them for sale.

Now a word in closing, this is a range subject I have taken, but as so many people will be receiving large sums of money for eggs, I just wish to have them take more care in them; it will please the buyer and please you in the end.



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