

POINTERS ON POULTRY RAISING.

BY C. J. DANIELS, TORONTO.

THESE are two most essential things to keep in mind in poultry raising—the man and the feed. I will put the man first, as a large share of success in poultry raising is due to the proper care and attention given by the attendant, and the feed second, as on the right kind and quantity, the growth and future quality of the bird depends.

The man. He must be systematic in all the small details of care, must have certain ends in view and carry them out, whether raising poultry for the market, for eggs, for fancy points, or for all of these together. He must provide good shelter, light, dry roomy houses, furnished with plenty of scratching material, not cold, absolutely clean, without draughts, and above all first and last, plenty of clean drinking water.

The feed. No one will deny but that a well-fed animal is the one that pays. Dairymen have learned how to feed for milk and butter, stockmen for quick growth of meat, and poultrymen for eggs on the one hand and for meat on the other.

We will begin with the little chicks. They should be left alone for from twenty-four to thirty-six hours after hatching (as nature has provided for them in the yolk of the egg). After that length of time, being thoroughly dried off, they begin looking about for something to eat. A light food of bread crumbs and hard boiled egg may be given them, one part egg to three or four parts stale bread crumbled fine, or coarse oatmeal dry is a good feed, also H.O. poultry feed. Little and often is the rule, say every two or three hours, for the first five or six weeks. Never allow any food to be left around, but feed each time just what will be eaten up clean, or what is left will sour or be trodden on by the chicks, and become unfit for food. Nothing causes more deaths among small chickens than looseness of the bowels, or dysentery, and nothing is so certain to cause it as sour food. Keep gravel or grit before them all the time; this aids

digestion. Put it in a box or some place where they can always have access to it.

When chicks are about ten days old you may begin to feed meat scraps or green cut bone.

If you want eggs at the end of ten or twelve weeks feed nitrogenous foods almost altogether, such as green cut bone, meat meal, beef scraps, bran, crushed oats, wheat, and anything that is not fattening. Cracked or whole corn may be fed every other day.

If feeding for market, at the end of six weeks feed ground bone or beef scraps, or meat meal mixed with corn meal or buckwheat. Corn, however, is the best fattener, and gives the yellow meat and skin so much desired for egg and for breeding purposes.

Give your birds as large a run as possible. Green food of some kind should be provided for them at all times. It may help some in their choice of breeds by stating that the Mediterranean varieties are the best egg producers, namely, Leghorns (there are about ten of these varieties to choose from), Minorcas, white and black, Andalusian and Spanish, although some of the newer breeds in heavier fowls are pushing them hard for first place.

For table use and eggs combined, Rocks, Wyandottes, Javas (and others) are good varieties to keep. Writing on this subject one cannot particularize as to the breed one should keep, as much depends on choice of fancy of person or persons investing in them.

POULTRY ON THE FARM.

BY W. J. CAMPBELL, SNEELGROVE, ONT.

THESE is an old saying that the main stay of a hotel is the hostler and the cook. Now, in my opinion one of the main stays, or in other words the Klondike of the farm, is good poultry. Why? Because if a farmer has good poultry he can soon have gold. For instance, if in the fall of the year he has a note to pay, his taxes, or any of the many items of expense on a farm, and he is nine or ten dollars short, as the case may be, and the roads are unfit to market a load of grain, what will let him out easier than the required number of good poultry.