

If the earth on the floor becomes wet from water being spilled upon it, it should be removed and dry earth put in.

#### Work for young men.

There is plenty of it, and the field is low open, if those who in earnest desire occupation that will prove remunerative will only look at it in the right spirit and go about it in the proper way.

One of the drawbacks to success in life among young men is their fastidiousness, and their unwillingness to do anything for a living, except it be to engage in their own chosen calling or profession, which they so frequently find is being overdone by others when they are ready to enter upon a given career.

But our young men grown up, or growing up, must have occupation, for it is work, employment, business, that makes people prosperous and contented. Without this—in some way or shape—they can never become good members of society, or be anything to themselves or their kind. Steady employment for hand and brain is what makes a nation of men happy among themselves and their families, as well as useful to their neighbors and the community at large.

This is true, though it is not generally appreciated by the young men who are just about starting out in life, and especially among those who are bred in the country. The great desire of boys and youths who are brought up on a farm, or whose early years are passed in rural pursuits, is to get into the city, to go West or South, or to try near fields, in which their brains and talents shall enable them to conquer fortune.

Now and then we hear from one or more of these young men who do not succeed in this way as they anticipated, and who next ask us if there is any chance for willing hearts and strong hands in the poultry business.

Ours is a business that, when properly followed, never yet has been overdone. Men fail in their expectations, as in other branches of trade, to a great extent. But where some persons are unsuccessful (through lack of the right sort of management) hundreds make money in this calling, and thousands get a good living for themselves and their families by pursuing this work in the way it should be done.

No enterprise offers to the man bred in the country such promise of reward—in a limited way and considering the amount of capital and labor involved in it—as poultry raising does. But there is judicious management needed in its prosecution; and every part of the business must be appropriately economized to make it fairly remunerative.

#### Poultry World.

#### Pedigree Breeding.

We concluded our introductory remarks on this subject last week by the inquiry as to what it was that any celebrated breeder had done, which made his stock specially valuable, on account of the certainty with which it represented certain characteristic features. It is of some importance to consider this, since what one man has done, another may do. And there is, indeed, no secret in it. The longer we live the more we realise the almost bare *simplicity* of the principle which makes "breeding," in any scientific sense of the word, a possibility. But we think the phrase "like produces like," in which it is often supposed to be embodied, by no means puts it in a proper form, and has indeed tended directly to throw many off the track entirely, by leading to such vague and erroneous notions as to the value of stock merely bred "from prize-winners," as we alluded to last week. Let us look into the matter more particularly.

What is known as the "family likeness" in children to their father and mother is familiar to all of us, and it is a singular fact, which deserves consideration, that this likeness is, as a rule, more readily seen by strangers than by members

of the family itself. However, there are more or less striking resemblances in most cases, by which the likeness spoken of can undoubtedly be traced. But this likeness varies very widely, and often, even when clearly visible, cannot be traced to any one feature particularly, but is due to some general undefinable impression which the whole face somehow produces. In other cases a strongly-marked feature can be very clearly seen in the offspring, and in some other cases, no likeness can be traced at all. Thus, supposing the head of the family to have a strongly marked Roman nose, it is probable this prominent member may be recognised in at least a portion of his posterity, while not in others, in whose faces, nevertheless, others of his lineaments can be traced, complicated with those of the mother, and even with those of other members of the family.

And this leads us to another well-known fact—viz., that in numerous cases where no resemblance can be traced in children to the immediate parents, a startling resemblance can be traced to the grandparents, or even to ancestors still further back; from which it appears that resemblances have a more or less strong tendency to be transmitted to posterity, even beyond the next immediate step in the pedigree. Very peculiar, or even extraordinary features—such as, for instance, the possession of six digits on each extremity instead of five—are often, when they occur, thus transmitted very strongly. From these and similar facts, which we need not specify in detail, it is nearly certain that every feature has a tendency to repeat itself, and would do so, more or less, were it not modified or counteracted by other tendencies. Thus, if of two parents one have black hair and the other brown, it is probable that the black haired parent has a tendency to transmit the peculiarity, but that it is counteracted, or modified by the other parent having hair of a different colour, or by the colour of the hair of the ancestors further back. We say this is probable, but we might rather say that the researches of Mr. Darwin have it almost certain it is the case; at least, every argument founded upon such a supposition has been hitherto found to hold good.

Now, scientific breeding consists in throwing the strength of all these tendencies into one definite channel—the causing the tendency of the great grandparents and the grandparents, as well as of the immediate parents to transmit peculiarities to their descendants, to combine towards one object. For instance, going now to our poultry yard for an illustration, it is by no means uncommon for a bird, through some remote cross with the Dorking of which all traces beside have long since vanished, to appear with some signs of the fifth toe. Though, strictly speaking, this is owing to a tendency inherited long since from the cross, we may for present purposes call it an accidental variation, occurring, perhaps, only twice amongst a thousand chickens supposed to be pure from all Dorking taint. If one of these chickens be bred from, it is probable that a few of her progeny, but still few, will also show this fifth toe, the greater part, however, reverting to what we may call the usual type of the yard. If we mate this hen to a cock showing the tendency in the same way, the number of five-toed progeny will be somewhat increased, but still (supposing, as we do, that there is no appreciable Dorking taint in the yard at all) they will not be many, and the four-toed chickens they produce will have little tendency to breed birds with five toes. But now suppose we select from the chickens produced from these two five-toed parents a pair also five-toed, and breed them together. We shall now find the tendency vastly increased; so much so, that very likely a full half of the produce will be five-toed, and even those which are not will show a evident tendency to breed five-toed birds. We have accumulated into one direction—that of producing five toes—the transmitting powers of two generations—pr