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A FEW GENERAL REMARKS TO FARMERS.

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IT is an acknowledged fact that if a farmer understands "Poultry Raising" it will pay him better than anything else on the farm, and in the next place the work of attending to this stock is decidedly the pleasantest, cleanest and the most interesting, but I regret to say that the majority of our farmers will choose much harder work to gain their livelihood. A very important item to be considered is how to make the most money with the least possible outlay. The first thing I would do if I were a farmer would be as follows: With the assistance of my wife I would devote all my spare time to poultry and duck raising. It is not only important to make a good beginning but it is of vast importance to begin at the right time. In the first place I would be careful to select the best position on the farm suitable for poultry buildings, taking good care to have them shielded from the north and north east winds. I would also locate them just where I could extend them from time to time as my flock increased. As to the kind of building or buildings, I would say that I would endeavor to make them comfortable, but not necessarily at great expense. I would be perfectly sure that they should be erected on very dry ground—never, on any account, build a poultry house on swampy or damp soil. I believe more trouble arises from that cause than any other, which I will endeavor to show you before I finish this subject.

I would begin in the spring time, although I would have, as a rule, to pay more money for my stock, yet it would certainly be much more satisfactory and a source of much greater pleasure. Of course a beginner must expect to have some drawbacks and disappointments, for want of experience, as the old saying goes, "don't count your chickens before they are hatched." I would buy my first breeding stock from a true fancier and would expect to pay a liberal price and make a good clean start. I think ten dollars for

six such birds as would produce satisfactory results would be a fair price. From these birds I would expect to raise between the first of April and last of June at least one hundred chicks, which would give me a chance to make my selection for winter. I would sell all my culs and surplus stock not later than Oct. 1st. Never under any circumstances keep old or young birds a day longer than they are a source of revenue. It is certainly a very unwise thing to feed chicks or ducklings after they are full grown and ready for the market; as a rule it is better to let them go at market price and invest the money in winter feed for those that you are going to carry over. Never keep any birds more than three years unless they are specially valuable as breeders. Avoid over crowding. I have been intimately acquainted with the farming community for the last thirty years, and I might say that I don't remember ever seeing a farmer's poultry house in winter that was not far too small for the number of fowls he had in it. Where they had fifty they should only have had about twenty. It's not much use arguing the point here, suffice it to say that you are just losing that much difference in feed. If you would always count on giving one yard square of floor space to each fowl you would not be far astray.

Cleanliness is the next very important part to insure success, which costs but little. Have everything arranged conveniently, so that you can clean them out every day as you do every other animal on the farm. Keep the floor of the poultry house covered several inches deep with chaff or dry leaves. To prevent vermin attend to the above and use lime whitewash with carbolic acid added, twice a year; change the nests often, especially in summer time. A good thing to keep on hand, and which is very cheap, is the following: Take one pound of pure carbolic acid, which you can buy at from 30 to 40 cents per pound, then buy a bag of land plaster and mix the two thoroughly together, first melting the carbolic by placing the bottle in hot water, not forgetting to remove the cork; when melted add about a wineglassful of water and it will keep it in liquid form, then