

care, be likely to repeat the anecdote told of a celebrated sculptor. A friend visited his studio, after a lapse of several months, to view the progress he had made upon a statue, "Why," said he, "you have done nothing since I was here before!" "Oh yes, I have," said the sculptor, "I have rounded this limb and touched up this portion," indicating where the changes had been made. "Yes," said the visitor, "but they are trifles." "They may be trifles," was the reply, "but trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle." But it is not of the fancier and of exhibition fowls I wish to speak, I am thinking of the purely practical points of improvement.

For example, the Leghorn had for years been a most profitable fowl to keep, but it had one objection to those who dwelt in cold climates. Its thin single comb, beautiful as it really is, was liable to become frozen, and then its beauty was diminished, and the poor fowl suffered from the bites of the frost and if a hen, would not lay until the comb was healed. But, occasionally, there had occurred in flocks of Leghorn chickens specimens with a rose-comb. At first these were killed as culls, but finally the happy thought occurred to breeders that such a comb, because of its mass allowing the blood to circulate through it more freely, would be less likely to freeze than a single comb, and the rose-combed Leghorn appeared, a fowl possessing the great prolificacy of the original with a comb which better adapted it to cold climates.

Again, the Plymouth Rock had proved to be one of the best general purpose fowls in the world. It was and is a successful fowl. But it had a single comb, and this comb, though less liable to freeze than the high single comb of the Leghorn, still was not exempt from the attacks of the frost. In a number of flocks of single combed Plymouth Rocks, pea combed specimens had occasionally appeared, and finally it occurred to one breeder, at least, that such a comb, upon a fowl with the qualities of the Plymouth Rock, would make a general purpose fowl difficult to be surpassed, inasmuch as the pea-comb comes as near being proof against frost as any comb could be. The result of this thought was the production of the pea-combed Plymouth Rock, a thoroughly useful, practical variety and especially adapted to the colder parts of the United States and Canada.

The change of the character of the comb of a fowl may seem but a little thing, and yet such little things have an important bearing upon profit. If a rose-combed Leghorn or a pea-combed Plymouth Rock would lay but a half dozen more eggs in the winter than the single-combed varieties, and if the annual production was the same, let us see what the bearing of this change would be on the profit of the fowl.

Eggs in summer are worth about 18 cents per dozen, they are in winter worth as high as 48 cents. Six summer eggs would be 9 cents; six winter eggs 24 cents—a difference of 15 cents. This difference is clear profit. If a man kept 100 hens it would mean to him a difference of fifteen dollars per year in profits, and if he had 1000, of one hundred and fifty dollars. If we multiply the 15 cents profit per hen by the number of hens kept in Canada, it will be seen that this little change would make a difference mounting up into the thousands of dollars annually.

As population increases and as competition becomes sharper, these little things will become even more important than they now are, and may mean the difference between success and failure as they are taken advantage of or are neglected. The margin of profit is now so wide that they are overlooked except by the keenest business men, but in time this margin will shrink and then they will become very important factors in the selection of a breed of fowls. Many who now do not understand the importance of little things, will then be obliged to take cognizance of them, and the breeds which are best adapted to the place where they are to be kept and which will bring the largest profit, whatever they are, will be selected. There are many considerations which are now blindly overlooked, that then will become so clear to view that even the dimmest sight will discern them.

HOW TO RAISE TURKEYS.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

YOUNG turkeys when once through the critical period commonly known as "shooting the red" may be said to be one of the hardiest of young fowls, and as easily raised as any domestic fowl unless it be the duck. The turkey grower will find it much to his advantage to put the greatest amount of care bestowed in his turkey flock into the first few weeks of the young poults existence. If the mother hen steals her nest, (as she will no doubt do unless provided with a convenient artificial hiding place), find it and remove the eggs (with the exception of one nest egg), as fast as laid. In this way, perhaps two settings may be secured before the hen stops laying. She may then be given a full clutch, and the balance of the eggs may be set the same day under common hens, and at the end of the incubating period, all of the young turks may be given to the mother turkey hen. Now provide a lath or board pen two feet high and about twelve feet square, the lath or boards so close together that