

breeding place for rats and other vermin, and also harbors mites, lice and disease germs. The one we recommend is of concrete. Such a floor can be changed at any time and should break out in a block, the floor, the same as the rest of the building can be easily scrubbed, disinfected and whitewashed. It may be more expensive in the beginning, but once it is put in it will last a lifetime. There is nothing in the belief that the floor is too cold. The sand, earth or gravel floors are probably best for the flocks, but when it comes to cleaning out the poultry house about three inches of sand and dirt have to be removed in order to get out all the litter. From the standpoint of cleanliness, therefore, the cement floor is the best. The work of feeding hens can be lessened to quite an extent by having a barrel or box that will hold grain enough to last the flock a week or two, and placing it in the corner of the house. This will save a lot of unnecessary steps, going to and from the granary for grain twice a day.

At the back of this book there are drawings of three poultry houses suitable for the farm. All three have curtain fronts. The strawbent house is the best of the three. It is very similar to the one already described except that it is sixteen feet wide instead of only fourteen. The advantages or disadvantages of these types of houses have been fully discussed so as to make further comment unnecessary.

BREEDS

In taking up the question of the breeds most suitable for the farmer, we have to be governed more or less by the characteristics of certain breeds which adapt themselves to the adverse climatic conditions that may exist from time to time. Owing to the severe winters and extreme cold, the small-combed breeds are naturally better adapted for withstanding the effects of these conditions than the larger combed breeds. Again, the lighter breeds as a rule do not give such heavy egg production during cold weather as some of our heavier or utility breeds do.

As far as laying qualities are concerned, there is more in strain than in breed; that is to say, there may be poor layers in all breeds, but certain strains or families of each breed have been bred along egg-producing lines with the result that a heavy laying strain has been produced. The farmer therefore, needs a breed having both egg and meat producing qualities combined and developed to the highest degree. Such a combination can usually be found in what are known as our utility breeds, viz.: Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons. These breeds are specially adapted for withstanding the effects of our Western climate during the winter time.

Of the advantages or disadvantages of any of these breeds, nothing need be mentioned here. As far as winter egg production is concerned they stand about equal, and, when killed as roasters, they all dress out