

## Poultry Sanitation.

By C. F. LUCKHAM, '19.

**J**UST at this time of the year, before the hatching season has commenced, a word regarding sanitation might not be out of place. We often are disgusted upon visiting the brooding house about a week or ten days after we have set the hens, to find two or three of them off the nest and the eggs cold; yet in most cases it is our own fault. Unless the birds are comfortable we can't expect them to complete the hatch, for after all "**comfort**" is one of the all important factors in successful poultry keeping.

The health of the average farm flock is not as a rule given sufficient importance. There are, of course, exceptions where a regular systematic cleaning of the house is observed but where we find one of the above we usually see many more where the cleaning is left until a rainy day or until there is nothing else for the hired man to do. The droppings are quite often allowed to accumulate for months before any attempt is made at a proper cleaning—with conditions such as these we can't expect the birds to be vigorous and healthy.

To make conditions worse the majority of houses are lighted only by a small all glass window about four feet square, and located in the south, east, north or west, as it comes handy. Practically no ventilation is provided unless it be a little fresh air which steals in night and morning when the farmer enters to feed the birds. Such conditions invite disease and favor its development, when it does settle in the flock, as well as, furnishing splendid

breeding nests for all sorts of insect pests. If there is any one time when the house should be especially clean it is at time of hatching. It should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week and some sort of disinfectant, such as lime, sprinkled over the floor, and if at all possible the walls, nests, roosts, etc., whitewashed to give it a sweet, fresh odor. A very good white-wash is made by taking 1 bushel of lime, 20 gallons of water, about four gallons of skim milk, and a little crude carbolic added. This may be put on either by spraying or by the hand brush. The skim milk acts as a sticker and of course the crude carbolic disinfects.

The hens should be free from all vermin. It is generally admitted to be a most difficult matter to keep a flock of fowl absolutely free from body lice, but if the house is kept clean, and well ventilated, and hens healthy, a big step has been taken towards their control. Body lice breed and live on the body of the fowl. The eggs are laid upon the down feathers about the vent and may often be found hanging in clusters. They reproduce very rapidly so that a flock considered free from lice now may be badly infested in only a few weeks.

In order to control these lice a proper dust bath should be provided and placed in a sunny part of the house. In this some earth or coal ashes can be placed, but preferably earth, as it is beneficial to the skin of the birds as well as ridding them of lice. A little powdered sulphur, few handfals, add-