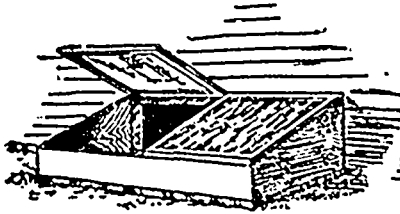


The Poultry Yard.

COOP AND HOTBED.

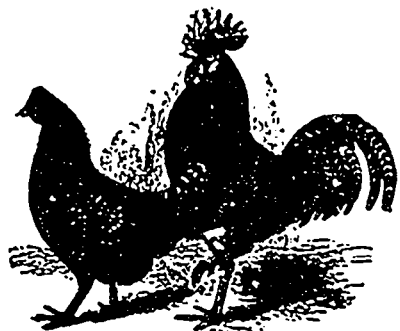
The cut shows a hotbed that is built against the south side of the poultry house, serving all through the winter as a sunny scratching place for the



HOTBED AS A POULTRY RUN.

fowls. These are shut out at the approach of spring and the hotbed started. About the time the plants are started the fowls will be getting out upon the ground, while all through the deep snows of winter they will have an exceedingly sunny space to run in. Make the hotbed large enough to give sufficient scratching space. The room can well be utilized with early plants in the spring.

Scotch Grays—This breed recalls the plumage of that old favorite, the Dominique, but their alertness and style is



PAIR OF SCOTCH GRAYS.

more like the Game fowl, although they are fairly heavy birds, weighing 8 to 9 lbs for cocks and 7 lbs for hens. They are general purpose fowls, good layers and sitters, and very popular in Scotland and northern England. The objection to them from an American point of view lies in their off-colored skin and legs.

Moisture makes trouble for hens in the half-feathered stage, and the roosting place should be dry during the molting season.

For Feeding Ducks, rules vary. One large eastern grower allows 400 quarts of mixed feed per day at two feeds per day for 600 breeding and laying ducks. This is at the rate of about two-thirds of a quart per day for each duck. Comparing this with the ration for hens, it will be seen that the appetite of the duck is much larger than that of the hen.

Women and Girls living in small towns and in the country will find poultry raising a pleasant and profitable industry. However, beginning on a large scale, and investing liberal sums in fine poultry houses, fancy breeds of fowls, incubators, etc., without previous experience usually proves disastrous. Close attention to details and careful management are necessary to success. For

those distant from market, eggs are more reliable than chickens as they are more easily shipped. A person who wishes to raise broilers for market cannot do better than to breed Brahmas, Langshans and Cochins. They are excellent for the table and fairly good layers. Leghorns are given the credit of being the best layers. Next come the Houdans, Wyandots and Polish. For flesh and eggs combined raise Plymouth Rocks, Dorkings and Black Spanish. The number of males required for a flock of hens varies with the breed. One male to 15 or 18 hens of the smaller breeds and one to ten or twelve of the larger breeds is sufficient. [Mrs M. B. K., Iowa.]

To Preserve Eggs in lime take 5-lbs salt and 13 lbs of lime to which add 30 gals soft water. When thoroughly mixed add 1/2 lb borax, 1 lb cream tartar, 1/2 lb salt peter, 1 1/2 ozs lime, which should be dissolved in hot water, mixed thoroughly, added to the solution of lime and salt. When settled pour out the clear solution and place the eggs in this.

Good Hens; Good Eggs—About nine-tenths of the farmers in this part of the country let the poultry roost in trees, on the fences and on the farm implements and vehicles. If they have any henhouse at all it is so filthy that even a hog would rather sleep in a snowbank than in the house. Their fowls are a lot of little dunghills that have been inbred since their great-grandfather took the farm yet none of these farmers will say, "I don't see why my hens don't lay. I feed my hens as much as Neighbor So and So, and he gets lots of eggs. Now is it any wonder he doesn't get any eggs?" When he does get them they are so small that I would want about 24 eggs for a dozen. Why don't the farmers get some good hens and kill off all the old stock? Some farmers will not keep a horse, cow, hog or sheep unless they are good ones, but they will keep the old flock of hens year after year while all the time they are running their owner into the hole, and putting a mortgage upon his farm. [Alter Ego.]

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Prepare for Winter.

Now is the time to think about keeping your stock warm during the coming winter. Before cold weather sets in look over your outbuildings and see if there are any leaky roofs, any shingles or clapboards coming off, or any cracks that need stopping up to make the buildings warm.

It is poor economy to have cows and horses sleep cold in the winter, and every farmer knows how much more profitable hens are, and how much faster the chickens grow if they are kept warm.

If you will accept a suggestion from us, of which the editor of this paper will approve, you can fix up your old outbuildings, prevent leaky roofs, make warm your sheds, barns, hen houses, hot beds or greenhouses at very little expense.

Go to your nearest hardware dealer and get a roll of NEPONSET RED ROPE ROOFING, which is made for any outside covering, and is positively water-proof,



wind-proof and frost-proof. There are five hundred square feet in each roll, and it will only cost you \$5.00 including the necessary nails and tin caps.

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