

Spraying the Hen House

Any of the common coal tar stock dips may be used as sprays for the hen house with satisfactory results. They may be diluted with 50 parts of water. These mixtures may be applied with a large brush or with a spraying machine. A good spraying machine is quicker and more efficient than a brush. Great care must be taken to fill thoroughly every crevice in the wall, perches and nests with the liquid.

Two thorough sprays should be made on the first day. The next day a careful examination should be made, and if any mites can be found alive, the house should be thoroughly treated again. Although these solutions will kill the adult mites, it is not likely that they will reach the mite eggs and prevent them from hatching. The poultry houses, therefore, must be sprayed twice again at intervals of one week. This will catch any mites that have hatched out from the eggs laid previous to the first spraying.

Feeding Green Foods

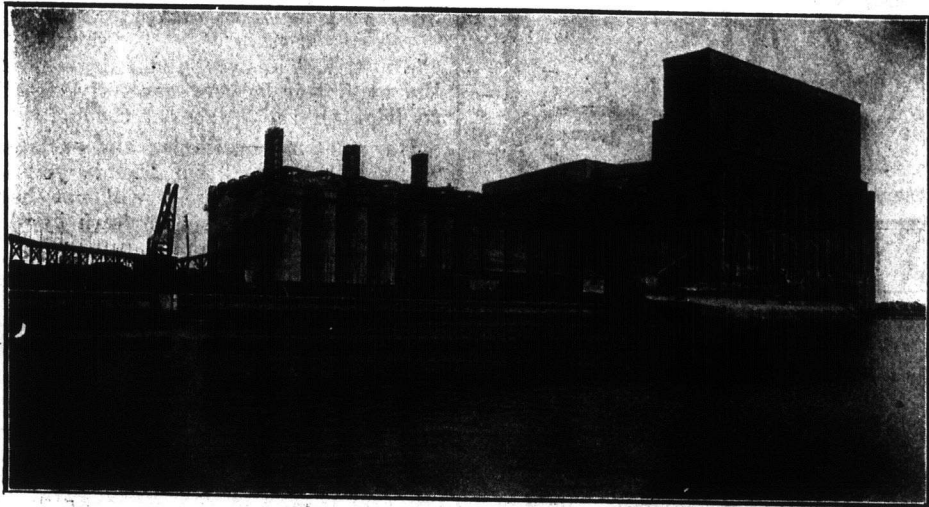
When fowls have free range they eat a considerable amount of grass or other green foods. It would appear to be desirable that where birds are confined in small runs during the summer, fall, or winter, some effort should be made to supply this food. Many foods are available, such as waste cabbage, mangels, turnips, rape, clover hay, clover leaves or green food, especially grown for that purpose.

Cabbage at times will flavor the eggs

whose fowls are kept in larger and more exposed runs. Only keep the birds healthy, by giving them plenty of scratching exercise, and feed well, but judiciously, on a moderately stimulating diet and the hens are pretty certain to lay. But beware of the artificially heated hen house. This is not comfort, but coddling, and birds kept in such places are more liable to take a chill when they go out into the cold air. If hens cannot be induced to lay in roomy, sheltered, scratching sheds, with good food and management, it is pretty certain that artificial warmth at night will not do them any good.

The Housing Problem

In the first place the backyarder should consider the housing problem. The house that is intended for the flock should be built with a view to it containing more birds than it is actually intended to place in it. That is to say, if the prospective breeder intends to keep six fowls he should build a house with accommodation for twelve. Only by this means can the great danger of overcrowding (alas, often too prevalent!) be avoided. The building should be airy, with a window, and if there is room for a regular scratching shed, should be raised about two feet above the level of the ground, so that in wet weather the birds can go underneath and scratch. If possible the whole space devoted to the run should be covered in. The run should at least be twice as long as the stamped down flat and covered with a closed-in house. The floor should be



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slightly and may cause serious digestive troubles. Both rape and cabbage make good green foods, but judgment must be exercised in their use. Mangels are a succulent food and relished by the birds during the winter. They can be fed either pulped or whole. Turnips may also flavor the eggs. They are not as palatable as mangels; in fact, some fowls will not eat them at all, but at the same time they have considerable food value.

The growing of green food is becoming popular with many. The ordinary plan is to soak whole oats 24 hours previous to sowing. The ordinary greenhouse flat is useful for this purpose. Any box from three to four inches deep will answer. It is necessary that the bottom of the box should have sufficient holes to give good drainage. Place a little damp earth over the bottom of the box and then put in about one-half inch of soaked grain and cover this with about one inch of sand. Keep the earth moist. In a few days the grain will begin to germinate. Most feeders allow the grain to grow up to two or three inches in height before feeding it.

The Winter Quarters

Most poultry breeders are thinking just now of making things snug for the winter that is looming before us, and in most cases our ambition is to keep our fowls so cosy and comfortable that they will defy the cold and lay all the winter. A great deal naturally depends upon the available accommodation, and there can be no doubt that the amateur with a small, sheltered run in his backyard or garden has an even better chance of producing a regular supply of winter eggs than the more extensive breeder

suitable litter. This may be of any nature, but the most satisfactory is straw. The shed should be boarded for some three feet above the ground, as this prevents draught. The remainder is closed in with wire netting. Some sort of shutter to keep out the rain and snow in the winter is also a help.

Professor Leacock: Sermons are to be measured by their strength, not length.

James J. Hill: Every one complains of his memory, and no one complains of his judgment.

Andrew Carnegie: The true way to be deceived is to think oneself sharper than others.

Maurice Maeterlinck: Perfect bravery and true courage is to do without a witness all that we would do with the whole world looking on.

Lord Morley: True eloquence consists in saying what is needed, and in saying only what is needed.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke: Happiness is in relish, not in things; it is by having what we like that we are happy, not in having what others like.

George Bernard Shaw: Nothing ought to lessen the satisfaction we have in ourselves so much as seeing that we disapprove at one time what we approved at another.

Elbert Hubbard: It is more from carelessness about truth than from intentional lying, that there is so much falsehood in the world.

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