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Few people have any idea of the amount of poultry and eggs consumed each voyage on an ocean liner. Here is the bill of the Oceanic, the big, new boat, on her first trip: 1,500 spring chickens, 500 capons, 200 roasting chickens, 300 fowls, 500 ducklings, 50 goslings, 120 turkeys, 200 pheasants, 300 partridges, 800 squabs, and 600 quail. Supposing none of these happened to be left over at the termination of the round voyage, this quantity of poultry and game would afford the very liberal allowance for each day's consumption of 125 spring chickens, 41 capons, 17 roasting chickens, 25 fowls, 41 ducklings, 4 goslings, 10 turkeys, 17 pheasants, 25 partridges, 66 squabs in pigeon pies, and 50 quail—a total of 421 birds.



#### HINTS ON DEVELOPING LARGE COMBS.

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**B**Y a large number of breeders nowadays the question of large combs is being seriously looked upon as a great evil. There are, however other breeders who maintain that a large comb adds very much to the noble appearance of a good bird. Both sides have a fair amount of common sense in their arguments, but as to which is right and which wrong must be left to individual opinion. There is nothing to be gained in denying the fact that the craze for large combs has seriously interfered with the reproductive powers of many valuable show birds, and that to obviate this diffi-

culty it has been found necessary by a large number of breeders to sacrifice the birds' combs after a short career in the exhibition-room, so as to ensure the fertility of the eggs during the breeding season. To the large breeder this may appear a matter of small importance, and from his point of view it undoubtedly is so; but in the case of the small breeder it makes a very serious loss in the show account if a bird is thus disabled. So far, I have never yet run across a show giving prizes for a pen of breeding fowls which might be shown dubbed. Certainly the idea is not an original one, but under present circumstances it appears to be necessary that something should be done in this direction if the small breeders are to be encouraged in showing and breeding birds fit for competition.

The birds would, no doubt, look strange first off, shown as suggested, but it should be remembered that only one "fancy" point has been sacrificed by mutilating the birds, and this should make it no less easy to judge them. Apart from this, however, is the fact that these heavy combs are a source of annoyance to the birds compelled to wear them, and they are also a source of anxiety to the breeder, who is in constant fear of injury to them during the show season, which is bound to entail loss in one form or another.

However, the question is "How to develop large combs?" It is an impossibility to grow a large comb on a small base, therefore, to start with, we need a bird with a well-developed head, set upon a stout neck, carried over a broad pair of shoulders. Having selected thus the bird or birds we are anxious to develop this fancy point upon, let

us proceed a bit further with our enquiry. The comb selected must be free from thumb marks, twists, or side sprigs. These points, in developing a large comb, are so speedily made apparent in the process of growth, that many an otherwise faultless bird is found to be valueless for exhibition purposes as the show season draws on. The quality of the comb must also be taken into consideration before developing it. Some combs will appear to harden as they are developed, others get flabby and lax. Then, again, some combs show too much front, others are too long in the blade, and are thus, to some extent, detrimental to the bird's appearance when developed. This may, to some extent, be prevented—first, by careful feeding; secondly, by housing in a proper house, and by careful handling as growth is made. Let us look first at the feeding. As an admirer and some time breeder of light breeds, notably Leghorns and Minorcas, I found that a normal growth was induced by feeding upon good plain foods, such as soft food for the morning meal, plenty of green stuff, and wheat varied at intervals with oats and barley. Where rapid growth was desired, a liberal supply of meat was added; but in this last point comes a source of danger, for meat is a great stimulant, especially to pullets, and is apt to induce too early laying, a thing that is not desired by exhibitors until full growth is attained. Meat feeding must be pursued, then, very carefully, or it will do more harm than good. Moreover, be it observed, meat induces coarseness and flabbiness of the comb; the last-mentioned point is also induced by too extensive feeding upon soft food.