

## November.

In this month the general "round-up" of the poultry takes place. The stock must now be housed, and this brings the fancier face to face with the realities of the business. According as the management has been good or bad during the fore part of the season will success or failure be apparent now. If the stock has been properly culled with the view that the number shall suit the winter accommodations, there will be no trouble now on that score; if the houses have been made comfortable, the cold weather can be looked forward to with complacency. But if large flocks have been raised—beyond the fancier's power of providing inside accommodation for—and little or no culling has been done, there is trouble ahead for the fancier. There is nothing more certain in poultry-keeping than that crowding is fatal to success. Disease will be sure to take hold of the stock, and then the profits of the season's operations, if not already realized, never will be. There is only one hope for the poultry fancier that now finds his stock too numerous for his premises, and that is to reduce it at once; the quicker it is done the better. He should not lose a day in getting rid of the culls. The birds will all now be in full plumage, and the culling can be done without danger by anyone who has a reasonable knowledge of the varieties he is engaged in breeding, or who has a *Standard of Excellence* to guide him. After the culls are disposed of, attention should be directed to the birds considered of fair quality. Advertise these; there are often parties wanting pure-bred stock who do not care for show birds that will pay reasonable prices for them, and take several birds. The next consideration is to select the stock for next year's breeding. These should be the very best for that purpose your flock contains. The fancier who parts with his best breeders will soon have no good birds either to show or part with. An extra male or two should be set apart to provide against the loss or incompetency of the favorite. The fancier is now down to his good birds—birds that represent the best quality of his stock and his skill as a breeder. Both buyer and seller should recognize this fact—the buyer certainly will. If a bird is sent out, fully developed, and represented by the seller as a good one, the buyer will draw his conclusions from it. If it is not as good as represented he concludes the seller is either ignorant or dishonest. Therefore the fancier who wishes to build up a reputation should cull closely. The end of November should find him with his breeding birds for next season, and the choice of his breeding of this year,—and with ample accommodation for them. All can then be well cared for and kept in good health. The birds

intended for exhibition will have a chance to receive the attention they require, expenses will be reduced, labor lessened, and the pleasures of poultry-keeping enhanced. No position is more trying and disenchanting to the fancier than to be caught in the winter with the poultry-houses crowded with rumpy fowls. They cannot nor ought not to be sold, and they are not fit to be eaten. The only remedy is to kill and bury them. And this state of things is, in nine cases out of ten, caused by keeping until late a lot of fowls that are utterly valueless from a fancier's point of view. Our most urgent advice for this month is to reduce the stock so that the accommodation will be ample for what is left.

When the fowls are first confined to their winter quarters they are more apt than at any other time to contract such habits as feather-eating and egg-eating. If they are crowded, and are fed so that they can pick the feed given them in a few moments, they have a great deal of idle time, and idleness and mischief go together with chickens as well as with children. Keep them employed and there is little danger of bad habits being acquired. Litter the floors of the houses deeply with cut hay or straw, and scatter the grain among it, except for the evening meal. Provide comfortable nests for the laying hens, and place them in retired and dark places. Provide broken oyster-shell, old mortar, or lime in some shape, for the manufacture of shell. Don't allow the eggs to accumulate in the nests, or to become cracked with the frost. Commence at once to supply them with green food regularly, and cooked animal food in small quantities every few days. It is not cold weather so much as confinement that makes these things necessary.

In about two months the showing season will be on. Begin now to bring the show-birds into condition, and remember that *fat* don't count for with any intelligent judge. "Condition" means in good health, flesh and plumage, shown by bright red comb and wattles, clean and glossy plumage, and sprightly movement. A bird rather on the lean side will be most apt to show perfection in these points. Some will have to starve their birds to bring them into condition. With many this is a great deal more difficult than fattening them.

## Editor Review.

I have heard a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed at the practice of placing the names of exhibitors on the coop-tickets at shows before the judging is done. There are evil disposed persons who, when they see a rival's name on the ticket, will tear it off, and thus deprive him of any chance he may have of winning a prize. I had my tickets torn off at a recent show. I am glad to see that the Poultry Association of Ontario at the show in Guelph will not permit the names on coops until after the judging is completed. Yours truly,

J. M. CARSON.

Orangeville, Oct. 17th, 1884.