

But a study of the records of each hen shows that some of them are simply "eating their heads off" while others are money makers. For example, the hall that did the best, produced 12,796 eggs, and average of 106 eggs each, while the other hall produced only 5,577 eggs, an average of 44 each.

This variation is not due to difference in breeds, for the records show that it is even greater in individual colony houses occupied by a single breed. As an instance the best ten birds in one breed laid 1140 eggs, an average of 114 eggs each, while the worst ten birds in the same breed laid only 142 eggs, an average of 14 eggs each.

These results show that with well selected hens in good condition no very expensive housing is necessary so long as protection is afforded against extreme cold and storms. The colony houses referred to here were described in detail in *The Farming World* of September 2nd, 1907.

A plentiful supply of nest boxes should always be provided for laying hens, for if there is an insufficient number some of the eggs will be laid in the litter on the floor; this will encourage one of the most troublesome vices that can be acquired, viz., egg eating.

The nest boxes need only to be very simply constructed, consisting of sides and top, the back being formed by the wall of the house, and the front being left altogether open, though if a little more trouble can be taken with them and the front closed in, enough to darken the nest itself, there is less danger that the eggs will be broken and subsequently eaten. They should always be bottomless, resting upon a shelf a few inches wider than the nest-boxes, so as to form a ledge upon which the birds can alight when entering or leaving the nest. The shelf should be raised about ten or twelve inches above the ground as a protection from rats and to prevent egg eating. The reason for advocating this is on the score of cleanliness, as nest boxes with fixed floors are troublesome to clean, the dirt lodging in the corners and crevices. A good plan is to have a row of nest boxes built together, thereby saving a considerable amount of material, and when cleaning is necessary all one has to do is to lift the row of nest boxes and the contents will remain upon the shelf, which can then be swept off. A convenient size for a nest box is fifteen inches square and about eighteen inches high, which allows an abundance of space for the hens to lay their eggs comfortably.

The advance made in the use of trap nests during the last few



A SPECKLED SUSSEX HEN

years has been very marked, their value in building up a laying strain being now perfectly realized, but as they are expensive and require some attention, and as we are now dealing only with the simplest and cheapest forms of poultry houses

and fixtures, they may be allowed to pass for the present.

It may seem that the connection between the arrangement of perches in a poultry house and egg production would be rather remote, yet it is not so, for fowls to do their best and produce profitable returns must be kept comfortable like other farm animals. Probably the worst form of perch is the one most generally in use in farm poultry houses, that is the sloping ladder perch. All the birds invariably want to occupy the top one, and that gives rise to constant fighting when roosting time comes. The perches should be on the same level throughout and placed if space permits it, about two feet apart. There is no advantage in having them high, in fact where the heavy breeds are kept it a decided disadvantage. Fifteen to eighteen inches from the ground is quite high enough to afford ample protection from damp and rats. It is best to have the perches so contrived that they shall be easily re-

Are Your Hens In Money-Making Condition

Now is the time to get ready for the season of high-priced eggs by giving your hens

Pratts' Poultry Regulator

(Formerly known as Pratt's Poultry Food)

—the positive, guaranteed egg producer. It carries hens safely through the moulting period—makes them lay more eggs—prevents and cures all poultry diseases—increases your profits. A dollar package is sufficient for 100 chickens one month.

ADVICE FREE

If there is anything wrong with any of your live stock—poultry, horses, cows, dogs or sheep—be sure to write to us. Our expert veterinarians will write and tell you what to do immediately.

DOUBLE GUARANTEE

Each package of Pratt's Poultry Regulator is accompanied a written guarantee from the Pratt Food Company, which is signed by the President of the Company and also by your dealer.

Pratt's New Poultry Book (Regular Price, 25 Cents) FREE if you send us your name and address on a postal card.

Pratt Food Co.

Of Canada, Limited

Department 21
88-90 Teraulay Street,
Toronto



Hatch Chickens by Steam with the EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR or WOODEN HEN

Simple, perfect, self-regulating. Hatch every fertile egg. Lowest priced. Write for literature and price. GEO. H. STABLE, Quincy, Ill.