

round it, so that they could not get out. And the yard should not be so large that we could not easily look over it every day, to see that there were no sick hens, and that none were laying outside of the house. We might have two yards for each flock if we had a space for them; and if we had no other business to attend to we might have several flocks; but they should be kept separate every day in the year. Nor should we want more than 25 or 30 hens or chickens in one flock, which would not require a very large house or yard. We know that this would make a larger outlay necessary for the same number, but we believe extra profits would repay that, and it would have the advantage that if roup or other diseases began in one flock it would not spread to others, as it does where there are several flocks in one long house.

Another advantage of the small house and small flock system is that he may begin in a small way and increase every year, as his income from them would warrant and his experience demonstrated his ability to handle a larger number.

This is the way most of our successful raisers of poultry have begun and grown up, while we have known some to begin on a large scale and come out very small.

POULTRY PARAGRAPHS.

The comb of a fowl is an index of its general health. When the comb is bright red, it is a sure sign of a healthy fowl and when disorders arise, the comb becomes dark. Watch the combs and when they change from red in color it indicates a disorder of some kind and the fowl or fowls should be removed from the well ones and be properly treated and cured or be-headed.

Many fanciers do not place so much value on chaff or short straw as they should, I firmly believe. It will help to keep the houses clean as well as in busying the fowls thus keeping them out of mischief and giving them exercise. Houses that are strewn with straw are easily cleaned as the filth is matted in layers that are lifted easily with a fork. I have seen several hen houses within the last year where the fowls were standing on the cold damp ground. There should have been at least six or eight inches of chaff or straw

scattered over the ground or floor of every hen house during the winter and I am sure poultrymen do not half appreciate the value of chaff or straw in their hen houses judging from the meagre use of it in their hen houses during the last winter. Now be sure and have a lot of straw and chaff stored away during the season in the barn or some other convenient place so it can be easily got at to use in the winter of the next year.

See that your breeders are healthy, good in size, vigorous, as near the standard requirements as possible and your best layers.

Keep the early pullets hatched this spring and dispose of the old hens, that have seen their best days.

The hen that is busy, moving about all the time, and scratching here and there, is one of your good layers, you will soon know her and tell her if you will watch her a little.

Keep the water fountains filled with fresh water. Do not let them drink from filthy pools. See that the yard is well and properly drained.

Have good shade for fowls and chicks, they need the sun too. Have both for your birds and they will choose for themselves which ever they need.

Don't begin the poultry business with five or six varieties, or even two or three. One is better, select the one that suits your surroundings and fancy best and stick to it until you are sure that a change is for the best. Have the stick to it ativeness or qualities but do not breed any variety that is not unqualifiedly choice.

It is said by many that out-door work is very beneficial to the physical and mental health of women. I would suggest that feeding and caring for chickens would just fill the bill, but do not keep common scrub chickens. Get some pure-bred fowls, you will like them better and take more interest in raising them. If you want to