

SANITATION

The health of poultry is of paramount importance in its relation to results secured in poultry raising, and the maintaining of health is dependent upon the constitutional vigor of the stock and sanitary methods employed in management.

The first rule of good poultry keeping is to have healthy and vigorous stock. Every bird in the flock should possess a sound constitution, otherwise it is impossible to breed good stock. The constitutional vigor of a bird should be the first test to which it is submitted in selecting it for the breeding pen and poultry breeders should develop the ability of selecting a good from a poor bird.

There are several external evidences of good vigor. A healthy appearance, combined with a bright red comb, a full, bright eye and a glossy plumage are strong evidences of a sound, vigorous constitution. In a good breeder the head is short and broad and the neck is of fair length, not snake-like in appearance, and is well attached to the shoulders, which are broad. The back is fairly long and the body is deep and well meated. The legs are short and strong and are well placed under the body.

The proper feeding of the fowls is important to keep them in the best possible condition. The food given to poultry should always be wholesome. An abundant supply of green food is always necessary. It is wise to avoid overfeeding at all times, but more particularly when the chicks are young; overfeeding affects the digestion and lowers the vitality.

Clean and fresh drinking water should always be provided. The drinking vessel is the most effective means of spreading disease among the birds, for this reason it is very necessary to take every precaution in keeping the vessels clean. It is a good practice to put in the drinking water some antiseptic, such as potassium permanganate, which can be bought at any drug store. Make a stock solution by putting the potassium permanganate one inch thick in a jar and filling the jar with water. The water will dissolve most of the permanganate but more of the crystals should be added from time to time. Whenever the poultry is watered add enough of the stock solution to give the drinking water a deep purple color. In addition to this the drinking vessels should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Where poultry is kept on the same soil year after year, and if the soil is not cultivated regularly, it soon becomes tainted and unsuitable for