

"When the fowls are restless, and constantly picking in their feathers, they are infested with vermin.

"When young poultry, especially ducklings, appear to have a sore throat and swallowing is difficult, it is the symptom of the large grey lice on the neck.

"If a fowl has a bilious look, with alternate attacks of dysentery and costiveness, it is suffering with liver complaint. A lack of grit, over-feeding, and idleness will cause this trouble.

"A hospital should be a part of every poultry yard. As soon as a fowl gets sick remove it to the hospital, and commence doctoring it at once. The trouble with far too many is that they wait until the disease is in its advanced stages before they commence giving medicine. A very sick fowl is difficult to cure, and when cured it is seldom of value afterward."

#### NATURAL INCUBATION.

This subject is more or less familiar to everyone, and yet many failures are made every year because of the mismanagement or ignorance of the owners of the hens; hence we consider it advisable to give a brief article here. To hatch strong, healthy chicks, either by natural or artificial means, requires that the eggs incubated upon are fresh, and shall have been laid by strong, healthy stock.

#### NEST BOXES.

The subject of nest boxes is a much discussed one, opinions differing greatly. We prefer single boxes outside the roosting house, because where hens lay and sit lice naturally congregate, and when the nests are built in the house the whole affair is soon full of them.

Make boxes 15 inches wide, 18 inches long, 14 inches high in front, 9 inches high at back. Make a good, tight, removable top. Cut a door 6 x 8 inches in one corner of front end. No bottom is needed; scoop out a shallow hole where box is to sit, and put in plenty of clean hay or straw. When the straw becomes soiled, place the box with contents a sufficient distance away from the house, and burn the straw while in the box. In this way all lice will be killed. Before adding new nest material give the inside of box a good coat of whitewash or kerosene emulsion.

#### NESTS AND ATTENTION FOR SITTING HENS.

The nest boxes should be roomy, airy, secluded—in a place secure from intrusion by man or fowl; keep everything clean and free from odors, and always see that a proper dust-bath, grit, water, and feed are in easy reach. Where a number are to be set in one room they can be shut in, and every morning open the doors to nests, and, after allowing them to come off, dust themselves, eat and drink, see that each hen goes back to her proper nest. In a few days they will learn what is expected when the doors are opened, and there will be no trouble. We make it a rule to examine each nest when the hen is off, so that should any eggs be broken the remainder can be washed, and everything put in proper order before she goes back.



A Group of White Plymouth Rocks,  
The property of The Ontario Agricultural College. These birds are said to be as good as any in America, of this variety.

It is a good plan to set three or more at one time, and then test out the infertile eggs. Often in this way the third hen can be reset, saving thereby much valuable time in the early spring when sitters are scarce. Do not trouble the hens any more than is absolutely necessary, as it is a mistaken idea to be raising them off the nest daily to see how the eggs are looking. Avoid setting hens that are nervous or quarrelsome. Such hens are sure to break more or less eggs, and to trample to death the young as they are hatched. Sitting hens should be fed almost exclusively on corn, though should they tire of it any other food may be furnished.

Before setting the hens, dust the nest and hen thoroughly with insect powder, and repeat the operation at least twice more during the hatch,