

## Our Weekly Poultry Column

By H. B. S.

### HENS

I've a varied lot of chickens  
In a pen  
And they used to raise the dickens  
Now and then.  
Every rooster in the flock.  
Brahma, Leghorn, Plymouth Rock,  
Dunghill strain and blooded stock.  
Loved one hen.

She was fickle and flirtatious,  
Gay and spunky,  
Coy, uncertain, pert, audacious.  
Likewise sly.  
When some valiant chancier  
Tried to whisper in her ear,  
He received a vicious spear  
In his eye.

But one day a scrawny fellow,  
Old and tough,  
Randy-legged, dingy yellow,  
"Called her bluff."  
Female feather filled the air.  
Blood was spattered everywhere.  
But he belted her then and there,  
Sure enough.

From that very day and hour  
She was meek;  
Mistress Hen was in his power.  
So to speak.  
Followed him across the lot,  
Saved him all the worms she got.  
Fed 'em to him like as not,  
With her beak.

This is just a homely tale,  
But it's true,  
Hens prefer a master male.  
Yes they do.  
He who hesitates is lost,  
Stand your ground at any cost,  
Hens delight in being bossed—  
Women too.

**The Standard.**  
The American Standard of Perfection is the only recognized authority on the required characteristics of all breeds and varieties of chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys, bred in Canada and the United States. It is published every five years by the American Poultry Association as a guide for the breeding and judging of pure-bred poultry, and is the recognized authority at all poultry shows in Canada and the United States.

The book gives the correct standard shape, color, weights, and disqualifications of each variety. It contains ideal illustrations of each variety, also color charts, demonstrating the shades of color as outlined in the text matter.

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The preparation of the Standard of Perfection entails an immense amount of work and study, and the Revision Committee has no light task in revising the matter and illustrations every five years. The illustrations receive the greatest attention, and much work and study is required, before drawings are produced, that approach the ideal. The drawings are made from photographs of living models, retouched by the artist to conform to the ideal. This work occupies the time of several artists for several months, and costs many thousand dollars, for the ideal drawings alone.

The standard is a necessary part of every poultry yard, that is ambitious to breed to ideal standard requirements. Theoretically, it is an impossibility to breed a perfect bird—a bird that answers the standard requirements in every detail. Many really good specimens have been exhibited, specimens which had all the semblance of perfection, but which on examination were found lacking in some section. These birds practically speaking, portrayed the ideal or perfect bird, as they were in fact the nearest approach to the ideal, yet produced. The standard for each breed has been set high, and to produce specimens approaching the ideal in all sections, requires the utmost skill of the most experienced breeders.

In setting the standard for each breed, care is taken to preserve the characteristics of the variety, and introduce no departure of a radical nature, which would injure the utility qualities of the breed. The standard of perfection sets no standard for utility requirements, the characteristic of the individual breeds covering this point. A new breed seeking admission to the standard must be capable of demonstrating its ability to breed true to the characteristics expected by the originators, and must be supported by a demand of several faniers of the variety. The breed need not have utility qualities, in the line of egg production or market values, so long as it breeds true to a certain set standard for shape and color pattern.

There are many breeds in the Standard of Perfection, which cannot lay claim to being suited to the purpose of commercial exploitation, but owe their existence to some characteristic, which makes them valuable as an exhibition fowl. On the other hand, many of the breeds of the standard of Perfection are considered as utility breeds, and are bred with this view in mind. The standard shape and color requirements of these breeds are such that the utility qualities are retained, if

properly bred. In the show room, all varieties are judged, according to the ideal set forth in the Standard of Perfection, and not for any ability for egg production or meat production. In the show room, all varieties are on an equal footing, any breed having the opportunity to win premier honors. It often happens that a bantam hen or cock, will outclass a Rock or Wyandotte for the "best bird in the show" prize, the breeding of the bird, compared with the ideal for the breed, alone being the factor deciding the decision.

All faniers should possess a copy of the Standard, as it is absolutely necessary that he be familiar with the requirements of the breed of his choice. It is a valuable aid in mating up the breeding pens, and should be consulted, when performing this important work. The book will be a great aid in selecting sale stock, and prevent many sales proving unsatisfactory, through lack of knowledge of the requirements of the birds. Every judge carries a copy of the Standard to the show room for aid in judging and the settling of disputes. Procure a Standard and become familiar with the necessary points of your breed, and you will find that it will be much easier to breed good specimens, and also be an incentive and encouragement to strive for nothing short of the ideal bird.

**Stick to Your Breed.**  
One of the greatest cause for failure is the incessant habit some faniers have of changing the variety of fowls bred each season, or every other season. This continual changing of varieties loses much valuable time, and also has the disadvantage of continually keeping a breeder at the starting point. The writer could cite an instance where this particular habit has almost ruined a fanier, who had ambitions of establishing



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a large plant, covering several acres of land. Seven or eight varieties were kept at the start, in a year or two, several varieties were discarded, again the list of varieties was reduced to two, and these were tried for a time, after which these in turn were replaced by others of a different strain. Yet in the advertising of this plant, the birds were bred for egg-laying and the show. This statement was misleading and false, as in fact, birds were never bred there, in its true meaning, as the plant was never in a position to breed anything, always being at the starting point.

Several years of valuable effort have been lost through a fickle mind. Lack of concentration has caused financial loss and threatened failure. Reviewing the success enjoyed by some of the foremost men engaged in poultry raising, we find that in most cases, they are specialists in one or two varieties. They have been breeding one or two varieties for many years, and have concentrated their best efforts in improving these varieties, and to-day they are enjoying unbounded success, a success envied by many of the older breeders, but breeders of the new varieties.

Many new breeds are produced from time to time, and it is just and right that they should be welcomed by the faniers, who will support them by breeding them, but it is absolutely a mistake to be stampeded into the delusion that the new breed is better than the one you are now breeding. All breeds are capable of improvement, and all breeds are not improved in a short space of time. It will require many years of painstaking effort to effect real improvement, and the improvement, while real and sure, may be slow in revealing itself, but nevertheless, the fact should be headed, that well-directed and sustained effort will have its compensations, sooner or later.

Make your decision now to specialize

in one, or more breeds, and set a high standard to which you aspire, and right now set forth your line of action, and forge ahead towards the goal. It will at times become discouraging, but steadfastness will win out. Make your breed the best breed, and you will derive beneficial knowledge and enjoyment in the achieving.

**Notes.**  
The standard weights of mature stock of the leading general purpose breeds are:

	Cock	Hen
Rhode Island Red	8 lbs.	6 1/2 lbs.
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Wyandotte	8 1/2 lbs.	6 1/2 lbs.
Rocks	9 lbs.	7 1/2 lbs.
Orpingtons	10 lbs.	8 lbs.

In the National Egg Laying Contest in Missouri in 1914, the average eggs laid per hen in twelve months was for all Wyandottes 100; all Barred Rocks, 176; all Single Comb White Leghorns 172, and Single Comb Rhode Island Red 171. Individual records were made as follows: a White Leghorn laid 286 eggs, a white Wyandotte 265, a Barred Rock 254, a White Orpington 246, a white rock 242 and a Rhode Island Red 239.

In the Connecticut egg-laying contest held at Storrs, Connecticut, the first year a Rhode Island Red hen was first with a record of 265 eggs, the second year a White Leghorn was first, laying 282 eggs, and the third year a White Wyandotte led, producing 265 eggs.

Mouldy litter in poultry houses and mouldy feed are the cause of a large number of deaths among poultry particularly among chicks.

A utility bird is rarely worth doctoring, the axe or hatchet being an excellent surgical instrument to apply to sick fowls.

Kindness shown to fowls pays in increased egg supply.

Pullets should be separated from the cockerels as soon as sex can be distinguished.

Question—"Do you know how to make a rooster stop crowing in the morning?"

Answer—"Kill him the night before."

Poultry manure contains 2.43 per cent. of phosphoric acid, 2.26 per cent. potash, and 3.25 per cent. nitrogen, as ammonia and organic matter.

## Attacks of Enemy Are Repulsed

Another 'Heavy Bombardment In Sector North of Arras'

Paris, June 24.—Relative calm prevailed last night and to-day in the section north of Arras, while the French troops consolidated the positions recently captured. A heavy bombardment was kept up in this district, the German fire damaging particularly the hospital of the Holy Sacrament at Arras; killing several sisters and nurses.

Further artillery actions are reported in the district of Berry-au-Bac and the Voisin de Sapigneul and west of Peronne, in the last named case the bombardment being preceded by the explosion of a German mine under the French trenches. The German attack which succeeded the bombardment failed.

The allies in the Festubert district have come against the most formidable entrenchments yet encountered in the whole war; they are composed of solid cement and steel plates, with dugouts twenty feet deep. The British soldiers unite in declaring

they never have seen anything like them. In these entrenchments, aided by the enormous number of machine guns they are using, the Germans are enabled to hold their line with comparatively few men actually in the trenches.

A despatch from Northern France to the Central News says fierce fighting is in progress on the French front. "The dominance of French arms," it says, "is definitely assured, and progress, although slow, is uninterrupted. The enemy is expending munitions indiscriminately, and is using asphyxiating shells in increasing quantities. The French .75 guns have created a veritable inferno, which makes counter-attacks impossible."

Kansas will produce three and a half million bushels of apples this year, the outlook continues good. Oliver Merrill finds he can safely grow asparagus in his poultry runs and amid the fowl.

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