

bred flock is worth more to breed from, than a supremely excellent specimen from a flock not well-bred.

But we do not get the best definition of success in breeding by considering merely the external or show characteristics of fowls. We are never to forget, that the value—the real value—of domestic fowls depends upon their usefulness to man. Exhibitions are very useful to stimulate breeders to produce the highest type of figure and color. Through their influence poultry breeding receives an impetus that compels progress. They dignify the pursuit. Without these exhibitions, the real value of poultry and poultry breeding, would scarcely have been known, certainly would not have attracted the great interest that it does now. And we, therefore, ought not to depreciate poultry exhibitions and exhibition poultry. But neither should we forget that utility is the broad base upon which the poultry industry rests, and that beautiful figures and lovely colors, without this base, cannot keep the poultry industry alive. If fowls were not good layers and did not furnish wholesome and delicious food, they would rapidly diminish in numbers until but a few would remain, kept by ultra-fanciers, for the same reason that cage birds and fancy mice are kept, to delight the eye and divert the mind. If their utility is the base upon which the poultry industry rests, that which makes the industry possible, the highest success in breeding consists in the improvement of the useful qualities of fowls. This, indeed, deserves to be considered the only real success in breeding, because its importance so overshadows all other successes, that they seem as nothing compared to it. This kind of success affects the whole nation, while other kinds of success affect only a comparatively

few individuals directly. Because of its wide-spread influence, because of the millions directly affected, improvement in useful qualities is the highest definition of real success in breeding. The breeder who can improve his flock, so that the hens increase their annual output of eggs from eight or ten dozens each to twelve or fifteen dozens each; or who improves the table qualities, so that the proportion of offal to meat is materially reduced, the quality of the flesh improved, and the cost of production considerably reduced; or who, in the production or improvement of the so-called general purpose fowls, succeeds in adding a few more eggs to the production of each hen, and at the same time im-

proves the table qualities, and reduces the cost at which each pound of flesh is produced; the breeder, we say, who does either of these things, and impresses their qualities, not upon some one or two individual fowls, but upon the whole flock under his charge, has attained real success in breeding. No higher ideal than this can be found. And it would be well if every beginner in poultry keeping would seriously consider this subject and determine that, whatever ideas of success others may entertain, for him only, the highest should be sufficient. One hardly dares to think, so stupendous would be the result, what would follow from the combined efforts of poultrymen working to this end, the attainment of real success in breeding fowls.

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