

of their intelligence, saying that the study of poultry is a very mean sort of business and only fit for old women etc, and they will even half excuse themselves if they are caught in a poultry house.

Let me say that the breeding of poultry gives a man of more than average brains plenty of work for his intellect, and that we want many more of such men than we have at present in our ranks, so if you are a being of superior intelligence, do not let that debar you from entering the ranks of the professional fancier or poultry man. Bring your brains along, they will help you a great deal more in this work than in many other professions, and above all, come with the intention of being proud of your position and a determination not to give in; then if you fail, I am a great "gossoon," whatever that may be.

One more "don't" comes into my mind, viz.: don't "trust to luck" for your success. If there is a business where luck has little to do, it is in poultry-keeping. How many times have visitors said to me: "you seem to have good luck with your birds." Oftener than any other phrase has that been used. Always remember that fowls are not naturally a sickly lot of critters as some people fancy, discard drugs, except in necessary instances, and also egg foods. I hear you ask why, and answer that the properties of the several egg foods are to excite the ovaries, and generative functions of the hen, to their highest capacity. If you have any idea of medicine and its effects on the different organs of man, beast and bird, you will readily see how hurtful must be the effect on the hens powers of reproduction. It is all very well for the makers of these egg foods to say that they contain only the elements of the egg. The food the bird eats contain the same. But watch the action of most egg foods and it will convince you at once. The hen will begin to lay oftener and too quickly after it is supplied, for the ingredients to have formed a part of the eggs. How do we know this, you say—because the eggs are existing already in the body of the hen in every stage of development from the size of a pin head to that which in a few minutes will be expelled. I would have more faith in

egg food if it did not do its work so "sudden." If you want to rush your hen and get all you can in one short season, it is all right, but to keep your stock in vigor from year to year for breeding, let nature and good living do its work.

As to drugs it puts me in mind of what a person said to me lately after asking advice for a sick bird. Well, said he, "I don't know how it is, I give them all the things I read of in the papers that are good for them. I give them iron in their water and sulphur in their feed and red pepper and bone meal and anti-roup mixture, etc., yet they get sick, and a lot of them had bowel complaint this spring, and I got a packet of cholera medicine—cost me 60 cents and did not cure them. I feel disheartened, and sorry I went into fowls. I did not know they were sickly things." As I look back on my own experience I can sympathise with the complainant, and finally sent him on his way rejoicing. I told him I would go and have a look at the stock and to use no more medicine. The trouble with him was checking the loose state of bowels with cholera mixture, and feeding sulphur at the same time. It is a wrong idea people have; fowls need none of these things half the time, when they are compelled to take them. A little iron is good once in a way, but the birds do not need it at all, if at perfect liberty. The person referred to had previously told me that he took a certain poultry paper because it had so many prescriptions for cases of sickness in it. I really think the way advice is given sometimes in poultry papers is enough to frighten any person out of the idea of going into chickens. This is the popular style:

Roup pills, indispensable to the fancier, 50c per box. Mr. Humbugs cholera mixture, \$1 per bottle; you can't keep fowls without it. The celebrated dyspepsia cure prepared by Mr. Know-all, will cure the worst case of indigestion in fowls; you can't get along without it. And so on.

(To be Continued.)

Broken egg shells and gravel should also be constantly kept before the birds. It helps grind their food and thereby aids digestion