

Discussion on Raising and Management of Poultry.

Continued.
NESTING.

Col. Wilson.—In regard to the nesting I would speak more particularly. I find poultry houses where little attention is paid to the privacy and secrecy of the nests. The fowl is inclined to be cute. She likes to get out of the way. She wants to make her nest in the corner. The nests in a poultry house should be so arranged as to be entered from the rear. They should be so that the hen can enter from behind and be enclosed in front. You will find an increase in the product simply because the hen will sooner return to laying. Under my roof I have a roost arranged in the upper corner. The house was 15 feet long, 8½ feet wide and 7 feet high, so I could well stand up under the eaves. There was about 6 feet that was partitioned off from the floor about three and a half feet high, so that they could run beneath it. That I made tight to be warmed from below and ventilated from the top so as to get adequate ventilation for health. The matter of ventilation must be regarded. Hens want more ventilation in warm weather and less in cold weather. Bodily heat is their source of warmth. You must be careful in regard to moisture. There is a large amount of moisture in the droppings of the fowls, and if it is not guarded against diligently it will produce serious unwholesomeness. It is much better to remove it or it is developed, say once in two or three weeks, or perhaps once a month. The material should be put in a dry place. The only difficulty with hen manure is that the moisture encourages those chemical changes which causes loss in value. It can be dried so as to be put in permanent form and it will not deteriorate. If dried sufficiently it can be kept without deterioration. I think that there is not attention enough paid in families to this matter, and that is the particular topic which I would confine myself to now, and I feel that my remarks are pertinent to it. Those individuals who feel that they want to keep a stock of poultry will find themselves mistaken if they do not observe these points.

GRAVEL AND OYSTER SHELLS.

The first suggestion which I offer in regard to poultry keeping, is that in the house where the fowls are kept should be a supply of nice gravel and ground oyster shells to furnish material for the shells of the eggs. And I often think it is an excellent method to put in a stone of lime and let it slack gradually. The hens like it. They will work it in amongst their feathers and protect themselves from vermin. If shells can be obtained they should be put in for the hens to scratch in. Where those materials are furnished and sulphur is sprinkled occasionally, you will find that the hens have sufficient means for keeping clean. This will keep them in good health and in their best condition.

Mr. CHARLES B. TRAVIS.—I want to ask the gentleman who read the paper how he managed to keep his Light Brahmas from laying on too much fat after they become a year and a half old. This peculiarity is not from their propensity to set.

Mr. FELCH.—Any one who keeps Light Brahmas should not attempt to keep the young and the old fowls together. Old fowls must be fed very largely on a vegetable food to keep them from becoming fat as has been spoken of. If you take care to keep away corn from them they will lay the second year about as well as the first. But if you put the fowls and the pullets together and feed them alike, when the pullets are laying the fowls will lay because they have become excessively fat.

DON'T KEEP FOWLS OVER A YEAR OLD.

Mr. RANKIN.—I never keep an Asiatic fowl to be over a year old, because I think they never lay as many eggs the second year as they do the first. They are brooding, they take on fat, their breath gets shorter and shorter and they become apoplectic. Occasionally you find one dead under the roost in the morning. The pullets do fairly better than the old fowls. Of course the Leghorn being not a broody fowl will do as well or better the second, third or fourth year as the first. My plan has been to reduce the poultry business to a system as nearly as possible by getting out 2,000 chicks during the latter part of March and April, in order to have the pullets laying during the winter. The cockerels I consider will sell for enough to pay for their own growth and the growth of the pullets up to the time of laying. I usually intend to make one dollar apiece clear on each pullet during the winter, and to sell them June 1st. They ought to average one dollar apiece, realizing about two dollars on each pullet clear of all expense. That I think a person ought to do in order to claim to be fairly successful.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME WYANDOTTE.

Mr. HOUDLETTE.—In 1833 the new varieties came up for discussion at Worcester before the American Poultry Association, and among others these birds were presented for acceptance. A variety of names were offered for adoption, among them the Columbias, and a very eccentric friend from Wor-

cester who thought he had hit upon just the thing, when asked for his opinion took the old name, the honored Ambright. Several other names were placed before the Association.

On my own part I had studied up some in regard to the origin of the birds, that is in what place they originated and what stock they came from, and made up my mind before any other name came up for adoption that the name selected should be some of our aboriginal names. The breed originated near the shores of Lake Huron, in the vicinity of Detroit, and in that locality, among the first to raise them being one of the first breeders at the time, though we don't hear so much of him to-day, Mr. Whittaker, of North Adams, who was well known through all that section. I made up my mind at that time that some of the Indian names would be best.

In order to understand my feeling you should know that when I was quite a boy my father was a ship builder in the State of Maine. He built several vessels and I was launched in the last one. He called her the Wyandotte, and that name has always been fresh in my mind. In looking up the different tribes that lived near and around the lakes, especially near Detroit, I found that the Hurons and Wyandottes occupied nearly all that territory. The Wyandottes were the noblest of the tribes. I adopted the name for my part and intended to push it for all it was worth. When new names came up in 1833 these were presented. Finally my eccentric friend was so persistent for Ambright that we allowed him to make a suggestion that three names should be placed before the committee on the acceptance of new breeds by the Association. Ambright was named for me, the Columbias for another, and Wyandotte last. Suffice it to say that "Wyandotte" was accepted and perhaps I have the honor to be the one who placed that name before the public.

Nests.

We are now at work with old mother hens, coaxing them to do their best towards filling our yards with vigorous chicks, on which so much of our success depends, and at this period of chicken life nests is a word having much meaning, especially to the beginner. Let me say to such, and only for such do I write, that nests are not such difficult things to manage as you may have been led to imagine. Perhaps one may retort, "If your experience had been like mine you would not so lightly treat what is my *bete noire*." My reply is, Because I have had experience too dreadful to detail, in all its harrowing horror, (that's turgid enough for emphasis, I hope,) that I repeat, the nest is not an unmanageable or difficult part of poultry work. Give roominess, cleanliness, and soft oat straw and I don't care whether the nest is on the ground, or board floor or straw mow, so far as the nest is concerned, you are all right. Emphatically I urge, don't take a box and put in sod—grass up or down. Don't do it even if the king urges you. The woful recollections of hot, dry sods, hard as adamant, dried eggs, cooked germs, maddened hens, so enraged as to mash up the whole thing, all this bids me say don't go and do likewise. A sod nest champion, who has not much experience, declares the "sod nest is near to nature, &c." How near? As the east is near the west. Supposing—and imagination must help us here—nature so dry that she has only three inches of sod, somewhat moist. Supposing a hen commencing brooding and commences house keeping with a nest of eggs, on the earth or ground *a la mode* nature, if it does not rain for twenty-one days, how many chicks would likely result?