

your pullets ready for winter laying. Supply your pens with plenty of grit, oyster shells, clean straw, a good drinking fountain, roosts, and drop-boards about two feet from the ground, so that you lose none of the floor room for scratching purposes, good nest-boxes, as much in the dark as possible to prevent egg-eating, and you are ready for the winter season. As to feed and care for winter laying, I would recommend a morning meal of fine-cut clover steeped over night, mixed with thirty per cent. bran, thirty per cent shorts, fifteen per cent. each of cornmeal and ground oats, and ten per cent. green cut bone or meat scraps, at least four mornings in the week, alternating with cooked vegetables and the above ingredients, except the bone or meat, which could be substituted by linseed meal. Be sure and leave the fowls with an appetite after the morning meal, which can be gradually appeased during the day by throwing a few handfuls of grain, such as barley, buckwheat, rye, oats and wheat alternately into the litter to keep them busy and out of mischief. The supply of water should have the chill taken off in the very cold weather. Charcoal should be kept in a box where it will be easy of access, also a dust-box in the most sunny corner of the pen. As to hatching by incubators, I would advise every farmer to do so, principally for the purpose of having early chicks for the market. Of course raising chicks in this way entails a somewhat more complicated arrangement, to wit: a brooder house supplied with a proper heater, which you will find described in many of the poultry journals; yet I believe a less expensive mode of heating could be secured by using rough hardwood instead of coal, which runs away with the profits. In using wood a brick furnace would be necessary, which, with proper check-drafts, would insure a regular heat during any period of enforced absence. But do not attempt this unless you mean business from the word 'go.' As to incubators, there are a number of good machines on the market, yet none of them will run themselves; therefore a little brains is necessary to run them successfully. We are operating at the present time the 'Safety' and 'Victor' machines. Having the chickens hatched, place them in a brooding-house or brooders, which are supplied by the incubator manufacturers. For myself, I prefer the brooding-house—about 100 chicks to each hover or pen; size five feet by nine, in-

cluding hover. The feeding process will be an exact repetition of that for biddy-hatched chicks; but if they are intended for broilers or general market poultry a limited range should be enforced, as an unlimited one would run too much flesh off, and a more liberal supply of food is necessary to force them right along so that they can be marketed at about twelve weeks old, yet care is necessary that they are not fed off their legs. Soft food once a day in the morning I believe to be advantageous, if for no other reason than at that time the crop is thoroughly empty owing to the long night's fast, and the soft food is easily digested, and the system is all the more readily supplied with nutriment. The balance of the day's rations should be good, whole, sweet grain, supplemented by vegetables if the young flock have not ready access to growing clover or other green food.

As to the exhibiting of poultry, the experienced breeder alone knows the care, the patience, the skill, the judgment and the time necessary to carry off highest honors at our best poultry shows. One requisite, forbear quarreling with the judges, and allow that they know at least a little more all round than the exhibitor, or, as a rule, they would not be placed in such a position of trust. Always accept their decisions with good grace, no matter whether they have scored your birds well up in the nineties or figuratively cut their heads off, for in so doing you will many times gain the benefit of a doubt when comparisons run close. Presuming that you have good, vigorous, healthy birds to begin with, it does not require an excessive amount of work to put them in show condition. Have them perfectly clean from top of head to point of toes, light birds by a thorough washing, and dark birds by the use of benzoin sponged over the feathers until all dirt and grease is removed. Wash and oil the legs of all kinds and colors. Scaly legs may be prevented or cured by a liberal use of lard mixed with sulphur about equal parts. On no account forward diseased birds for exhibition, which not only endangers the health of other birds but lends an unfavorable impression of the breeder to the public. To my mind there is no excuse for half the diseases so prevalent amongst poultry. As to titivating birds for the show-room, make nature appear in its Sunday best form, and there draw the line. Anything more is dishonest