

originally costs, say, \$40. It will cost at least \$25 to feed her one year, and this sum will not allow of any "plum-cake" feeding either. Now you know, and I know, that if that cow's produce will make \$75 in the year it is every cent it will make. And surely it is very good, for we have made \$50 on our \$40 investment, labor not included. Now we will take our hen at a value of 40 cents. It is a poor hen that lays less than ten dozen eggs a year, and these eggs should bring, on an average, at least 15 cents a dozen. This is \$1.50 in eggs. Besides this, our hen will sit and produce us, say, 5 chicks—a small hatch, certainly. These chicks are poor ones if they don't sell for 25 cents each; on a farm, it will not cost us more than 15 cents each to raise them to a marketable age. Now we have added 50 cents more to our hen's profit. In the summer she will find most of her own food, and surely 50 cents will cover the actual value of all food she will consume during a year. Remember, we are talking about fowls on a farm, and not as kept by poultrymen, or fanciers. We now have left \$1.50 on our investment of 40 cents. Of course, \$1.50 is a small sum of money, and a good way from \$50. But, hold on—we can buy 100 hens every time we buy one cow, and, at that rate, our poultry profit jumps to \$150, or three times as much as the same investment in cows produced. Now, if our cow was a paying investment—which we think no one will deny—how much more profitable is our poultry investment!

Oh, no; I haven't exaggerated the poultry side one bit; in fact, I have hardly done the hen justice, and I have been very lenient towards the cow. Farmers, stop and think on this point. Lay prejudice aside and give poultry-raising the same care and attention you would dairying or any other branch of profitable stock-raising. Of course this may mean that you will have to improve your poultry houses and care for them in a different manner from what you have been doing in the past. But if it *pays* to do so, why not do so, and that at once? No good result is obtained without trouble, and delays are dangerous.

#### A STOCK OF POULTRY A FIRST-CLASS SPRAYING OUTFIT.

Our subject is "Poultry Raising: Its Importance to Farmers." We have tried to show that

poultry-raising is a money-making branch of farming, which, of course, must be the strongest point in its favor. We claim—and there are many who will substantiate what we say—that with the investment required poultry will pay the largest per cent. of any branch of farming. But is poultry-raising important to the farmer as an adjunct to any other branch? "Oh, yes," some say, with a blood-in-the-eye wink; "hens destroy our grain and damage lots of fallen fruit." To this remark we would answer that if your fowls are looked after as they should be it will be no trouble to keep them out of the grain for the week or two that they might do damage to it; and that the orchard is just the place for them. Suppose they *do* spoil a few apples of the lowest value; is it not much better for them to do so than that you should have your fruit all wormy, etc.? Remember



Barred Plymouth Rocks,  
Bred by Mr. J. J. Lenton, now of Biltmore, N.C.

that fowls are great insect destroyers, and that when they have access to the orchard or the garden at certain periods of the year the benefit is greater than many imagine. Take plums, for instance. We all know that if the curculio would leave plums alone bushels would be gathered where now, in many cases, only quarts are gathered, and that oftentimes the complete failure of a promising plum crop is the result of this pest. Now it is an established fact that if plum trees are planted in the poultry yard, or if fowls have liberty to be among them, the plums are rarely affected by the curculio, and good yields of the fruit are obtained. This advantage, then, ought to be added to the profit side of the poultry account. Instead of this, however, the poor fowls are abused because they touch some of the fruit they have indirectly produced. Yes, as insect destroyers poultry are very valuable to farmers.