

thing but dry grain was fed than under any other regimen, and less of it with good baked food; still too much of any will produce it.

For floors, where cleanliness is an object, road-dust is, in my opinion, the very worst thing that can be used. If a bird get the least bit damp it is soon in a mess. And the whole place is kept polluted—you can't touch any part but you are covered with dust. Why will it not be as easy and as economical of time to take a few minutes every morning, and clean up, and thus keep the place clean and sweet without the necessity of using such a nuisance on account of its deodorizing properties? And further, if you wish to get up nice exhibition birds, *you must*. Sawdust is clean and sweet, and with it your house is always clean, and you can go into it with pleasure; but lake or river sand is the very best thing of all. Get up a few loads in summer, get it dry, and store away in boxes or barrels for winter use; clean up every morning, take a pail of this sand and sprinkle over the floor, and if any brother fancier can improve on that for cleanliness and comfort to his flock, I am mistaken.

I have noticed that many beginners go to the general newspapers with their little difficulties, and the answer to this question, "Road-dust" seems to be fossilized. Of course if we assume that the cleaning is to be done once a week or once a month, or even once a winter, then the advice fits exactly. But surely a man don't presume to call himself a fancier whose only anxiety is to have his birds come out in good health and laying condition in spring, with as little trouble as possible? Evidently the advice is intended for a poulterer or farmer, whose sole object in keeping fowls is profit. It can't be pleasure or it would be a pleasure to have and keep them clean. A man who stands at the door of his hen-house once a day, and throws in a supply of food, can hardly be called a fancier. If so his fancy shows itself strangely. The true fancier goes in, and not unfrequently takes a seat or leans against a wall, and surveys his birds with critical eye, noting a weakness here and a deficiency there, concludes that his whole flock partake of a certain thing that he don't like, and, as a result, sends off to some brother fancier for a specimen to fill in that gap. And is he likely to do this amid the accumulations of months, and his vision beclouded by clouds of dust? Hardly..

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILLET.

Nantye P. O., Nov. 27th, 1884.

Keep the fowls employed, the quarters clean and free from leaks and draughts, feed and water regularly, and you may reasonably expect to have healthy fowls and eggs in plenty.

The Winter Season.

Editor Review.

The season is now here when the expert market poulterer reaps his harvest. As the cold weather approaches, fresh eggs become scarce, and prices go up as a consequence. The average farmer's chickens are hatched too late to commence laying in the fall; and even if hatched early, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred their houses and general treatment are not such as to induce laying at this season of the year. And by the time the old hens get over their moult, the weather is so cold and everything looks so dreary, and when we add to the inclemency of the weather the fact that she is half starved, it is no wonder that poor Biddy turns sulky and persistently refuses to lay. The miseries and privations endured by many farmer's fowls during winter is sufficient to call forth the sympathy of the most hard-hearted. Fowls, turkeys, ducks and geese all huddled into one miserable, draughty, leaky hovel, swarming with vermin and filth, nearly frozen during cold snaps, and in mild weather half stifled at night with poisonous air, never a drop of water to drink, unless they are fortunate enough to find some melted snow, and hardly enough food to keep the life in them. Such is the treatment most farmers consider good enough for poultry.

Many of our city fanciers who zealously attend to the wants of their pets, and who seldom go to the country in winter, may perhaps think this picture overdrawn, but I am sorry to say it is only too true a description of thousands of farm-yards.

Under such conditions as these it is no wonder that eggs become scarce in winter. Indeed the only wonder is that the fowls do not become scarce too.

The poulterer who hatched his chickens in April or early May has nearly all his pullets laying now, provided they are the right kind, and have had proper care. Those which have not commenced to lay should be fed stimulating food until they commence to shell out, then they can be forced still more, gradually increasing the pressure until they are in full laying condition, then by judicious management they can be kept at it all winter.

The shelter provided is quite as important a matter as the food. The house should be warmly built, and kept scrupulously clean, and should be provided with a window to admit light. If possible the dust-bath should be so situated that the rays of the sun will strike it through the window. This is one of the greatest treats that can be given fowls in winter. It affords them lots of amusement and exercise to dig and scratch in the dry dust, and above all it keeps them free of lice.

It will be a great advantage if a shed is attached to each fowl-house. It should have a good roof,