

moderate condition only they will lay well and at all seasons, while for market they may be quickly fattened at any time.

Experienced poultrymen are inclined to believe that the coming cross for producing laying hens will be the Minorca cock and Langshan hen. Both breeds are black, which is not always desirable, but there will be a harmony of color which is considered best in crossing. The white Minorca will do well with white Cochins or light Brahmas, but there is an activity and good foraging qualities in the Langshan as well as the merit of excellent laying that is not found in all breeds. The Minorcas are said to be the best of layers, and are larger than the Leghorns, but in crossing the size of the comb is reduced, and greater vigor imparted than is possessed by either parent. The dark color should not cause any one to relinquish the Langshan. Its good qualities overbalance all such defects as the color of the plumage.

BREED OR FEED.

BY H. S. BABCOCK.

TALK with A and he will assure you that it is all in the breed, but meet B. and he will assure you that it is all in the feed. A. is a man who has studied breeds, learned that one is good for one purpose, and another for another, and believes that averages are absolutely reliable data. B., on the other hand, is a practical sort of a man, who has studied results from different systems of feeding and has convinced himself that it is how and what is fed and not to what the food is given.

Both men are right and both are wrong. They are right in so far as

breed and feed are elements in successful rearing, and wrong in supposing that one element is the sole one to be considered.

Take an illustration: I know of a man who keeps light Brahmas, and he finds them exceedingly profitable. Under his system of feeding he succeeds in getting about 160 eggs per annum from each hen. I know others who declare the Brahmas will not lay many eggs but loaf around the yard when they are not sitting. One feeds the breed correctly, the other does not. It is a case where feeding is the main element in the success or lack of success in keeping this fowl. I think there is good reason to believe that many of the complaints made against various breeds are due to ignorance of the proper care of the breed. The complainer would better find fault with himself than with his fowls. If he would learn how to manage them he would find they would respond more liberally to his care.

But, then, there is a great difference in breeds, irrespective of the management; some will be prolific layers and some will not. Under the best of care the colored Dorking is a rather shy layer, while a Leghorn or Sicilian will lay well even though badly managed.

What is needed is a union of the best breed and the best feed for the special purpose the poultry raiser has in view. If it is eggs, then great laying breeds should be selected and fed for eggs, if table poultry, then the best table fowls should be selected and fed for the production of meat. It is not a difficult matter to so mismanage a breed as to defeat the special purpose for which it has for generations been bred, for it is a very difficult matter to learn just how to manage any breed to secure the best results from it.

In poultry for profit, management counts for a great deal, and in manage-

ment the amount and kind of food is a very important element. He is not a very successful poultry raiser who does well, when by better management he could do better. It is the one who gets the most out of a breed who makes the sure profit in poultry raising. Fowls are profitable stock to keep, and even when but tolerably cared for pay some profit, but it is poor business to make twenty-five cents per head on the fowls when one could make four to six times that amount.

Fowls are more often overfed than underfed, and yet either extreme is unprofitable. An underfed fowl can not make the returns it is capable of making, because it lacks the necessary amount of raw material. An overfed fowl becomes sluggish and inactive, ceases to lay, and ceases to be profitable. If poultry raisers would look upon their fowls as machines, whose purpose was to convert raw material—wheat, oats, corn and the like—into manufactured articles—eggs and chickens—they would see the necessity of understanding their wants better. A machine should be so run that it will be constantly producing manufactured goods, and hence must have all the raw material that it can dispose of, but it must not have more, for if it does the machinery clogs up and the production is interrupted or ceases. Fowls require a certain amount of food to support life, and all that they can properly digest beyond that is what makes the profit. But after a certain point is reached, the extra food they take is converted not into eggs but fat, which lies about the ovaries and prevents the easy and active operations of these organs. So far as my observation will permit me to speak, it is not the poor or the very fat hen which is the most profitable, but one which is well nourished, with muscles plump and full, with a fair amount of external fat but with very little fat within. Such