

were also narrow and destitute of fluff, and the plumage hard instead of soft and downy." Some years later others were imported having a little more of the characteristics of the present birds, and from these and the former importations, through years of careful breeding, has been produced the beautiful and stately Cochins as illustrated above.

This variety has been somewhat libeled. We frequently hear it said that the hens are inordinate sitters. They certainly are inclined to excessive broodiness as they become old, as are all Asiatics, but if properly managed, and only young birds kept (under three years), this complaint would not be often heard. They are the most docile and contented fowl we have, and none will thrive better in confinement.

There does not seem of late to be as great an interest taken in these fowls in Canada as formerly. At our Fall shows this year the entries of old birds have been meagre, while in chicks there can scarcely be said to have been competition. The fancy in Canada cannot afford to let such an attractive and valuable breed deteriorate.

Seasonable Hints.

The Fall shows are now over, with their excitement, elations, and often disappointments, and the breeder and fancier will settle down for another three or four months to the dull routine of every day care. From the present time until the winter shows commence will generally be found the most monotonous season to the poultryman, and his patience and staying powers will be most severely tested. A person may be almost devoid of the love of pets, and yet feel greatly interested in a flock of chickens through all stages of their growth, from the little downy ball of the first few days until maturity is reached; the changes are then so great that there is always some new feature of action or appearance to keep up the interest; but when maturity is reached, frequently not realizing expectations, and the flocks have to be housed, the real drudgery of the business commences, then it is that the fancier is tried—especially if disease gets into his flocks,—and if not of the right metal he will likely give up in disgust.

"Forewarned is forearmed." We never wish to raise too sanguine expectations in beginners, and our advice has always been to "go slow." The greatest stumbling-block in the way of young fanciers is getting too many varieties, and in raising too many chickens. It often appears to us as though no amount of warning will be heeded in this line—the lesson must be learned by experience, and often it proves to be dear experience. How many are there now with great flocks of

chickens about them who have not sufficient accommodation to house them when the cold weather and snow comes, as it must soon. This matter of housing should be settled at once. Calculate first how many fowls your houses will accommodate comfortably when confined to them all day; then select those you intend to keep for next year's breeding and exhibiting, then kill off the poorest, and offer the rest for sale. Advertise them! and don't ask an exorbitant price. Take into your calculations that grain is going to be dear this winter, and it will only pay you to keep the best, and that every day's feeding will reduce the profits on those you have to sell.

Before the fowls are confined to their winter quarter, all preparations for their comfort and good management should be complete, not only should the food supply and warmth of quarters be secured, but precaution should be taken to prevent the acquiring of bad habits by the young stock, such as feather-eating and egg-eating. The easiest and best way to prevent these habits from being acquired is to keep the fowls busy scratching among sand, chaff, or dry leaves for their food. Keep them hungry and at work. The present is the time to gather the fallen leaves. Before gathering them they should be placed in the sun to dry. A layer of these six or nine inches deep will prove an excellent litter for the floor of the hen house, being warm, light, and when turned out with the droppings will make excellent manure. If all the grain given them during the day is scattered over this, the fowls will be kept in sufficient exercise, and the plumage clean and orderly. The evening meal may be given just before dark in the feed trough.

The importance of careful feeding in winter is understood by very few. If the fowls are intended for market it is proper to give them all they can eat and of the most easily assimilated food—they can be fed largely on cooked food to advantage, but when the object is to procure eggs, this line of feeding must not be followed. The feeding largely of cooked food is to a great extent the cause of the sterility of the eggs in the winter and early spring. It deprives the muscles and digestive organs of the work it is both healthful and proper that they should have. Nature has furnished fowls with a mill to grind their food, and if they are supplied with the gravel, etc., necessary to keep it in good working order, no other mill will do the work so well. To those who have been feeding soft food to the flocks in the past we would say: Give no cooked food to the breeding stock this winter. Give changes of good sound grain, fed as directed above, green food and meat in small quantities, but frequently; keep a supply of gravel, old mortar, and charcoal where they