

A Few Little Things to Attend to.

One can succeed in getting the greatest profit from fowls who is shiftless in his habits of attending to the stock. I once called on a man who had an idea that he was a poultryman. When he conducted me to his house I could see the birds were not used to seeing him so often as not to be as he expressed it, so "mighty scared" of him. He took with him a pan of grain; as he threw it down in great profusion I remarked: "Are you not giving them too much, a lot of that grain will be left." "Ah, I guess they'll eat it all, I did not give them any since yesterday morning; I expect you want a drink too, don't you poor fellow" said he, apostrophising the head of the poultry-house. Well I thought that is a poor way to care for stock; to let them go for nearly two days without a feed or a drink. Those are the kind of people who will tell you that they have "tried keeping poultry and it don't pay," they will tell you the "darned things eat their heads off," and never lay an egg except enough for a brood, and then they lay some place where 'you can't find the eggs, and get away and you think a hawk has had them, till after you have put up a tomb stone in their memory, they come home with three or four chickens and these you look forward to with a watering mouth, as you say: I will for once dine off a real chicken. But just when they are nicely grown you miss them one by one. The cats, the neighbors, something is blamed but I tell you "I have just got sick of keeping fowls."

This is the kind of talk we so often hear but with any degree of systematic management, no such experience will fall to the lot of the poultry-keeper. The great trouble is that people will keep a poor lot of birds year after year, breeding them in and in, thus sapping the very foundation of their vigor and usefulness. These people have not the slightest idea of the superiority of improved stock, and in some cases will not even listen to the suggestion that theirs could be improved by a little extra care and this word care does not mean food. Very few fowls, comparatively, suffer from starvation.

But that is the item, care, which means more attention to cleanliness. A

box of dry sand in their pen for them to dust in, some nice sharp gravel and broken crock or delf-ware pounded small; even the broken glass bottles, smashed rather fine; lots of clean cold water in summer, and cosy nests, often replenished with clean straw, a little out of the light, and "put facing the wall if you please" for your shy little pullet to slyly hide herself from sight while she adds her precious mite to the snowy contents of the nest. The careful poultry keeper will never lose the eggs by his hens having to hunt nests in odd corners because he has not a sufficient number to accommodate the layers, or what there are left to get so dirty as to disgust the birds and cause them to look for some cleaner spot. No indeed, he knows too well that even half a dozen eggs per day lost, would amount to quite a sum in the course of a year. Thinking it may be some help to those intending to build, I will try to have ready by next week a description of my own poultry house, as I find it very convenient and easy to handle the stock. This is no small item, for a house can be so badly constructed as to make a great deal more labor and take more time. Let us hope all are taking in hand the spring cleaning of their poultry house. In most cases it needs it far more than the dwelling house.

A WORD ABOUT OUR FACILITIES.

It may be of interest to poultry-keepers and others who are at present possessed of engravings of their pets, to learn that we will, in the very near future, have a complete stereotyping outfit in working order, in connection with our present large newspaper and book publishing business. We will then be able to furnish duplicates of their engravings and stereotypes of their advertisements for use in other journals.

It will perhaps be news to the poultry keepers of this country to learn that we have one of the largest and most complete printing establishments in the whole Province; that we keep three steam presses constantly at work, and that we do an immense jobbing trade, outside our regular newspaper and book work. We are therefore in a position to furnish poultry-keepers with note