

much cheaper to feed good stock than poor; besides, the chances for good results are much better.

The show-room has done more to encourage the breeders to produce good stock than anything else. They realize that competition is the life of trade, and the show-room the best teacher of all. It is here that the many breeders must meet in friendly competition and exchange their ideas. It is here that the public at large sees the results of many years of study and breeding, and it is here that the new and enthusiastic fanciers are produced.

Advertising is another great factor, but the art is much abused. By this I mean that a large per cent of the fanciers and breeders who want to present their names or stock to the public do not realize the importance of a continuous advertisement. Those placed at irregular intervals present nothing more than a chance of attracting the attention which they seek. It is a sort of hit and miss arrangement. Advertising pays when properly done, and the value of printers' ink is best learned by the continuous use of it.

I cannot refrain from expressing my personal gratification at the growth of fellowship among poultry fanciers, as so splendidly evidenced in your international meeting. In it I recognize the advancement of the business and the improvement of methods, to say nothing of the growing sentiment for higher development of friendships and a promotion of that competition which must lead to a healthier and better competition.

### THE REARING AND MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY ON THE FARM.

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**T**HE proper time to begin making preparations for rearing your chickens is early in February. At this time the farmer or his wife, and it is the wife on many farms who takes the greatest interest in the poultry, should carefully select about ten of the choicest hens or pullets, yearling hens preferred, and place them together with a pure-bred male in a pen containing seventy (or over) square feet of floor space. You cannot very well have this pen too large, but it will not do to have it smaller than this, because the birds would be too crowded. The floor of your

poultry-house should be covered with five or six inches of dry sand or clay, and over this again place five or six inches of wheat straw. The purpose of this earth and straw is to enable you to cover all the grain scattered in it so as to make the fowls scratch. It is the nature of a hen to scratch for her living, and we must follow nature as closely as possible, while our hens are confined to their houses in cold weather. A flock of hens that have a trough full of wheat before them all the time will stand round all day, likely begin feather-eating, and certainly will not lay. A lazy hen is a very indifferent layer.

You have no doubt noticed in the spring and autumn that some of the hens remain outside hunting and scratching long after the majority have gone to roost. Such hens are always the best layers. The roosts are important, more important than most people think. When roosting out of doors hens will generally go to a high place. They do this for security. In the morning they fly down obliquely and so light easily. Not so with your high perches in the hen-house. The fowls cannot fly down obliquely from them, as there is not room, and so they must come down heavily, especially if one of the larger breeds. This is certain to bruise their feet, causing bumble-foot. Many farmers have what may be termed ladder-roosts placed against a side of their houses. On these the fowls all crowd for the highest perch, and many are knocked down, falling heavily to the ground and hurting themselves. Under both these styles of roosts the droppings are allowed to accumulate in large quantities, and through it the fowls walk, causing many of them to contract a disease of the legs and feet called "scaly-leg"—a very unsightly disease. This filthy place is the cause of at least one other disease, vermin, that is bound to trouble your fowls if they are not kept clean. Myriads of lice will harbor and multiply in such a place. It is a regular hot-bed for them. Your hens cannot be healthy and thrive in such a place. You know that it does not pay to keep an unhealthy cow or horse about and neither does it pay to keep an unhealthy fowl. Let us then consider how we are going to keep our fowls from feather-eating, egg-eating, scaly-leg and lice. Later on in their proper place we shall speak of the other common diseases. First, the roosts. Build a tight, warm platform 2½ inches from the floor, and 10 inches above