

or two, and sprinkle liberally with insect powder.

Scald the drinking vessels once a week.

Although the poultry year does not, practically, begin with January, yet it is a good time to start accounts so that facts and figures may be included in the year's diaries.

Just at this time of the year, those who had fowls to cater to the holiday trade, find plenty of spare room in their houses. It would now be a very good idea to spread out the flocks, dividing them into smaller families. Overcrowding, especially when fowls must spend much of their time indoors, does not produce any good results. Nothing will tend to promote egg production, and prevent such vices as feather pulling and egg eating, so much as giving the fowls plenty of room; with sufficient "elbow room" comes the disposition to work, and if the material is given them in which to scratch, they will keep busy almost the entire day. It is natural for hens to scratch, but they will not do so when crowded. In keeping fowls indoors, care must be taken that there are no irritable birds in the flock, they must all be at peace with each other. A savage, irritable hen in a flock will soon make cowards of the more quiet ones, and will throw the latter back considerably. In one of our flocks was a cranky hen that never seemed happy unless she could fight, or pick at, other members of the pen. For want of space she was put (she was a two year old) in with a small flock of pullets that seemed to be about coming into the laying condition; but she so annoyed those pullets, especially during feeding time, and ate so greedily what was given her, that she became very fat while the pullets were gradually losing weight; so she was changed to a pen of older birds, and the change which took place in those pullets when alone again was almost magical.

If the houses are warm and the birds are kept busy, there should be a good supply of eggs this month. Incubator men prize the January eggs for broiler raising, while many of the general poultry farmers find it more profitable to sell their eggs this month, as the prices are usually the highest.

Keep the fowls indoors while there is yet snow on the ground.

It has been proved by experience that hens compelled to run about on the snow, slack up in egg production. It is also advisable to keep them indoors during high winds or cold rain storms. No fowl can be comfortable during such weather,

and when a hen is not comfortable she certainly is not profitable.

Beware of draughts in the hen house at night. That is an old time advice, but at this time of the year it is well to remind you of it. Swelled head is about the first of negligence in this matter, and roup ends the career of the patient.

Go among the fowls at night and treat every case of scaly leg to be found. Wash the legs well with Castile soap and warm water, after which anoint with an ointment made with equal parts of coal oil and melted lard. Repeat daily until the legs are clean.

A little rusty iron in the drinking vessels is good to make iron water for a tonic, and is especially valuable at this time of the year. If at each window in the hen house a heavy curtain is hung at night, it will keep out a lot of cold air, and make it very acceptable to the fowls.

We have tried it, and would not think of having a window encovered at night. If the curtains are on a roller they can be readily pulled up or lowered.

So, the important lesson for this month is to keep the birds warm, comfortable, happy and busy. The reward will be hardy and profitable fowls.

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### GET RID OF DRONES.

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Culling the flock improves it every year, as a higher standard will result. By an observation of the individual members of a flock, much can be learned. The good hens become pets, and pride in their individual excellence is entertained on the part of the owner. The young stock will be hatched only from the best producers, instead of from eggs taken indiscriminately from the egg basket. No farmer, who will carefully cull out the drones, need depend on breeders to produce breeds for him. Pure breeds should be used in every case; especially pure bred males. Even with the choicest stock, the matter of selection should not be overlooked. There are drones and idlers in aristocratic flocks as well as in the flocks of low degree. There is room for improvement in every direction. My object is to impress upon every one who raises poultry; farmer, or amateur; the importance of a close scrutiny of their stock, and to teach the fact that a profitable flock can be