

The Poultry Yard.

BROILERS ON A CITY LOT.

Intensive farming in or near a city, where the market is, can be carried on in no better way than in the raising of broilers. My lot is 50x150 ft with a two-tenement house and stable that accommodates nine horses and sheds to cover wagons, sleighs, etc. The brooder quarters, as illustrated above, occupy the second floor of the wagon shed, 11x52 ft. The only heat obtained is from the brooder stoves.

The brooders are arranged in a series, side by side, each 2½x4 ft and without hovers. They are entirely homemade affairs and I consider them as practical as any without a regulator. One of the incubators holds 260 to 400 hens' eggs, the other 110 eggs. My first hatch was Dec. 3, '94. Since then until summer I hatched 1279 chicks and raised as broilers or sold to be raised 1067. I hatch thoroughbred stock, as such sell more readily. I sold several hundred at 15 to 25 each, according to size and age, to be raised. Those that reached broilers so as to dress 1½ lbs brought at wholesale \$1.20 a pair and 1.50 to private trade.

The most delicate part of this business is to raise them. Where there is no room to spread out growing stock, one must almost live with them to be able to satisfy their needs. They must be kept clean and healthy. I have learned that it is not any particular kind of food that is sure to raise the little artificially hatched orphans more depends on proper temperature, ventilation and cleanliness than any prescribed method of feeding.

The first three or four hours after taking from the incubator, put them in a clean brooder that has been heated to 90 degrees with top heat. The floor is covered ½ in deep with sharp sand and sprinkled over the sand is a little chicken grit.

Their first feed is a very little rolled oats; feed sparingly the first day, and also for a week. After being in the brooder 24 hours, they are fed every two hours for three weeks, chiefly on rolled oats, fine cracked corn and millet seed. From the first hour in the brooder, they are allowed all the fresh, cold water they want. I have constantly before them in self-feeding boxes dry wheat bran, grit, charcoal and bone meal. I am often surprised to see how much dry bran they eat. At three weeks I give one feed a day of warm mash until one week old, when they have all hard grain.

Chicks like a variety, and I have to keep them guessing what they are going to get next. It is fun to steal in on them on the quiet and see them all rubber-necking in their curious way to see what is to come next. I always find pleasure in feeding almost any kind of green food, as well as profit; then when the time comes to feed fresh meat and bone, to see the little anxious, hungry things go over and over each other in their eager way to get the first mouthful of that favorite meal.

If you use a brooder house in the second story, you must look out for leg weakness, as the sand and litter becomes very dry and I find it necessary to sprinkle the runs at night after they have gone to bed. I had great difficulty in getting eggs with good, strong germs, which are most essential in raising chickens. I do not believe it is possible to produce good, strong-germed eggs from fowls that are closely confined; give them lots of range.—[W. M. Hayes, Hampden Co., Mass.]

A PRAIRIE HENHOUSE.

A sod house I have found healthful, convenient and one here shown is large enough to accommodate 75 to 100 hens.



A SOD POULTRY HOUSE.

In a bank sloping southwest I make an excavation 12 ft east and west by 22 ft north and south. At the southwest corner, the excavation is on a level with the surface of the ground; at the north



Broiler-Raising Quarters on a City Lot.

side it is 2½ ft deep. Around the edges I built a sod wall making its upper edge 5 ft above the floor. I roofed the north half with boards and covered with tarred paper. A border of sod was placed around the edge, then the whole was overlaid with 6 in of gypsum. On the south half of the roof, I placed two hotbed sashes and covered the remainder the same as the north side. Two windows were placed in the walls and one in the door. In the north wall, there is a window level with the roosts 18 in high and 5 ft long which is open for ventilation in summer and in winter is covered with boards and banked with earth. I have an extra lattice door for summer. The walls were given two coats of gypsum and when dry a heavy whitewash was applied to fill all cracks. I have kept 75 to 100 single-combed Brown Leghorns in this house for three winters without having a frozen comb and the hens lay well all through.—[E. D. Smith, Kan.]

To Stop Egg Eating break an egg, sprinkling the contents with cayenne pepper, turning the egg around so as to work the pepper below the yolk, place the egg in the nest or where the hen will get it.—[F. P., Ill.]

Training Ducks—If breeding stock is housed at night and nest boxes placed where ducks can use them, they will readily avail themselves of the privilege. It doesn't pay to let them lay anywhere and everywhere in the yard. [Mrs. Leonard Johnson, Delaware Co., Pa.]

Parrots do not bathe in water, but in sand, which should be furnished in abundance. Provide sharp gravel for grit. Keep the cage clean. Feed a mixture of rice, hemp, cracked corn, etc., also fruit, vegetables and green stuff. If lice are found, use insect powder. Parrots learn to talk, whistle and sing by hearing phrases frequently repeated in a clear, ringing voice. After beginning to speak, they often learn rapidly, but patience is required at the start.

Mustard and Ginger—We have yellow mustard growing on this farm and every fall I gather a flour sack full of the seeds. In the winter I scatter this on the floor. I never use cayenne pepper. I put ginger in soft feed. I can raise 75 chicks every spring without any trouble. I never have any roup or gaps. I take good care of my poultry and they lay well.—[Lena Bennett, Erie Co., Pa.]

In Starting in the standard bred poultry business it will be found more satisfactory to purchase fowls than eggs. Buy a trio or breeding pen at least and a male and 10 females if you can afford it. Do not see how little

you can buy them for, but how much you can afford to spend. Buy from the best breeders of the variety you wish, and get the very best birds they will sell for the money you have. A \$2 bird is worthless to start with; better spend \$25 for three good ones than 10 common ones.

Chicken Fattening Stations are being established this fall in N. S., N. B., and P. E. I. This is a new industry, with a bright future, and one in which Canadian farmers are not likely to over supply the British market.

An Excellent Feed Box—The cut shows a feed box which hens cannot get into or crowd each other. The cover, which slopes so they will not fly upon it is covered with wire netting



which permits grain to be thrown into the box without raising the cover. Hens do not like to fly up and light on this netting. A square pan may be placed in one end of this box in which to keep water, and in this position it can neither be soiled nor spilled.

Setting a Fowl's Leg—I melt some rosin and put in enough lard to make it a little soft, spread this on a strip of muslin 1 in wide and, after straightening the leg, wind the strip around several times and tie with a stout cord. Then put the chicken alone in a coop. In two weeks it will be well.—[The Deacon's Wife.]

Chick Fountain—I fill a common glass tumbler full of water, invert an earthen flower pot saucer on top of the tumbler, then holding both close together invert the tumbler and saucer. Slip three bits of sticks as thick as a match under the edge of the tumbler and you have a fountain as good as any.—[S. N. Wolcott, Mo.]

There is absolutely no limit to the market in England for poultry that is properly bred, raised, fed, killed and shipped at the right season. Millions of dollars can be added to the wealth of Canada every year, simply by breeding chickens, says Hon. Andrew Patullo of Woodstock, Ont.

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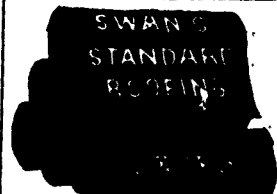
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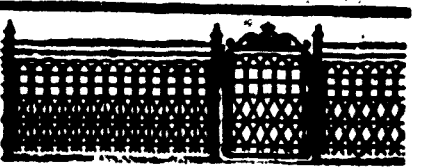
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