

with only very ordinary breeding and environmental factors.

One can readily lay down general rules which apply to the feeding of breeding stock for the production of eggs for hatching, yet with equal feeding and environment factors, one man will obtain a much larger percentage of fertile eggs and of strong healthy chicks than will his neighbor.

This factor is always in evidence through the whole life of the hen. It makes its appearance in the brooding of the chicks. Many poultry plants have failed for no other reason than that the operator was unable to renew the flock. To be sure the environment was often to blame, by which I mean the brooding system, bad weather or something of that nature. Very often however, when you come to the final analysis of the case, you must put the blame on the personal factor. The operator may have known his business well enough, but he lacked that intuition or whatever else you may wish to call it, that told him to do the right thing at the right time.

As an example of this I wish to relate several instances which came under my personal observation. A flock of some five hundred chicks was placed under a large coal heated house, situated in a large, well lighted warm room, and brooded them for several weeks. They did well for a time, but after three weeks began to die, because they should have been moved to the brooder house when they could have had access to an outside runway. They were moved soon after this but too late, and continued to die off rapidly even after being allowed out doors. When they were finally moved to the colony coops there were only some eighty seven chicks left. The same man fed them that fed other lots which had a low rate of mortality.

In another instance a colony coop full of chicks was ruined simply because the stove which heated the house was not properly attended to. The temperature was irregular, the chicks being alternately chilled and overheated until they learned to crowd in a corner, after which they were past redemption. This state of affairs was due partly to a lack of knowledge of the proper care of a coal burning brooder stove and perhaps partly to neglect. The personal factor was strongly in evidence here. It would have paid better to kill and bury the whole flock then and there, then to try to raise them. They have been dying off all summer and are still dying and what few remain are practically useless. Many flocks of fine chicks are ruined due to the inability of the operator to keep the chicks comfortable and consequently they learn to crowd, which condition is very frequently fatal before it can be stopped.

The personal factor is also very much in evidence with the growing stock out on range. The operator must know just when he is giving the correct amount of ventilation and when to stop feeding milk and mash in order not to have his pullets lay too early and consequently moult. He should remove the cockerels, keep the coops free from vermin, and never allow the drinking supply and food supply to run out, else there will be trouble.

If the breeding and environment factors have been right and the personal factor efficient, the operator will have a fine flock of well grown and healthy pullets to move to the laying pens in the fall.

Here again the personal factor is in evidence. If it is efficient, the laying pens will be sweet and clean and the pullets will be moved to their new quarters in good time.