

ferent hens as to how they lay. If one lays irregularly and keeps on doing so, she will be a dear hen to keep. A good hen will lay three days in succession and stop one, and lay again three days, and so on, but a hen that lays one day and skips two or three, is worth watching. A lot of hens of this description would prove to be very unprofitable on a poultry farm.

The novice very often calculates in this way: If a hen lays 200 eggs in a year, one hundred hens would lay 20,000, or 1666 dozens, at an average of twenty-five cents per dozen, which is a low price, as I can get fifty cents per dozen all winter and in the summer I can pickle them, prices being low, and thus hold them over until eggs are high in price. Well, 1666 dozen eggs, at 25c. per dozen the year round would bring in \$416.50. So, if I keep a thousand hens, the food amounting to \$500, will just leave me \$3,665 per annum, a nice round sum. But alas! "It is not all gold that glitters."

It is useless for anybody to go into the poultry business if he has had no experience, just as it is for a man who has not put in his apprenticeship at a trade to try to accomplish what a mechanic has put in his life time at. Begin on a small scale and feel your way. Experience is the best teacher. The bump of observation on a poultryman's head should be very large, as it is in noticing the apparently insignificant things that occur that leads to success.

A novice may notice a hen huddled up in a corner but never give her another thought, where a practical man will at once come to the conclusion she is either sick or she is over-fed, and in nine cases out of ten it will be found that she has been eating more than her share. To remedy this hens should be made to hunt for their living.

There should be plenty of litter kept in the pens to throw the grain into, and thus make the fowls work for their existence.

Indigestion is one of the evils fowls in winter quarters are likely to be troubled with. Fowls should be fed just enough so as to have a little appetite left.

The cheapest food I ever tried was corn which I purchased at a starch mill after the starch had been extracted. I found that my ducks fattened well on it, and it cost but 12 cents per bushel. This could be

used to advantage to feed hens on when mixed in the soft food in the morning for breakfast. Grain of different kinds is used to feed fowls on. Corn at sunset, when thrown into a litter of straw or leaves, or whatever is used on the floor, to make the hens scratch for their food, is good during the winter months, as it is heating and keeps the fowls warm at night. Barley, buckwheat, and occasionally oats, are good in the morning for breakfast. Soft food such as shorts mixed with bran and boiled potatoes, onions, etc., is an excellent change every other morning, but this should not be made sloppy. H. O. mixed with bran is still better and is relished by the fowls. Throw the grain into the litter on the floor of the hen house and shake up with a fork, the grain will get to the bottom where the hens will have to search for it. Cabbage or turnips hung up just out of reach will make the birds work to get it. Meat chopped up fine, or green ground bones, and cooked vegetables, every other day, will keep the hens in good spirits and make them lay more eggs.

Skimmed milk given instead of water to drink will also increase the egg production.

Keep plenty of grit such as oyster shells and mica crystal before the fowls all the time.

The next important duty is to see that the birds are warm at night. Very little artificial heat is necessary in a good building. The heat from the stove while cooking vegetables or soft food will be quite sufficient to take the chill off the air in the hennery. The fowls should have a roosting room or enclosure which could be opened in the day time and cleaned out and closed up at night after the fowls have gone to roost. The largest combed birds will be quite free from frost by treating them thus. A farmer may as well expect to get a crop of grain from frozen ground as to get eggs from hens with frosted combs. The sleeping compartment should just be large enough to comfortably perch the number of fowls kept without crowding them. The perches should be laid on a level to prevent over-crowding. If one perch is higher than the other, the birds naturally get as high up as possible and thus crowd one another. The roosts should be about four inches wide; round perches make a hollow in the breast bone of the fowl, which looks very ugly after the bird has been killed and dressed for market.

Eggs laid in autumn and winter will always bring a