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Poultry Houses

Continued from page 59

her obligations of a family nature took her elsewhere; and a roost in a tree is a nice clean place—not overrun with vermin and plenty of fresh air without drafts. However, the nights were not cold and combs and toes were not frozen where the fowls first to be domesticated came from.

In the last sixty words above are a few facts that have always been of great importance to the grower of poultry in northern countries and for all time will be constant food for thought. To give the fowls as near their natural surroundings as possible would seem to be an undoubted good move. If that was all there was in it, any numbskull could do that. There is much more than that, however. To make money out of fowls, to keep them for one's own supply of poultry-meat and eggs or even for the mere pleasure of seeing them and petting them, one finds a set of conditions quite different from those surrounding the fowl in its wild state. Where to alter without detriment and what to substitute for what is unattainable or impossible constitute the greater part of successful poultry keeping that needs head-work and resourcefulness.

It frequently happens that one is brought up with a very rude jolt when trying to force fowls to accommodate themselves to quarters they were bought to occupy. It is cheaper to make your quarters to suit the needs of the fowls. They will dispense with many luxuries and reward you well for all you do for them, if your energies have been well directed.

It is necessary to have a poultry house because this country is too cold for fowls to live out of doors as the original fowls did in India. Shut up too close birds will smother. With insufficient fresh air various ills attack them. Admitting air is liable to cool the house too much or, if injudiciously done, will create a draft. Drafts cause a large number of ailments. Openings for light and air tend to lower the temperature, so very often, of light and air fowls go short. Sunlight is a great invigorator and germ destroyer. There is no such thing as too much glass. One of the most successful poultry houses in this country was a disused greenhouse. The many panes of glass missing were supplanted with cotton which did not reduce the light much and gave a fine system of ventilation without draft.

Given a certain number of fowls and a certain dimension of house, to retain the proper temperature and give the most liberal supply of fresh air, the walls must be as warm as possible. For this reason double windows are very desirable. Three windows of a given size with double sash and glass will chill the house in zero weather less than one single



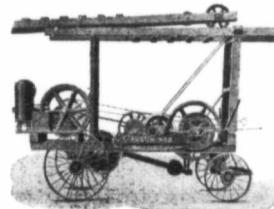
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