

sued by them call for the proper standard breeds. Many fairs to-day do much harm by catering to the common bred classes.

The Queen's Plates formerly given in Great Britain and Ireland by H.M. the Queen for the encouragement of racing are now administered by *The Royal Horse Commission*, in prizes for thoroughbred stallions, the successful ones being at the disposal of the Government, to be sent, if required, into any county and there stand at a nominal stud fee of usually £2.

This subject could be drawn out to weary you, so I will not go into any more details, but add my wishes that success crown your efforts.

I am, dear sir,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) WM. HENDRIE, Jr.



The Rearing and Management of Poultry on the Farm

By J. E. Meyer, Kossuth, Ont.

(Continued from last issue.)

As soon as the chickens are at least twenty-four hours old remove them with the hen to a coop placed in a shady place, where there is grass and where no other fowls can get to it. I run wire netting about the coops, which keeps all large fowls out while it gives the chickens liberty. A hen can take care of fifteen chickens in early spring and twenty in warmer weather. Feed the chickens on a clean board out of the hen's reach, and keep clean water where both the hen and chickens can get it but so arranged that the chickens cannot get into it.

I feed stale bread soaked in sweet milk and pressed dry, granulated oatmeal and a cake made somewhat as follows: Half-crushed oats, equal quantities of ground wheat and barley, a little salt and flax seed meal, some baking soda, all mixed together and moistened with milk placed in a shallow pan, and bake in a moderate oven. You will find the chickens very fond of this. As soon as they can eat wheat keep it before them all the time. After the chickens are three weeks old you will not need to bake this food, but moisten it only. Never feed sloppy food either to chickens or older fowls at any time.

As the chickens are taken from the hens at from four to six weeks of age, place them in separate flocks of from twenty-five to thirty of the same age and size. If the coop in which you had the hen is made large enough and is perfectly tight all round, excepting the front, so that there will be no draughts on the chickens while in it at night, this will be the best place for them and they can remain there until quite late in the fall if you put a front to the coop. Be extremely careful that the chickens do not get into any draughts during the chilly nights of August and September. As sure as they do they will get distemper or cold, and once that gets into your flock you will be a long time before you will get rid of it. They immediately lose flesh when they have distemper and your nice plump pullets almost ready to lay will, in a very short time, be little but skin, bone and feathers. As the cockerels become large enough you market them, so that there will always be room in your coop for each flock. Keep clean fresh water and wheat before them all the time and feed mornings on soft feed. Never allow them to get anything sour.

I have here discussed raising chickens in what is now termed the old way, which is fast being superseded by machinery, where chickens are raised in large numbers. The artificial hatching of poultry was practised centuries ago in Egypt and China, and in China to-day there are not a few who make their living by hatching chickens for the poultry-raisers of the surrounding district. The methods they use, however, are very crude compared to those used in America, England, France and a few other countries, especially in the United States are incubators and brooders used to a very great extent. The demand for really first-class dressed poultry and eggs has always exceeded the supply, and no sooner had the incubator and brooder been brought to a comparative state of perfection than a new impetus was given to poultry raising, until to-day it is no

uncommon thing, in the Eastern States especially, to hear of poultry establishments running from six to thirty incubators of from 300 to 600 eggs' capacity each, and turning out annually hundreds of thousands of chickens and ducklings for the markets of such cities as New York and Boston. These men make this a business.

There are many advantages in favor of machines over hens for raising and hatching chickens, and they will answer as well for the farmer as for the exclusive poultry raiser. The good incubator and brooder of to-day is as simple, as easily managed, and will do its work as perfectly as the ordinary machines of the farm. The earlier you can hatch your chickens the better they will pay you. You can seldom get hens to hatch all the chickens that you would like to raise in March or April, but the incubator is ready to go to work at all times and will hatch 200 or 300 at once, with far less trouble than the dozen or two hens that it would take. If you have an incubator to do this work your hens can go on laying and lose no time. Incubator-hatched chicks are not troubled with lice. A brooder will take care of from fifty to two hundred with far less trouble to you than the hens would be. Any farmer who wishes to raise from 200 to 500 chicks each year will find it an advantage to do it with machines. The farmer who wishes to raise only from 50 to 100 does not need machines.

A farmer who has quite a large farm adjoining the village of Preston has been for a number of years paying careful attention to a large flock of Leghorn hens that he keeps for furnishing eggs for market. He also keeps quite a large herd of cows which are not neglected. This farmer told me only a few weeks ago that his hens were paying him better than his cows. There is not a farmer who cannot make his hens pay just as well as this flock, if he will only make up his mind to do it. The time has come when you are each and every one of you compelled to look to every available source for your incomes. I know a hen is a small thing—perhaps beneath the attention of some men, but she is either a profit or a loss to you. Which are you going to make it? It depends entirely upon yourself.



Selection in Fowls

Written for "Farming" by W. R. Graham, Belleville

The season is now drawing near when we again begin to make preparations for rearing chickens. Now, since there is such a grand outlet for our surplus stock in the British market, and at such paying prices, we can well afford to pay more attention to the "much-despised hen."

Selection pays as well in fowls as in any other form of live stock. Some remarkable egg yields have been got from hens bred from selected pens, where a large egg output was the ideal of the breeder. Therefore, it is to the interest of all to select only the best, and breed from them.

Select a dozen of your best hens, and put them in a coop by themselves. These, if properly fed and handled, will lay all the eggs needed for hatching purposes on a farm. And, furthermore, the balance of the flock will lay more eggs of a better flavor, and also eggs which will keep longer, when the male birds are kept away from the flock. Too much of the profits are now consumed by unneeded male birds. Remember, "like begets like," and, if eggs are going to be sold by the pound (as they should be), and as they are in England, we must be ready when the time comes to sell that way here. Strange as it may seem, the less eggs it takes to make a pound the more they are worth. There is also a preference in England for brown eggs. It is claimed that they will keep longer. Therefore, with these objects in view, select your best *winter* layers that have laid large brown eggs, and lots of them.

Another point of great importance is that every hen be in perfect health. Any hen that has had any disease, such as roup, etc., is not a bird to be selected as a breeder, as the progeny have a weakness or liability to the same disease. Take plenty of time, and select as good a pen as you have.