

To fatten geese, an experienced practitioner says: Put up two or three in a darkened room, and give each bird one pound of oats daily thrown on a pan of water. In fourteen days they will be found almost too fat. Never shut up a single bird, as geese are sociable and will pine away if left alone.

Gather up the unsalable cabbage the same as good cabbage, and bury it, so that in the cold winter months you can dig up a few heads and feed your poultry something green, when all out door vegetation is dead.

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POULTRY BREEDING.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

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EFFECTS OF IMAGINATION.

WHETHER imagination is able to affect the embryonic fowl is an unsettled question. It has been declared and received with unquestioning faith that this was the case; it has been mildly doubted; it has been declared that the effect of mental impressions were confined to fœtus bearing animals; and it is, in our day, generally declared among so-called advanced thinkers that the doctrine is groundless and preposterous.

It is very easy to deny a proposition and then fall back upon the principle that no one is bound to prove a negative, much easier than it is to establish the affirmative with satisfactory proofs. And yet, if mind is superior to matter, if each interacts upon the other, if our characters are written upon our faces,

if vicious or good thoughts habitually indulged in write an unmistakable record in the flesh, all of which any student of human nature will assent to, it is possible that mental impressions may affect the unborn young. It is easily said that this will be truer of viviparous than oviparous creatures, for the carrying of the young in the body gives longer time for the impressions to produce an effect, but, if testimony is to be credited, the effect is usually the result of a single rather than of repeated impressions and is thus produced almost instantaneously. If an instantaneous impression can effect the embryo, then oviparous creatures can, at the time the egg is fertilized or before its exclusion from the body receive impressions which will show in the young.

If it be true that mental impressions can modify the character of the young, and such modification really does take place, many things, otherwise, in our present state of knowledge, unintelligible, are susceptible of explanation. Some years ago, for example, a gentleman living in Melrose, Mass., had a flock of Plymouth Rocks, very dark ones, and they were the only fowls on the premises except a few black-red Game Bantams. Late in the spring, when he was saving eggs for hatching, there came a very heavy snow-storm, making everything snowy white. From eggs laid at or about this time was hatched a cockerel white as snow. A case of "sporting," it will be said, illustrative of the tendency towards albinism and this may be true, but what is "sporting," or rather what is its cause? May it not be that these so called freaks of nature are but the product of unknown but reasonable laws, and that possibly mental impressions may be the unknown factor or one of them? Again, a man keeping several varieties in sight of each other but with no chance of contact, finds now and then a chicken marked in whole or in part like the

neighboring variety. He is certain that no crossing has taken place, for the fowls have been carefully yarded, but still this marking appears. So far as he knows or can learn there is no ancestor to which the chickens can revert, with such marking. How is he to explain the phenomenon? If the doctrines of mental impressions be true, there is no difficulty whatever, but the explanation is ready made to his hand.

I do not wish to be understood as asserting that this doctrine is fully proved. On the contrary I am painfully aware that much of the proof advanced to support it needs verification and even if true falls short of substantiating the doctrine. But there is enough proof to require something more than pooh-poohing to brush it aside, enough in fact to make it of consequence for breeders of several varieties to so arrange their pens that not only actual contact of different varieties is impossible, but that the impressions received through the eye may be such as to aid rather than hinder the end the breeder has in view. It is probable that if a breeder of barred and white Plymouth Rocks striped the houses and fences where the barred fowls were kept, with alternate lines of black and white, and painted the houses and fences of the white fowls with white lead, he would be regarded as a "crank," but it is not absolutely certain that he would be doing an unwise thing. Many a sane man is dubbed a "crank" in his day and generation, only to be called a prophet in the next generation. At any rate, this is a subject worth investigating and worth taking a little pains to ascertain the truth.

It is quite probable that the effects of imagination, or of mental impressions, are comparatively slight and infrequent, even if they exist, being kept in subordination to other more dominant principles of breeding. If a man,