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Poultry

By N. C. CAMPBELL, B.S.A.

A Profit-Making Opportunity

NE big profit-making opportunity which many poultry keepers overlook is their failure to sell their two-year-old hens dur-

failure to sell their two-year-old hens during late Spring and very early Summer.

There is great demand for "chicken" at this season. The price is high. Old hens sell at a price almost fabulous, if they are fat and in good condition. Later on these same hens are a drug on the market and will bring only from one-third to one-half of the price that they now command.

We must figure on this matter of depreciation in price; we must, if we are wise, calculate closely the cost of feeding the hens during the Summer and early Fall and reckon on how many eggs they will probably lay should we decide not to sell them not be sufficient to the more sufficient to the more sufficient to the more sufficient to the more sufficient to the suff

Most of us have gotten so used to doing things in the way that grandmother did them and in the way that father always followed, that it takes something akin to a distinct shock to make us think and act so as to make the most out of seasonal opportunities like this which I have just pointed out in the poultry keeping business.

If we face the situation squarely and figure orrectly, we find that if our hens have been laying well during this, their second season, including the past Winter, that we cannot expect any large continuous crop of eggs from them after late April. Most of the old hens will want to set and go on holidays and just be content to board with us at our expense.

Now I have pointed out the opportunity; what are you going to do about it? If you need a market for any quantity of year-old or two-year-old hens and wish my help in directing you to a suitable market, you may feel quite free to write me for such services as I can give. In writing be sure to enclose three cents in stamps covering the cost of postage on reply, and to give name and the cost of postage on reply, and to give name and address plainly.

WITH the chickens hatching out and those still to be hatched many of us have a big problem to solve in brooding. As a rule it is quite an easy matter to hatch chickens. It is much more difficult to raise them.

The best brooding will not make strong chicks out of imperfectly hatched ones; and perfectly hatched chickens require good brooding for entirely satisfactory results. Good chicks can be spoiled in the brooding, whether they are cared for in brooders or by mother hens.

In my experience I have not found it advisable to attempt to use cheap home-made contrivances for brooding chicks. A cold rain and two or three days of unfavorable weather, such as we often have in most parts of Canada during May, are liable to play havoc with the chicks being artificially brooded in make-shift home-made contrivances. I paid my price of experience in this connection before I learned better.

A brooder must furnish pleaty of warmth as a

connection before I learned better.

A brooder must furnish plenty of warmth as a matter of course. It must also furnish a constant supply of pure, warm air passing through the hover where the chicks are brooded so that at all times their tender lungs may be fully supplied. Imperfectly heated and poorly ventilated brooders kill millions of chicks every year, because of the air not changing continually under the hover; it soon becomes foul and poisons the youngsters, often causing throat and lung troubles. These troubles in turn cause death, which the poultry keepers sometimes lay to wrong methods of feeding or some other reason.

I like to have my brooders set out in a nice.

I like to have my brooders set out in a nice, clean, sunny place. The brooder ought always to be thoroughly disinfected before the new chicks are put in.

If the weather is indifferent, the outdoor brooders are better placed under a shed.

While I would advise following the directions While I would advise following the directions given by the manufacturer of any particular brooder, it may be of use to some of my readers to know that the correct temperature for the brooders is about 90 degrees F. at the time that the chicks are put in. The natural heat of the chickens will raise this temperature under the hover to about 95. This temperature will be right for the first few days. It may gradually be reduced to 90 after the chicks have been in for a week and can be brought down to 85 at the end of two or three weeks; then to 80 when the chicks are three or four weeks old.

LICE must be guarded against. See to it that they are kept off sitting hens. Never let the lice get on to the chicks and be careful to keep them out of brood coops.

The large head lice, that fasten themselves to the head of chickens, will cause death unless they are destroyed by the use of grease of some kind or by a special head lice ointment.

The body lice, which torment hen and brood, nust be killed by filling the plumage of the hen full of lice-killing powder once a week.

The mites that infest the coop must be kept down with liquid mite killer.

Unless we take these precautions and attend strictly to the matter of keeping down lice, we have little chance of satisfactory results in a sing

A Tale of Two Fowls.—Ma Duck shel ays a bigger egg than the helpful hen can lay, but when she's through she cackles not, but simply walks away. And so we scorn the silent duck—but the helpful hen, we prize—which is only another way to say that it pays to advertise!



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