

POULTRY.

Scratchings.

Six square feet to a bird is good measure in the house.

It is unwise to force the hen to roost under a leaky roof or in a draft, and—it is expensive.

Of the grain feeds, oats is the best balanced grain for the production of eggs, but for heavy egg production meat food must accompany them.

Old newspapers have their uses. Tack them around the sleeping quarters of your birds. It prevents drafts and helps them to keep comfortable and warm.

Don't overcrowd. This results in many diseases, impaired vitality and stunted birds; an unsightly, unprofitable flock, a disgusted breeder, and another sweet singer added to the voluminous chorus, "There is no money in hens."

There is always a good market and ready sale for dressed ducks, or live ducks too, for that matter. They are as easily raised as chickens, and are worth more than chickens on the market. A pond is a great help, but not absolutely necessary; still, they must have plenty of water to drink.

It is a fact that instead of the egg market being over-supplied, the supply seems to grow less from year to year. Nearly all the eggs consumed in the city at present are either cold storage or pickled eggs. That being the case, farmers will make no mistake in laying their plans for the future, to provide a winter harvest of eggs as well as a fall harvest of wheat. Eggs at 40 cents per dozen, that can be produced at 5 cents per dozen, leave something for labor and a lot more for profit.

Encourage Exercise.

Only one class of poultry should be prevented from taking exercise, and that is the fattening class. From now until spring, when the birds will again have liberty, some provision should be made to allow them to work off their surplus energy. It does not take a hen many minutes to perform her daily work of laying an egg, and during the rest of her waking hours she must be kept busy. Brain work is out of her line, therefore she must have bodily exercise. The room for such exercise cannot be too light, although it may be made too warm. Where possible, light should be admitted on three sides of the room, and if the temperature is kept above freezing, the birds will not suffer discomfort, provided they have work to do. On most farms the best materials for scratching beds are cut straw, chaff, and cut clover hay. A few inches of these materials on the floor is the delight of the hen's heart. In it she will scratch and cackle all day, and so find conditions as nearly natural as it is possible to get them in our winter months. Large quantities of expensive grains need not be thrown into the litter, for birds will scratch a long time in search of a kernel. The object of feeding grain in the litter is principally to induce work rather than to satisfy hunger, consequently light feeding should be the order. Some poultrymen prefer cut clover to chaff or cut straw, for the reason that much of the clover is eaten by the birds, who, by the way, are in need of just such food. Whether it be for feed or exercise, the litter should not be neglected if the health of the flock is to be maintained, and unless it is the egg supply cannot be very large, nor the best results obtained for settings next spring. Such a litter might be renewed about every three weeks, so that it may always be kept clean and dry, for dampness is death to any flock.

Increasing the Egg Production in Poultry

Let there be no mistake in our meaning. The increased production is at the expense of the duration of the product. To illustrate our meaning: In every chick that is hatched the ovary contains the genesis of every egg the bird could produce during its life, varying from 70 in some strains to 200 and more in others. The bird may take four, five or more years to produce all these eggs in a natural way. But the hen's way is not the keeper's way. We want the eggs in a hurry; so high condiments are used, and the production temporarily increased, but the supply is the sooner exhausted. The most productive period of any bird is during the first year of its life. It should then be fed the stimulating foods, and upon showing signs of exhaustion, be placed in the fattening pen and killed. Most of the "poultry species" and "feeds" will accomplish this, or the

following may be used: Two parts Cayenne pepper, four parts mixed spice, and six parts ground ginger. Mix well, and add a spoonful of coffee to each one-half pound of the mixture. A table-spoonful to twenty fowls, mixed in their mash three times a week, will be abundance.

Poultry Raising.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Dear Sir,—I wish to start in the poultry-raising business. I am a young married man, own a house on about four acres of ground, and have \$400.00 cash. Neither my wife nor myself know much about poultry-raising, other than keeping a few birds on a farm. How would you recommend me to start, and which is the best breed of birds to keep? Thanking you in anticipation, I am, Yours truly, SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—If you have a steady job, stick to it, and hold on to those dollars too for a little time. To make a living from poultry, one must "study how," "learn how," and "know how." "Poultry Craft," post free, \$2.00, can be had from this office, and is all its name implies. We will give you a few pointers, however.

The location should be on well-drained ground, and be fairly protected by trees. The houses should be tightly built, facing the south, with a shade of east in—i.e., facing the S. E. by S.—divided into pens, each pen being provided with a good run. Place windows in the south side of the house, and not too much glass.

The birds are a matter of personal choice, but should be limited if wanted for eggs only, if for eggs and meat, or if for large meat only. For a paying poultry ranch, I would suggest the American breeds or the Orpingtons.

Feeding is something gained only by experience and study. They will live on a grain and grit diet, with water, but give you no living, nor a part of one.

A parting word of advice: Stick to your job, and start in a small way—a dozen or twenty hens. Set eggs either with hens or incubators, and raise a nice flock of pure-bred birds. The first year build a house to accommodate about 100 pullets, double it the second year, and the third year you should have the "know how" to manage a thousand. More depends upon the "man" and his persistency than upon the hen.

Watering Poultry in Winter.

A majority of the poultry-houses in this country are pretty cold places, and it is quite a task to supply the birds with water, so that they can have it before them all the time.

The device shown here will do this work most satisfactorily. Get a can holding five gallons, with a tap at or near the bottom. Place this can in a box, and fill the space at the bottom and around the sides with sawdust, cut hay, fine chaff, or any other protection from cold; fill with hot water; cover in the top with a few thicknesses of old flannel, topped with a board, and turn the tap. A basin must be placed under the tap, and the tap must only be allowed to drip. By watching it for a little the first day or so, one can gauge the speed the drops of water should be allowed to flow. The can must be emptied every night and filled in the morning, the quantity depending upon the size of the flock to be supplied.

[Note.—From poultrymen, the "Farmer's Advocate" would be pleased to receive concise descriptions, with sketches—pen and ink or pencil—from which cuts can be made to illustrate handy contrivances, preferably those actually tested and found serviceable by the writer. Plans of good poultry-houses, suitable for farmers and poultrymen, are also acceptable.—Editor.]

Sloppy Food.

A correspondent quoting from Bulletin No. 127, of the Ontario Agricultural College, re fattening chickens, criticises the crates, and suggests improvements, and further on advises that feed be given them in a sloppy condition, i.e., to the consistency of ordinary gruel. Our friend did not notice this applies to food used in a cramming machine, and is specially made sloppy that it may pass through the pipe of the cramming machine into the bird's crop.

In feeding soft feed from the trough, it should be of such a consistency that the bird can peck a mouth (or beak) full and pass it down. Dampened, not wet, nor sloppy, will be found the best fattening ration, producing the firmest flesh on the most equally attractive carcass.

Winnipeg, Man.

POULTRYMAN.

Toronto Poultry Show.

The tenth annual exhibition of the Toronto Poultry and Pet Stock Association was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Toronto, on December 29th, 30th, 31st, 1903, and January 1st, 1904. The exhibits, which numbered about 600, were better than those of the year previous. There were several exhibitors from outside places, including London, Hamilton, Welland, Perth, Kleinburg, Drumbo, etc. The exhibitor showing the largest number of birds of all classes was G. J. Lawrie, Kleinburg. The best represented classes were Light Brahmas, Langshans, Black Minorcas, White Wyandottes, White Rocks and Buff Orpingtons. An improvement noticed, as compared with last year, was a number of new coops, purchased by private subscription, which will be added to before another show comes off. There was a very fair show of pigeons.

In Light Brahmas, Geo. A. Tossy, Hamilton, and J. J. Pickard, Drumbo, were winners. In Dark Brahmas, G. J. Lawrie had it all to himself. He also won with Partridge Cochins. The winners in Langshans were Jno. H. Wright, Oakville; Slessor & Briggs, London, and Lawrie. White Leghorns were shown by W. J. Fullerton, Jno. Chambers and M. Parmenter, all of Toronto, and Brown by H. F. Becker, Waterloo; G. J. Lawrie; W. J. Playor, Galt, and Gofton & Daniel; Drumbo. In Spanish, Lawrie won everything, as did H. Danne, Toronto, in White Minorcas. In Black Minorcas, R. Durston, Toronto; G. J. Lawrie, and L. V. Zavitz, Toronto Junction, were victorious. C. J. Daniels, W. H. Bessey, Coleman; D. S. Cullen, Drumbo, and W. R. Kerr, East Toronto, furnished the winners in Buff Orpingtons, a breed that is becoming quite popular here, as in England. C. J. Daniels also showed the black variety of this breed. Jno. Chambers, G. J. Lawrie, and Robt. Jones were to the fore in Houdans. Games were very scantily represented; no one opposing Lawrie's entries in Black Reds and Indian Games, and this was also the case in Dorkings. C. J. Daniels, Gofton & Daniel, G. J. Lawrie and F. Travers, Toronto, in Golden Wyandottes; Lawrie, and Gofton & Daniel, in Silver; and Jno. S. Martin, Port Dover; Moebus & Son, Toronto, and Jno. S. Martin and W. E. Mackay, also of Toronto, in Whites, were the winners. Buffs were shown by T. F. McCabe, Moebus & Son, and Spry & Mick. The prizewinning Barred Rocks were owned by Wm. Oakley, Jno. Chambers, Robt. Thompson, Toronto, and C. A. Beal, Perth; Buffs by C. J. Daniels, C. Jefferies and C. Jamieson; and Whites by W. H. Bessey, J. Bedford, C. Jamieson, and G. J. Lawrie. There were no turkeys or geese shown, and Lawrie had the only three pens of ducks present—one each of Aylesbury, Rouen and Pekin—all good birds.

The special prizes were awarded as follows: Walker Cup, for best pair of birds shown, R. Durston, Toronto; John J. Main Challenge cup, for best Buff Leghorn cockerel, G. Berner, Toronto; Standard Silver Plate Company Cup, for best collection of Barred Rocks, and Robinson Cup, for best collection of Rocks, Wm. Oakley, Toronto; Hon. Geo. A. Cox Cup, for largest and best display of single-comb White Leghorns, W. J. Fullerton, Toronto; City of Toronto Cup, for best display of one-color Game Bantams, Oakwood Farm, Toronto; Reliable Poultry Journal Cup, for best White Wyandotte cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, John S. Martin, Port Dover; Sheppard Cup, for best Black Minorca, L. V. Zavitz, Toronto Junction; Earl of Minto Cup, for largest and best Light Brahmas, Geo. A. Tossy, Hamilton.

A Tame Flock.

A good poultryman keeps his hens tame enough to be easily controlled; but sometimes one has to take charge of a strange flock that has had very little care. I have, at different times, taken into my charge hens which the first time I opened the door, tried to go through the windows and knot-holes, dozens trying to get through a little hole in the corner that was hardly large enough for one. Other times a hen will steal away her nest and raise a clutch of chickens separate from the rest.

In taming such wild flocks, it is always best to advance to them through the regular doors or gates. If you can, frequently catch one of the hens, stroke her and feed her from your hand, and the whole of them will soon be quite tame. When you have a wild flock running at large, go out in the field in plain sight of them, throw down some feed, and call them—any sound will do, if you always use it—then go around, drive the birds where the feed is, and give a few calls as soon as they find it. Always feed in the same place, at the same time of day. You will not have to drive them more than a half dozen times till they will come to your call. I have never been forced to give up a flock yet, and have had the wildest to try on.

WALTER MOORE.