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TO BEGINNERS.

Editor Review :

Now, my commencing friend, suppose you settle down to the Light Brahma, for example. You must have a good pen to begin with; for don't lose sight of the fact that for several years, it may be, you will be engaged solely in building a reputation. The objection, at this stage, to your getting several varieties is you must probably buy cheap stock if you do buy, making the sums that would get you a grand start in one variety spread over several, and this means getting cheap stock. But if you can afford to buy an excellent pen of Light Brahmas, and still have funds enough for a pen or two of other varieties, you may reason. Cannot I then start with two at least; and if not, why? If this is the case, buy the second yard of Light Brahmas. You must win a name, and you can only do this by breeding good stock, and if you have two pens you have double the chance of raising what you need, something really fine.

Again it will cost less to furnish houses and runs for one variety than for the same number of yards of different varieties. In early winter all your young stock can be put into one yard and house, and though for breeding you will need a separate yard for each mating, yet this can be managed much more cheaply when there is no danger of crossing.

In the next place, you will need to add new blood occasionally, to keep up the vitality of your flock. If you have the one variety only you can afford to get what you need, the very best, while

for several you must either lay out large sums or get poorer birds.

But you will object to my not giving any credit for sales made. Well, my friend, if for the first few years your birds pay for their feed and a little more, you must not think success a coy goddess in chicken raising. I do not reckon much on it. For I do not think it will amount to much. But if you stick to it it will not always be so, unless you go into too many varieties and cripple yourself in the start.

But the strongest argument in favor of your confining yourself to one variety is that after the first year you can mate up from three to ten yards and raise a nice number from each, while if you have as many varieties you can only have a few of each kind, and though you do have a large percentage of good birds, after you have reserved a few for your own breeding, you have few to sell. For let me repeat it you must not only exhibit good stock, but sell good stock, to establish a reputation, and by raising say 100 birds from three yards or 300 from 10, you are bound to win something, and have a good number to sell. Take my advice, keep your eye upon your young stock, and every bird which you would not like to breed from yourself, put in the pot. And when you go into your yard to select a pair or trio for a customer, don't forget that this sale is one brick in the structure of your reputation; if it be a soft one, or a pinkin, there will be a poor spot in the building. A great many seem to imagine that by buying a few exhibition birds, and winning upon them and their immediate progeny, which can hardly fail to be

good, they can take reputation by storm. Well, you may not be able financially, to do this, and if you are, I question if it would be desirable, for you must either keep on buying, or come down to the reality of your own knowledge of the art of breeding fine fowl, and a reputation is more easily dissipated than accumulated; for a lasting reputation is, in the majority of cases, a gradual accumulation, and, for that reason, solid.

For demonstration of my arguments, just look over the lists of continually successful prize winners, both in Canada and United States, and you will find them specialists, after years of experience, they are found with one or two varieties; and even those who breed more, make a specialty of one. Some who have been a few years in the fancy are seen winning largely at such shows as New York. They have as much as thirteen matings of one variety, and raise from 500 to 3000 chicks, and no man raising thirteen varieties can hope to successfully compete with these men. And I can't see why the specialists can't reasonably be expected not only to have better birds for sale, but also a greater number of them.

Now, my friend all this applies to you; if your purpose raising fowls for profit, and indeed, if you only intend breeding for pleasure, I think large flocks of superior birds, which can be relied upon to win, are just what even you are aiming at. Hoping that any questions that may be suggested to your mind by reading this, will be freely asked.

I am yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILETT.

Nantye, Feb. 12th '86.