

not need as wide a passage as one laying a large egg. The distance between the two pelvic bones and also the distance between the pelvis and the keel will be governed by this factor.



A.



B.

Note the well-balanced form of A as compared with the badly balanced form of B, which also shows a badly cut-up breast.

Therefore, unless the hen is in full lay or the male at its highest breeding point, the distance between these bones is never at its greatest, for the opening and closing-up of these bones depends on the development of the reproductive system. Hence, the longer, wider, deeper, and broader the body, the greater the development of the oviduct or reproductive system. The number of eggs, however, such a bird will lay depends on the fowls' breeding and the size of eggs.

### III. QUALITY.

Probably the most important point, all other things being equal, in breeding stock to keep up egg production is quality.

Quality denotes all the good characteristics of both dairy cows as well as egg-laying hens.

If a fowl is not of good quality, she will be a poor layer. If a male of good quality and good breeding were mated to poor-quality, coarse females, the results would invariably be noticed in the majority of the first progeny of the mating.

Quality is indicated by the evenness and silky texture of the scales on the leg; by the fairly compact glossy plumage; the fine silky texture of the comb, wattles, and lobes; and, further, the freedom from gristle or cartilage attachment to the straight pelvic bone. The pelvic bone itself should not be small. Pullets are, of course, smaller-boned than hens. One usually finds a very thin bone on the leg of the bird that has a needle-pointed pelvic bone. We advise one to breed from birds with pelvic bones comparative in size with the bone on the leg, but clean and free of gristle or cartilage when the bird is laying. Fat will be found on the pelvic bones of old hens, especially if they are in fine condition before they come into laying. From experiences of many others besides the writer, we can definitely state that cartilage and gristle are the things to beware of in breeding, but that neither the stoutness or strength of bone as shown by the width nor the fat attachment to the