

raise just as good birds, and sell them for just as much money.

The next step is to own some of the coveted specimens; and here is where we will begin our advice.

Select good specimens—not necessarily those which won either first or second prize; if they are of the same stock, or of other good prize winning strains, they will do. Notice the male while crowing that he gives a long, clear, full note; not a hoarse cracked, chopped-off wheeze. See that the eyes of all are bright and clear, and alike in color; and the plumage is full and glossy. Never select a bird with a defective leg; see that it is smooth and clean and of good color; and if your choice are of any single-comb variety, look well to the combs that there are no side sprigs there. It is one of the most difficult defects to get rid of that we have; it crops out year after year in successive generations, and re-appears after we have imagined we have eradicated it.

Our birds selected we must prepare our quarters for them, economy and space available, may here be consulted. If one has resolved to keep fowl, he will find a place to put them.

In New York city, a gentleman in an aristocratic neighborhood made use of the flat roof of his home, which was first covered with sand and then surrounded with a neat wire fence. Any quarters will do, however, if possessing *three* essentials, viz: *shelter from winds and storms, dryness and cleanliness.* And to succeed fully, these three are imperative. As to warmth, only so much is necessary as to prevent freezing of feet or combs. The use of fire is objectionable; it makes the birds tender and induces roup, catarrh, and other diseases.

Provide a box of fine sand and ashes for a dust bath, (which place under cover so that it will keep dry), also a box or barrel of fine gravel to use when the ground is frozen, and the fowls unable to procure any outside. Add to this a box of ground or cracked oyster shells or old lime rubbish, to use in same way, and then you are ready for the winter's campaign.

If you desire eggs from the start, you must feed for it. But if you make your hens lay during the winter, you may expect them to take a rest in the spring—perhaps just at the time when you need the eggs for setting. In feeding for eggs, always give warm or cooked food in the morning. Equal parts of corn meal and wheat bran, with a little ground scrap cake, or the table scraps thrown in, and scalded together, make a good feed, alternate with oat meal or barley meal; small potatoes, boiled and mashed with meal and bran; damaged rice, treated the same way, are all good. Occasionally throw in a dash of red pepper, and of powdered charcoal, and about once a week a mess of chop-

ped onions is beneficial.

For the middle of the day provide a spot where you can put a layer of straw or chaff or old hay, and give them oats, barley or buckwheat, sown broadcast among the straw. This gives them exercise in hunting for the grain. At night give them whole grain, corn, wheat, or barley. I use second or third quality wheat, and find it an excellent feed. In all cases where possible alternate the grain, giving one one day, another the next and so on.

These changes of food are not *positively* necessary; fowls will lay eggs on corn alone, if treated to a daily mess of table scraps, or if they have the range of a stable yard, but if treated to a generous change of diet, they will lay enough more to pay for the extra trouble many times over.

Our caution to beginners, *do not over-feed*, give them what they will eat up clean and no more. You need not expect over-fed (and therefore over-fat) fowls to lay eggs, any more than expect an over fat cow to give a large yield of milk.

Be particular about their drink. While snow water *may* not hurt them, pure fresh water is more likely to do them good. Provide suitable drinking vessels, and see that they are kept clean. If the weather is very cold, only leave the water in their vessels a half hour or less, just long enough for the fowls to drink, unless you use a warming fountain. This may be made by any tinman. Take a square tin box, with the usual cup or trough on the lower edge; into the middle of the bottom insert a fruit-can, with one end (the lower) open, set the box up on legs, and place a small lamp so that the chimney rises two-thirds up the can. The heat from it will prevent the water freezing in the coldest weather.

As a precaution, it is well about once a week to put a little tincture of iron in the drinking water; or if you have it, some "Douglas mixture." It is a good tonic, as well as a preventive of disease.

Last, but not least, is cleanliness. Keep the floor of the poultry-house well covered with dry earth or sand, raking up the dropping every few days and adding sand or earth. A little kerosene poured over the perches occasionally is a destroyer as well as a preventive of "mites" (usually but erroneously termed lice.) Twice a year—spring and fall—or oftener if deemed advisable or necessary, give the house and nests a coat of whitewash. If a few ounces of crude carbolic acid is added to the whitewash before applying, it sweetens up the place as well as acting as a vermin preventive. Make the nests according to your own fancy; the shape is immaterial, but for the Asiatics they should be not less than twelve inches diameter inside. I find it is best to turn the openings away from the light, making a kind of "back entrance"