

Practical Hints for beginners

MESSRS EDITORS:—Seeing you wanted all to contribute to your Journal, I thought I might give a few lines of perhaps profitable matter, deduced from my own experience, and thus save beginners time and money.—

I would advise young friends to select some respectable Breeder and Dealer, from whom they could buy a pair or trio of the variety of Fowls they intend commencing with. Get the dealer they purchase from, to send birds mated for breeding, as they will thus get them cheaper than if they procure exhibition Fowls, & generally have better results in the chickens they rear.

A person can buy a pair of Light Brahma Chicks,—for example, at this season of the year, thus mated, at \$5. to \$10. while if you wanted birds to show well in the exhibition coops, you would have to pay from \$10. to \$20., and, I say if you buy from a breeder well up in the variety, the result, so far as the chicks you would raise, would probably be in favor of the birds properly mated for breeding.

If you want more hens, fill up with 5 or 6 common pullets. That will give eggs for table use, and act as mothers for your breeding next spring, and thus you will at a comparatively small outlay, gain experience for yourself.

Keep one variety only, to start with and you will save yourself expense for fencing to keep different breeds separate. Your hen house need not be expensive, so long as it is in a dry corner, free from dampness. Cleanliness in all its apartments is the great thing. The walls & ceilings should be whitewashed at least twice a year. All manure ought to

be cleared up daily if possible. By being regular in this matter, you will save being troubled with lice on your Fowls, besides their general health will be better. Another matter which tends to keep poultry in a healthy state, is, cleanliness in regard to drinking dishes.

They ought to have fresh water three times a day, and be particular and clean out the dishes thoroughly before putting the fresh water in. One bird with a cold, often communicates its disorder to the whole flock, through drinking out of the same dirty dish, which, if not attended to, will generally end in Roup.

“Prevention is better than cure.”

I intended saying more, but will reserve for another time, so if these few remarks are considered worth the Compositors time, you may hear from me again.

Yours Truly,
ALEX. FINLAYSON.

Breeding of Canaries.

In accordance with my promise of last month, I will now say a few words respecting the management and breeding of Canaries. But first perhaps, I had better give a discription of what I consider the best kind of breeding cage; and I may briefly state, that there is no cage that I have seen, so well adapted for breeding purposes, as what is called the “London Bird Cage.” This cage is two feet in length, ten inches deep, and fifteen inches high. It is made of wood with wire front. There is a partition on one side nine inches wide, by nine in height. This partition has a wire slide running from the front to the back of the cage. Many of my readers may ask why this partition is placed in the cage?