

deceiving. We would rather own a dozen of strong, vigorous birds, birds that we know are hardy, than fifty fowls that had been sick and are now "completely cured." In the former we can look for good results in the offspring. The latter will give us slim chances.

The ailments of poultry can generally be prevented. There are over forty different troubles reported in the list of diseases, but practically when they are thoroughly sifted down they are combined in a few—hardly enough to count on one's finger ends. The prevention of these ills comes first in perfect cleanliness. In this perhaps two-thirds of precaution exists. We can not be too careful. We some time ago heard a lady writer remark that it was utterly impossible for her to keep her hen house from having "the sickening smell akin to poultry." We inquired how often she cleaned out the manure. "Once a week, about," she replied. We further asked how many fowls she allowed in the building. "Only forty," was her answer.

This lady claimed to be an authority, and has been for several years contributing advice to both the agricultural and poultry press and yet she has not learned the cause of "that sickening smell akin to poultry." If the manure had been gathered every morning and the premises kept scrupulously clean; if in that house of hers she had kept but twenty fowls—it was not a bit too large for that number—we venture to say there would be no more complaint.

Second. Proper food and feeding. —Proper food consists in good sound grain in variety, with all the green food they can consume. It is not necessary to repeat what grain to use, and all that, as it would only be going over ground that we have repeatedly covered. Having the right kind of feed, we must know how to give it. This experience alone can teach us. By a careful watching it won't be long to determine what grains are best fitted to the birds we have in charge. This

knowledge will in a measure prevent their getting overfat. For this reason pure-bred fowls give the best satisfaction, and it is more profitable for the farmer to keep Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes exclusively than to have a mixed up lot. A flock of birds composed of Leghorns, Plymouth Rocks, Cochins, Brahmas and everything else mixed up, gives us a variety of sizes, conditions and what not. We tried it last year, and the food and quantity of it that kept the Leghorns in prime condition soon put too much on the Cochins and Brahmas. Where crosses were used and the hens graded up according to size we had no trouble.

Third. Crowded quarters.—The French believe in from seven to ten fowls in a flock. We Americans are apt to crack up to twenty-five and more. We favor the French idea; not because it is foreign to our home plan, but for the reason that we have tried both, and find that better results come from small families. Over-crowding leads to many evils, and sickness shows itself first in the big flocks. Separate houses, to which are attached good sized yards, and scattered all over the premises, may give more labor to the poultry man, but it insures health, profit and general satisfaction, while it makes a picturesque poultry farm.

Fourth. Fresh water and pure air.—This explains itself and it means just what it says. We empty the drinking vessels every night, summer and winter, and the birds start the next day with fresh pure water. Then the windows and doors are thrown wide open and out into the fresh air go the fowls to imbibe nature's best gift. Are we alone in our opinions? Let us see.

Hunter says: "It is an utter waste of time and money to doctor a sick fowl, and next to impossible to cure a diseased fowl when once disease has fully manifested itself."

Felch says: "We believe in prevention, and when fowls are sick, in extermination more than in doctoring. When fowls have their liberty they are seldom ill, and when they are confined, if we are careful to furnish a good supply of vegetable food, health generally attends them."

Johnson says: "Diseases are not natural in the main to the well-kept fowl. I class nearly all the ills the

domestic fowl is subject to as of accident or mismanagement. Success in raising poultry largely depends on a correct understanding of the diseases and in some way avoiding them. As a general thing the best remedy for a sick hen is to kill it."

Saunders says: "The cause of many diseases is to be found in enfeebled and bad constitutions caused by mismanagement, in-breeding, etc."

Stoddard says "Most of the diseases of fowls are preventable, and he who feeds, houses and cares for his flock properly will have but little or no trouble compared with the one who takes no pains in these particulars."

Lewis Wright (an English authority) says: "If fowls are kept clean and well sheltered from the wind and wet, are not over-fed, and have a due proportion of soft and green food, with a never failing supply of *clean* water, they will remain free from disease unless infected by strangers. And when a fowl becomes ill the best cure in nearly every case is to kill it before it is too bad to be eaten."

The editor of Farm Poultry says: "Observe the rules for keeping away the diseases, and the fowls will lay abundantly. It is natural for them to lay eggs. 'They are built that way!' and only for the folly or ignorance of their owners the egg yield would be nearly doubled, and the profits proportionately increased."

Rural Life, London (now out of print), concludes: "As the poet Burns has affirmed that the best laid schemes of mice or men, 'gang aft aglee,' so may it, with equal certainty, be affirmed that the strongest, as well as the weakest of animated beings, are the subject of occasional disease. From this penalty incident of life, fowls are no more exempt than other animals, consequently when the poultry keeper sees one of these beginning to droop, or to fail in appetite, it is better at once to have it dressed for the table."

We take up considerable space on this subject, but we think it most important for two reasons: First, the art of prevention cannot be too rigidly impressed upon the minds of all poultry keepers; and, secondly, as the season is now at hand when the matter must be promptly enforced.