

Flock of California Ostriches.

### The Poultry Yard.

#### OSTRICH FARMING.

The occupation of ostrich raising has within the last 15 yrs reached remarkable dimensions in Cal. From the 4 doz ostriches brought over from Africa by Edwin Cawston, and other flocks, an attraction has been created of which capitalists have of late availed themselves, and now an ostrich trust exists controlling the industry.

Some 500 ostriches are owned by this corporation, which has farms in Cal., Ariz and Fla; while the receipts from exhibition of the birds to tourists form no small part of the revenue. The principal revenue is expected to come from their plumage, the demand for which in this country exceeds \$2,000,000 per annum. The creatures are sturdy, easily cultivated in warm climates, of remarkable fecundity, and yield in feathers, after the age of 4 yrs, a constant revenue each of some \$30 per year. Our illustration represents a group of 3-yr-olds contained in one of the corrals of the South Pasadena ostrich farm, Cal., an institution still owned by Mr Cawston individually and outside the trust. One of the sights of Cal at the present time is the ostrich farms, stocked with descendants of those birds that a dozen years ago were brought over from Africa by this pioneer ostrich farmer.

#### TEN YEARS WITH TURKEYS.

For about 10 years I have taken charge of the young turkeys on my father's farm, and I can say that experience has been my best teacher. When I began I lost about three-fourths of all hatched. Last year out of 50 I raised 48. A cat took the other two. The year before out of 27 I raised 26.

When the turks are hatched, dust them and the mother thoroughly with wood ashes and place the mother in a box coop without any bottom and grated at the sunny side so that the little ones can go out when they like. I keep them in this until two weeks old, when they go where they please, only I have them come home at night and let out next day when the grass has dried.

For food for the first week I give bread just dampened with sweet milk or water, with a handful of onion tops cut fine and a little pepper mixed with it. As they become older, give chopped grain, oats, wheat, peas and corn. This I scald with boiling water, when cool, mix in the chopped onion tops with a little salt and pepper and bits of bread. Feed five times a day at regular hours.

Keep the food and water dishes clean and give plenty of fresh water three times a day. The ashes are all that I ever use as a preventive of lice. Under

the above treatment I have hardly a sick turkey. Of course some die, but not as many get sick and die as formerly. They either get killed or drowned.—[A. Taylor, Lincoln Co, Ont.

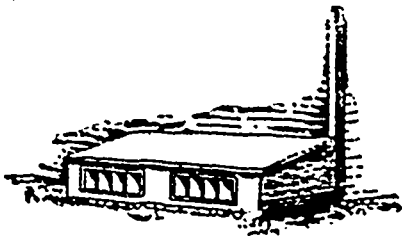
#### SITTING HENS.

To get the very best results from the sitting hens it is necessary to let them sit in a room by themselves and not fasten them on. Keep corn and fresh water by them and let them come off and go on when they have a mind to. Sometimes it is true they will change nests, but that does no hurt, if all of the nests are covered. By looking in at them once or twice a day there is generally no trouble. The hens that hatch best are the ones which steal their nests.

Before the sitting hen is given eggs, dust her well with insect powder, dust some also over the eggs and when it is time for the eggs to hatch, dust some over the eggs again. It will do no harm to give the hen a liberal dusting with the powder before she is given her chickens off the nest. As a rule, a hen will not leave her eggs or become lousy if ashes are left in the coop so that she may flutter in them when she is off—[V. H. Crossman, Worcester Co, Mass.

#### AN INEXPENSIVE DUCK HOUSE.

Ducks are easily the most profitable of all poultry, if the flesh product simply is considered, while as layers of eggs the Pekin duck is exceedingly



ANNEX FOR DUCK HOUSE.

profitable. There can be no doubt that it would be wise for more farmers to keep a flock of breeding and laying ducks, and for this purpose there is no better breed than the large, white Pekin.

As ducks roost on the floor, only low quarters are needed. A low, shed-roofed affair can be put onto the side of the barn or other farm building in the manner shown in the cut, three feet of height being sufficient. Let the pen open into the large building, the partition between being hinged at the top, so that by raising it one can clean out the pen and put in dry bedding.

For Pickling Eggs.—Lime 2 qts, salt 1 qt, cream of tartar 3 oz, boiling wa-

ter 8 gals; stir well and let cool. It is immaterial whether you remove sediment or not after about two weeks. Drop the eggs as gathered (only the fresh ones) in the pickle and keep covered from the light.

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