

Poultry.

GEO. D. GOODHUE, EDITOR.

POULTRY NOTES.

Brown Leghorns were first introduced from Leghorn, Italy, and have been greatly improved by American breeders since they have become so popular with us as egg producers.

This month will find the fowls most all through molting and we may soon look for an increase in eggs. Provided we don't get one of those Eastern blizzards.

Many people think that when they only have limited room that fowls cannot be kept. This is a mistake, fowls will do quite as well if confined if not too many together and their apartments are kept scrupulously clean, and given a variety of food every day. Of course pounded shells and gravel must be put in their reach.

As soon as flocks of hens are kept in large numbers, say from fifty to a hundred, together in pens, it will be found that the average number of eggs will be greatly diminished. Twenty to thirty is enough in one pen, and even less will bring better results. When you increase the number you may expect a decrease in the egg basket.

Two many fowls will be disastrous to any poultry raiser here. We say the business is limited. We have tried, others have tried, to keep fowls in large numbers and make it profitable, but with no success. We know per cent is profit from one to a hundred per cent in a small flock. Increase and the profits decrease in proportion.

Left us Nothing to Say.

A few days ago we had the pleasure of meeting one of our old poultry friends and breeder of many years experience. In a social chat about the many varieties of fowls, we finally came to Buff Cochins. We started in to tell our friend what we knew of that breed, but he edged in and got the first "say." Sail he, I owned a Buff Cochins hen once (just one) and she was determined to set, and I was determined that she should not. After trying several applications of cold water baths, and numerous other applications to break up the broody fever with no success, I finally hit on to the idea to take the tines of an old pitchfork and put it in the nest, feeling assured that I had her this time, but what was my surprise and astonishment on visiting the coop the next morning to find her setting on the tines apparently as contented as though she was having a full clutch of eggs. We were asked to go on with our argument for the Buff, but all we could do was to relate to him the story of two negroes who were selected out of a party of opossum hunters in the State of Wisconsin to decide for them what was the best dish for them to eat. The first one said "possum and sweet-taters." The other darkey said his friend had said it all and had left nothing that was good.

Artificial Incubation.

I don't see as much as I should like written for the monthly concerning artificial incubation. It can't be that among your numerous contributors and correspondents there are not many using incubators, but perhaps their experience is not pleasant. We generally hear of the successes. Silence covers the failures, excepting when the man who fails is alone. Experience is instructive if not gratifying. I have a few grains of the article. I hesitated long before purchasing an incubator, and then bought the only complete and satisfying machine in existence. The manufacturer said so. It is not an electric regulating affair. I would have none of those once, but now perhaps it might be different, and yet I have heard of men who, having an electric hen, wished they had not. So it goes. Whichever you get you wish you hadn't. Mine is a self-regulator, so the manufacturer said. He knows. I haven't much of an opinion on that point yet, having been godfather to but three clutches. When I have tinkered with the thing as many long years as the inventor I may have something positive to say. I think several things now, but that's no evidence. There is only one Perfect Hatcher. But as there are not hatched any perfect men in this world, it puzzles me to know how the perfect hatchers are produced. I have never hatched over seventy-five per cent, and that but once, fifty per cent, being as high as I got on other occasions, but taking into consideration the amount of time spent, shoe leather

gone, and anxiety caused, I should have hatched about two hundred per cent. I scarcely ever retired for the night without visions of roast chicken in the shell, for the freaky chest gave me no peace. I think an incubator can shell out more crooked-toed, wry-billed, and generally rickety chicks than any hen ever invented. I killed a chick to-day that had escaped my notice, that had a bill like a scissor—not the first by a long way—and I have nearly a score whose toes are an exasperation to them. They are tending upward to the pot. Some chicks had back staggers and some St. Vitus' Dance. One was stone blind. Some came forth too soon, and many had to be assisted, only to die a miserable death. The brooders are nice things too. You forget to fill the lamp maybe, and then early in March there are refrigerated chickens. Or you get too high a flame and find the tank hissing like a safety valve with a darkey on it, while the chicks are huddled outside wondering what made the old hen get so hot. Or you neglect to keep the tank full perhaps and find the thing busted into ruin. I sometimes think a hen is the most perfect incubator and brooder yet discovered, and yet the manufacturers say not. There is a discrepancy somewhere. Imagination is a fearful and wonderful thing. A man can imagine more fun with an incubator before he gets one than he can surround afterwards. The inventor of mine said that a couple of quarts of oil was sufficient to hatch 100 chicks, but he meant if you put the eggs under a hen. I put mine in the incubator and it took nearer a gallon. There are quite a number of things that come to light as a hatch progresses, that are, to speak gently, very lightly touched upon in the circulars. It wouldn't do to let the whole refulgence on at one full swoop, you see, or, as the engineers are in the habit of putting it, to "pull her wide open." But enough. The invention of man must have scope, and in the incubator line there is ample room. —Wattles, in Poultry Monthly.

Grange Column.

GRANGE DIRECTORY.

The Oregon State Grange.

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GRANGE NOTES.

The Grange is now twenty years old. It has stood the test of time. It has been "weighed in the balance and (not) found wanting." It is one of the largest organizations of any kind now in the country. The 20th annual session, just held in Philadelphia, was one of the largest and best ever held. Every State but four was represented and good work and progress was reported from nearly all sections.

The Grange passed its period of reaction seven or eight years ago. It passed its experimental age and settled down to solid work. Each succeeding year shows an increase of new Granges and growth in membership when the whole field is looked over.

Ninety new Granges were organized in 1885, and ninety-one in 1886; of these Connecticut reports 15; Pennsylvania, 14.

The Master of the National Grange, Put Darden, of Mississippi, in his annual address at the opening of this meeting, said: "We meet to-day, as an Order, after an existence of twenty years, under encouraging auspices and with flattering prospects. The Grange has been on trial during this long period of time, has successfully combatted the strongest opposition, has passed the experimental age and been established as one of the permanent and stable institutions of the country. Notwithstanding its large membership—scattered over this broad land in nearly every county, parish, State and Territory—it has never disturbed the peace of the country, or done anything hostile to

the general welfare. Opposed to all class antagonisms, its tendency has ever been a development and improvement. It offers to the American farmer the only well grounded hope for protecting and advancing his interests."

No reform, moral or intellectual, ever came from the upper classes of society. Each and all come from the protest of martyr and victim. The emancipation of the working people must be achieved by the working people themselves.—Wendell Phillips.

The very best class of farmers are now uniting with the Grange. Those who have been willing to labor and give the management, even of their own affairs, into the hands of those who have stood ready to take the results of their labor, but are at last awakening from their long sleep to find themselves living lives of isolation, without business habits and with few social advantages. They are asking why we should not assist each other, why may we not co-operate and secure for our labor better returns? Shall we not break up this isolation and meet where our families may have a season of enjoyment and recreation?

The general objects of the Patrons of Husbandry are found in these few words from the "Declaration of Purposes:" "United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our Order, our country and mankind."

Not for many long years did Congress and State Legislatures so well give ear and heed to the just and proper demand of the farmers of our country as during the past year. Important matters in which every farmer and his family are interested will come before Congress this Winter. Will our farmers be organized enough to speak and be heard with no uncertain sound?

We say to the great army of Patrons, take courage at the good results already achieved, and so labor that in the next generation our sons and daughters may not be known as the "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

A little bag of mustard laid on the top of the pickle-jar will prevent the vinegar from becoming moldy if the pickles have been put in vinegar that has not been boiled.

Blue Vitriol.—Cheapest place in town is Port's drug store, 160 State street.

1851. 1886.

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