

## A Weekly Page of Poultry Hints to You

Here is a Department Full of Bright Ideas For Readers of the Home and Farm Magazine Section.

**A**FFORD young stock the opportunity for development by rigidly weeding out the wasters. I have already mentioned the importance of doing so in previous articles, but I should like to emphasize the necessity of weeding out where the selection of future breeders is concerned, thus leaving plenty of space for the most promising chickens. To hamper or retard their growth by allowing them to breathe impure air or to run on contaminated ground will spoil the characteristics that are so essential to success in those from which it is intended to breed. Very frequently misshapen, badly colored or otherwise faulty birds are allowed to exist to the detriment of the remainder. It is, however, perfectly true that when such chickens have reached the age of ten or twelve weeks the temptation to keep them to killing age is very great, but the initial mistake was in keeping them so long. They should have been disposed of before this age.

The most promising chickens are not necessarily those that are the most attractive in appearance. For instance, those which at a very early age have grown their adult plumage and look trim and neat, almost perfect in their premature "finish," seldom reach the standard size of the variety to which they belong; nor do they prove of much service when selected for the breeding pen. It is better to keep for stock purposes those that are big boned, angular and somewhat ungainly in appearance and seem to be growing right away from their feathers.

These birds are developing their frame quickly and their internal organs slowly, and the more gradual development takes place in the latter, the better. It is not always the very early-laying pullets that are the most suitable for spring breeding. Therefore, the growth of the pullets in the early stages should be observed, and it will invariably be found that those which mature slowly when this stage is reached are the more perfect.

There are many poultry keepers who make the mistake of leaving the selection of the breeders until almost the actual time of breeding has arrived, with the result that it is done so hurriedly that due consideration can not be given to the necessary characteristics essential in breeding stock. Of course, I do not mean to imply that future breeders should be selected when they are chickens, but an eye should be

kept on those that show signs of future value, and it will frequently be found that these birds figure very prominently when the time arrives for the final selection.

When selecting birds for breeding purposes it is absolutely necessary that the type of the particular variety should be strictly observed. The utility man is very often tempted to ignore the standards and regard them as purely matters for the fancier. This, however, is a mistake, and one that very often leads to failure, since many of these so-called arbitrary points have economic value, and when the standards—that is, external points—are neglected it will invariably be found that the birds will not breed true to their economic characteristics. — "Practical Poultry Farmer," in Feathered Life.

### Cure for Roup

**R**OUPE is somewhat like la grippe in human beings, according to what a physician once said when he was called to treat an afflicted family. The whole house was sick. All had the same malady, and each one showed different symptoms. To use his own expression, "La grippe is very accommodating. If you don't want it one way you can have it another."

Where there is a hard swelling, open and remove the discharge. Disinfect the wound, and, if not too bad, the individuals may get well. We have saved turkeys, which seem to be subject to this particular form of roup more than chickens, by this method. The fowls should be isolated, and under no condition be used for breeders. If they are there will be a flock of chickens constitutionally weak, and there will be more complaint of roup next year.

There is a pretty good opportunity to apply the golden rule to this case in regard to selling them as soon as they take it. Would you or we like to eat chickens that have had a disease indefinitely? Because there was no outward sign in particular until a few days before they died is no good reason that they were fit for food.

Take those fowls promptly from the roosts and move to isolated quarters. Examine, kill and burn the ones that are in the worst shape. Clean the house, spray with a strong disinfectant and burn all litter.

If you wish to treat the more mild cases cleanse the mouth with a wash made of one tablespoonful creolin added to four fluid ounces of water. In the case of a very thick membrane having formed touch the spot with straight creolin on a swab, being very careful to not get any of the drug into the windpipe or your bird is a dead one. The membrane can then be removed without bleeding.

Only in the case of very valuable fowls is it advisable to give treatment to the flock as a whole. The more birds you cure that are afflicted with genuine roup the more future trouble you will have with roup.

### Scratchings

**T**HE BEST quality of poultry and eggs will command the highest prices in the right markets. The man who keeps fifty hens or more should constantly study how to put his products up in the best possible form. Sort eggs with great care. A basket of eggs freshly gathered from different breeds will contain eggs of several different sizes and colors. Don't mix colors and sizes in preparing for market. If you do you spoil the appearance of the whole lot. Seek the market that appreciates the fine product, finely put up, and cater to the high standards of that market.

There are two sides to poultry growing as a business. The first has to do with the details of production, which includes the selection of equipment, the purchasing of supplies, the economical use of labor. The other side—and this is too often overlooked—pertains to selling. Right here the poultryman has full opportunity to make the most of his business ability. When production costs are fixed, profits are regulated largely by the prices obtained for the goods. An additional cent received for each dozen of eggs or pound of dressed poultry may make the difference between breaking even or making a good profit on the season's operations. And this extra amount is secured only through the use of good salesmanship.

The feeding of grain constantly will cause the growth of the birds to be checked and many of those that have had a poor start will be undersized and of poor constitutional vigor at maturity. Now many of you will say they

will eat their heads off. This lack of feed is one of the underlying causes why many farmers cannot grow stock or fowls with success—they are so afraid that they will eat their heads off, and think the less feed they give the more will be their profits. Well-fed fowls are the only kind that make a real profit. Feed the chickens and if you are not willing to do this you had better keep growing cotton and stick to your old antiquated methods of doing things.

Utility is the first requisite in any fowl if a profit is to be obtained over the cost of rearing, caring and the feeding of the same. There are some who do not know the meaning of the word utility, but use it as a cloak to dispose of culls that do not even possess the merits of the birds raised carefully by the fancier, and who many so-called utility breeders are deceiving. Better a good-shaped, strong fowl of fine plumage than some of the under-sized culls that are sold as so-called utility fowls. Gradually the American poultry keepers are waking up to the fact that in the long run it pays to purchase the best stock, day-old chicks or hatching eggs. There is too much cheap, haphazard-bred stock being palmed off upon those beginning in poultry, with discouraging results. In a measure, it is the beginner's own fault in seeking the so-called bargain counter.

If one cares to keep standard-bred fowls and enjoys the sport of the poultry shows (of which over 1,200 were held throughout the United States this year), as many of those who raise poultry do, there is every opportunity, and when the breeding lines become established well enough to produce prize winners, there is a good deal of satisfaction when orders come in for \$10 to perhaps \$50 or more for high-grade birds. It is not meant to say that success is always easy in the poultry business, for there are often trials and tribulations as in all lines of business, and with them sometimes comes failure. But with the present-day development and knowledge of poultry culture it can be considered in nowise called for, and need not be experienced by the careful poultry man or poultry woman.

There are few greater pleasures than the pictures from real life of the small farm set to small fruits and trees, with desirable poultry houses and runs, with the landscape dotted with standard-bred fowls! Most assuredly there are few callings that contribute so much of real pleasure and compensation to the square inch. To the office man, broken in health, or to those who would retain their health, there is no other occupation that will give the same returns and no medicine that will benefit those of failing health so much as the sunshine and open-air exercise that is thus obtained. This much is assured; but there is one thing more one possesses, and that is independence.

As soon as you have completed the brooding of small chicks, put the brooder coops away for next year's work. But before you put them away clean them thoroughly with any good cleanser and water, turn them up in the hot sun till fully dry, paint them if there is any need of it, and after that is all done, put them away. They will be as good as new again. You will be on the safe side as to germs and filth, and the pleasure and pride you will feel in the clean and newly painted brooders and coops will be worth dollars to you.

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