

Chicken Breeds Most Desirable

BY G. L. WOOD.

THE following article taken from editorial utterings of the Rural New Yorker will give some idea of the argument that is being put up to the farmers of the country.

A few years ago the fanciers who won premiums at poultry shows were the only one to obtain large prices for fowls, and naturally great stress was laid on perfection of markings on the feathers, on feathers on the middle toe of some breeds, on total absence of feathers on the legs of other breeds, on the shape of the comb, on the color of the ear lobes, every one of these things being objects of earnest endeavor, yet none of them were of any real benefit. The egg-laying contests have already made a great change in conditions. Now a man who has bred his birds for egg production and demonstrated at the contests that he really has a strain of fowls that can and do outlay others, can get as much for his birds for breeders, or as much for eggs for hatching, as the fanciers only could get a few years ago, and the point of importance in all this is that the whole country is benefited by it.

Survival of the Fittest.

The real out and out fancier is given no consideration whatever, and it is a question how long favorite breeds will survive against the arguments put forward for the profit-makers. We have seen the immense balance in favor of the leading varieties at the egg contests. The farmer wants them. Everyone wants them, as long as they will lay more eggs on the same amount of feed than the ones they are raising now. Then the only chance of the favorite breed lies in the ability to improve it as a layer, and to be able to go into the contests and prove their worth.

We are impressed with the idea that many good varieties are going to suffer, that an occasional exceptional record will throw an eclipse for a time over other varieties equally as good. Big things are

taking place at the contests. Some breeders that have always been in favor are showing up pretty poorly even under the best of conditions.

Records of Contests.

The records of these contests are published all over the United States. The birds that show up badly are going to damage their particular breed. One of the only hopes to save them from a setback that would require years to recreate any interest in them whatever will be to stimulate action among these breeders at once.

The leading breeders in the East are doing their best to improve their flocks. Now is the time they must do it while the experimental work is in its infancy. Were they to wait until some particular breed had gained a decided supremacy the handicap would be too large. As it is some breed wins this month's record, another has laid the most eggs during the coldest spell, another had the least sickness, another the least deaths, another consumed the least feed, and so on down the line. There are enough records to reach every deserving one. The one that laid the most eggs for the year may not have laid the most when egg values were the highest.

Egg Value Counts.

The actual egg value for the year is what counts more than anything else. No breed so far has claimed all the records, not even half of them.

We firmly believe that the business hen of the future will be the ones that are developed at this time, and that your particular breed will be out of the running if it is not being backed by some big reliable breeder or breeders who can make a substantial showing of its merits and prove that it is entitled to a seat at the top with the best of them. Without a question the bulk of the poultry business will be done with five or less breeds in the very near future.

Is it any wonder we ask: "Which breeds will survive?"

Necessity of Culling the Flock

BY HELEN DOW WHITAKER.

WASHINGTON has today poultry in quantity—good poultry in quantity, and progressive poultrymen in quantity; therefore, it behooves everyone to keep busy grading up his flock. No matter who has the best flock now, the one who culls out the most birds persistently and intelligently will have the best flock in the end. There is no hope for the poultryman who is content and who works to own one or two prize winners with a third-rate flock behind them. Instead of constantly striving to raise to higher averages his whole flock.

The hope of the poultryman in Washington today lies in his one best bird and in his reproducing of her kind. The hope of the poultry industry of Washington today lies in the flock averages of the bulk of the poultrymen of the state.

We breed from too many birds. Right now in this month of February is the time for us to begin to cull out our breeding pens. The better birds we raise the more of them we will call culls. When a man says there are no culls in his flock the wonder is—which he does not know intimately—his flock or his breed

type. In the reproduction of a large market flock in the nick of time for the most Winter eggs, one must breed from a large number of birds, and the lines along which one culls are few:

Culling Lines.

1. In vigor and size.
2. Egg production.
3. Uniformity.

From a rightly bred flock one need not reject many birds on such broad lines, but in breeding foundation stock, that is, the prospective breeders, one must take into consideration every requirement of the standard for his particular breed and other requirements which the standard does not mention and which are vastly more important in breeding for eggs. Some of these other requirements are:

1. Exceptional vigor.
2. Breeding tendencies in the ancestry.
3. Adaptation to environment.
4. The ability to meet market requirements.

The demand today and the increasingly insistent demand of tomorrow will be for standard bred birds that will make good as layers.

eight grain doses is especially good for round worms.

6. Chopped up pumpkin seed for tape worms.

For Diarrhoea.

1. Subnitrate of bismuth, one to four grains, two to three times per day; or
2. Pulverized cinchona bark, one to two grains, three times per day, and
3. Quinine, one-eighth to one-half grain, two times per day.
4. Dry feed, or cooked and slightly moist feed.

Constipation.

1. Epsom salts, 20 to 30 grains in one tablespoonful of water; or
2. Castor oil, one to two teaspoonfuls; or
3. Calomel, one to two grains, and
4. Soft feed.

For Lice.

1. Lard or vaseline over head, under wings and around anus.
2. Dipping in 15 per cent kerosene oil emulsion; or
3. Dipping in 2 to 5 per cent creolin solution.

4. Pyrethrum powder dusted upon the feathers.
5. Clean nests, yards and houses.

Intestinal Disinfectant.

1. One-half to two drams of copper sulphate in one gallon of drinking water.
2. One-half to two drams of iron sulphate in one gallon of drinking water.
3. Salol, one-half to one grain once or twice daily.
4. Naphthol, one-half to one grain once per day after eating.
5. Resorcin, one-fourth to one-half grain once a day after eating.
6. Hyposulphite of soda, four to 10 grains in one tablespoonful of water.

For Worms in Air Passage.

(United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin 84.)

1. Turpentine introduced by a stripped feather into windpipe.
2. Steaming with creolin and turpentine in hot water.
3. Feeding garlic in food.

For Chicken Mites.

(United States Department of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin 190.)

1. Lard or vaseline on legs, feet and head, applied once or twice per week. Wash off scales.
2. Kerosene emulsion sprayed on walls, roosts, floors and nests once per week. For what is commonly called chicken mites or chicken ticks.
3. Two to 5 per cent creolin solution, sprayed on same places as in No. 2.
4. Farmolin, one part to 200 parts of water, sprayed as in No. 2.
5. Corrosive sublimate (very poisonous), one part to 1000 parts of water, sprayed as in No. 2.
6. Boiling hot water, freely applied by pouring over walls, roosts, nests and floor.
7. Clean chicken-house every day until mites are gone.

Kerosene emulsion is made as follows: Two gallons kerosene, one gallon water, one pound bar of soap, one pint crude carbolic acid. Boil the soap in water until dissolved; remove from the fire, and while the water is boiling hot add the kerosene and acid, churning with a spray pump for 10 minutes and then add six gallons of hot water, stirring well. A good application should be made in 10 days.

Poultry Pointers.

Early to bed, early to rise may be wise, but it isn't necessary if your chickens find the feed hoppers open at daylight.

Moist mashers will start the pullets laying earlier. Keep dry mash before them all day and feed grain late in the afternoon only.

Bury the dead ones deep—don't give the disease a chance to spread.

Keeping the well chickens well is easier than trying to cure sick ones.

Clean grain, free from mold, is as necessary as disease-free water.

A little close watching windy weather will give you a line on the aim of the disease enemy, helping prevent Mr. Roup getting the range of your first line of defense.

Oats make a fine morning feed for your old fowls, this time of the year; hens won't get too fat on oats.

A good remedy for scaly leg is equal parts of lard, kerosene and sulphur, apply twice a week, rubbing it well.

Don't forget that the hens need some green food.

Don't let the little chicks out in the wet grass until they are well feathered out.

Remember that hens like a change of feed. Oats, wheat, barley and cracked corn makes a good Summer ration.

Skim milk is an excellent food for the fowls.

High roosts are generally the cause of bumble foot. A little chaff is a fine thing for the birds to fly

upon; when flying from the roosts it keeps their feet from getting hurt.

The best cure for gapes is prevention. Plow up the land before putting the young chicks on it; it is a good prevention.

The poultry business is a paying proposition if you do your part.

The secret of success with poultry is in having something to sell the year around. A dozen fresh eggs, a dressed fowl, a breeding fowl, or hatching eggs, a small but steady income is what insures success.

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The Old Farm Lane.

The maple, with their crimson stain,
Begulle me down the old farm lane,
Where the slow-moving cattle go
At dewfall in the afterglow,
When dreamily there drifts across
The pastures, wrapped in amber glass,
The milking cry: "Co' boss! Co' boss!"

Here sumachs show their gleaming fire
Above the purple aster spire;
And here, like embers in an urn,
The bending barberries blush and burn;
While from the opened milkweed pod
Drift snowy sails, and o'er the sod
Lift torches of the goldenrod.

The air is soft, the air is sweet;
The bygone lure of truant feet
Calls as it did in distant days
When all the world was hung with
haze,
The haze of youth, and dreams were
fain,
And filled with glories that remain
A halo round the old farm lane!
—Clinton Scollard in New York Sun.

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Valuable Hints for Poultrymen

D. R. C. A. CARY, of the Alabama College station, gives some excellent advice to those engaged in the poultry business either on a large or small scale. In the Alabama College Bulletin, No. 126, he makes the following suggestions for the elimination of some poultry troubles:

For Intestinal Worms.

1. Isolate infected birds and destroy or disinfect their droppings while being treated.
2. Put one or two drams of copper sulphate in each gallon of drinking water for one week; or
3. Powdered pomegranate root bark, followed by two or three tablespoonfuls of castor oil; or
4. Oil of turpentine, one to two teaspoonfuls, followed in four to six hours with castor oil.
5. Powdered santolin in five to