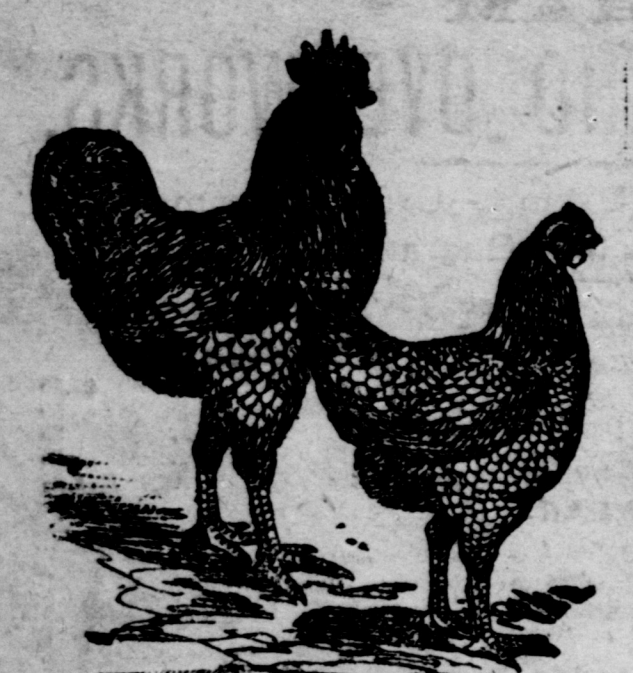


PIGEON BREEDING.

Notes Upon Nest Building, Breeding Season, and the Pigeons in Over. Look out for the breeding season. Each nest should be provided with a layer of sawdust in the bottom—cedar, if possible to get it; pine, if the latter cannot be had. Some breeders give their pigeons no other material, but I believe it is better to strew pieces of hay, straw and twigs three or four inches in length about. These it deligates them to collect and arrange for a nest, and although pigeons even in a state of nature build rough looking nests they will arrange this rough material in a neater manner than we could arrange it for them. Collecting this rough material keeps them busy, and there is less likelihood of disturbance where all are busy in this way than if the work was all done for them and they comparatively idle, for, as we have been often told, idleness is apt to induce discontent, therefore to prevent any prospect of discord it is best to keep them interested and busy.

The nest building is alternated with lovenaking, billing and cooing, calling and driving occupying the time until the first egg makes its appearance. Some fanciers who watch their birds carefully take the first egg away until the second is laid, which is about 36 hours after the first, believing that they are apt to hatch closer together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.



Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

Blue Leghorns. The Blue Langhams are not popular fowls in this country, but in England they are highly favored. The subject of the illustration is a pair owned by a well known English fancier. The cock is a first and special prize winner and is considered the most perfect blue yet out. The pullet also won first prize at one of the English poultry shows.

Covered Runs For Chickens. It is often the case that in the vicinity of brooding houses all the neighbors keep cats, and as troubles often arise with those neighbors if we kill their cats it is a good plan to have covered runs for the chicks. We hatch both by hen and incubator. All hen hatched chicks are raised in the natural way, but the incubator chicks are placed in brooders. For each hen we have a small house with a covered run 18 feet long, so made that it can be easily moved about. For these runs we use inch wire mesh, which is securely tacked to a frame. It is impossible for the chicks to get out of these runs and equally impossible for the cats or even rats to get in. As we every few days remove the run to a new plot of grass, the ground is never infested, but greatly benefited, and the chicks thrive well. All the brooder runs, too, have wire covered over them, and it is not necessary to build them over two feet high, making their cost about the same as the old style runs. The tops of these runs are made movable, so that at any time the yards can be cleaned. Cor. Farm Poultry.

An Apostrophe to the Hen. Eggs are always cash. They are ready for market the minute laid, and the sooner they are got to market the better. Nothing that the farm produces sells better. They require no cultivation, pruning, churning or harvesting, but are at once in salable condition. With plenty of eggs on the farm there is a host of good things in the kitchen and money in the family purse. Gathering up eggs is like picking up dollars and cents. Great is the hen that produces them. When everything is dull in winter, the egg basket has wonderfully helped out many a poor farmer. The crops may be poor, the provisions low, the family cow dry, with a long wait for the next growing season, but the hen comes up smiling and is ready to get a pound of tea or a sack of flour. If treated well, she will respond as readily when the snow lies on the ground as when the fields are green. She is a friend to the poor and rich alike.

Mature Hens For Breeders. I do not believe in immature breeders. Hens are not in their prime until 3 or 4 years old, and chicks from hens are usually stronger than those from pullets. I doubt whether there is any difference between the number of eggs laid by hens and pullets under equal conditions. Hens are more liable to become overfat than pullets. I do not approve of crosses, hence suggest that a Brown Leghorn male, at least 1 year old, be used, as that breed excels as egg producers. To produce copious combining size and quality, mate Indian game males with Dorking hens. A Dorking male and Brahma female also make an excellent pair. About 10 to 15 hens may be used with one male, according to the breed and vigor of the male.—P. H. Jacobs in Rural New Yorker.

BREEDS AND CROSSES. An Acknowledged Authority on Poultry, Eggs and Markets. In a recent address at the Massachusetts Ploverman's farmers' meeting in Boston Mr. Samuel Cushman said concerning breeds and crosses: "The best breed is the one whose product, quantity considered, best suits your particular market. "The demand in certain sections for market poultry having very yellow skin and legs is a senseless fad, just as much as breeding for beauty of feather is a fad. People ignorant of what good poultry is think a yellow chicken looks rich and healthy. The fact is that a thin, wasted chicken will look like a healthy one because the color of his skin is yellow, while a white skin bird must be plump and fat, or it will not pass muster. Unless fat and in good condition the flesh of the latter shows through its more tender and transparent skin and therefore looks blue and unattractive. Certain breeds that have the most juicy, tender and delicious flesh of all fowl have white skin and white or dark legs. In some markets Philadelphia and New York a good chicken, one that is soft, tender, plump and fat, is all right, regardless of color of skin or leg. But you must bow to this fad where it exists in order to sell your goods unless you have a private trade and are willing to carry on an educational campaign. "Brown eggs are preferred in Boston and some other eastern markets, while white ones bring the best price in New York city. "There is usually no real difference in the quality. The eggs of female fowls, which produce few, are considered the richest and doubtless are. The eggs

from Leghorns, Black Spanish, Minorcas and Hamburgs—breeds that are non-sitters and most persistent layers—may toward the latter part of the season be less rich and sometimes pale and watery. This is due, however, to the fact that they have exhausted themselves by excessive laying or have not had sufficiently nutritious food or enough of it. Their early eggs are as rich as any other eggs. All there is in it is that the breeds that lay brown eggs are more hardy and stocky. They are not so prolific and do not lay enough to exhaust themselves or when they have insufficient material to produce a good egg. "If you are marketable in slow poultry, you must not select stock that does not produce chickens having yellow skin and legs. The pinfeathers of the dark plumaged birds are also objectionable. Some dark birds, when mature, have a more productive white or very light chickens. White and buff fowls are to be preferred. If you are to raise brown eggs, you must not keep pure breeds of the non-sitting varieties. You must cross them with the breeds that lay brown eggs and get excellent stock that produce brown eggs. If you are to keep your stock pure, you have from which to choose White and Buff Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, which have no feathers on their legs, and Light Brahmas and Buff Cochins, which do have feathers on their legs. They also make most excellent yellow poultry. If you cross for brown eggs, you are apt to hatch together if incubation begins with both at the same time, but my experience leads me to believe that the hen does not sit closely on the first egg, merely standing over it until the second is laid, when she settles down and covers both alike. During the period of incubation, which occupies about 16 to 18 days, the cocks assist the hens, sitting during the day and the hens during the night.

which serves as a handle. Smooth it against the feathers of the birds. Good clear laths nailed along the sides and to the end pieces make a sufficient side guard to the trough, projecting three-quarters of an inch to an inch above it, which is ample protection for the food put upon it. When this trough is intended for outdoor use, a quarter inch hole is bored in each corner to allow the water to run off during a rain.

To Beginners in Poultry. Select carefully your breeder from whom you wish to purchase, inquire into his reputation and standing, and when you decide to send him your money do not expect too much. Be reasonable in your demands. If you wish a show bird fit to take a prize, do not expect to obtain one for \$5. There are cases where this sum may buy a winner for a small show, but they are rare. If you want strong, healthy, vigorous stock, you cannot buy it for 50 or 75 cents unless under extraordinary circumstances. There are bargains offered at such prices occasionally, but the breeds of known strains costs money, and it is worth the price. For example, a pullet bought in the fall and fit to lay is not dear at \$2 if she comes from a known strain of egg producers. She will lay over \$2 worth of eggs her first season, and give you besides many good chickens. A cockerel for a breeder should bring from \$3 to \$5, depending upon his strain, health and vigor. Cheap, inferior stock is never cheap at any price, and will cost more for feed generally than it is worth.—Exchange.

As to Quality. We shall never be issued a first class article until the consumer demands it and refuses to accept anything else. So long as there is no radical kick against lined or cold storage eggs being delivered as fresh articles, so long will dealers palm off the poorer and cheaper and charge for the richer and dearer. A knowledge of the source and nature of distinct flavors in eggs, as well as in butter, will be of material service in protecting from fraud and insuring a choice, fresh product. To neglect this is unjust to oneself, to protect is one's highest duty. Demand fresh eggs, pay for the same and then charge back for every groaning family. The one in itself will bring dealers to make them more original and insure better egg fruit for the table no matter what the form in which it comes.

What an Entertaining Man With Small Capital May Do. A correspondent of The Country Gentleman describes a poultry farm he visited some time ago to show what an enterprising farmer who is doing most of the work himself. They were double boarded, with paper between the boards; also board roofs and earthen floors were made and windows on the south side. They were made very warm, but no money was spent on superfluous ornament. The inside fixtures were few and simple. The houses were 30 to 40 feet long and about 12 feet wide. On one side were the perches, running the whole length of the house. In the center a platform under them. On the other side were nest boxes and feeding troughs. The space between these was given to the hens for a scratching floor and covered with hay or straw.

Light Brahmas. The Light Brahma has always been a justly popular breed of fowl. Today it has more friends than ever before. For the man with a small yard in the city there is no better breed, and with a little care it can be made a fine money bird. The chicks can have large range and can thus be made to grow rapidly and to great size. The hens can be given their freedom, and a pen can be made for them when they wish to go out. It is a great deal less trouble than it takes to rear Leghorns where they belong. A

pen a foot high and of sufficient surface for the size of the flock, filled in three or four inches deep with straw, makes a feeding place in which to scatter the grain. With this accessory, which a farmer has room for winter or summer and with the garden a little way off or fenced with two foot wire netting, the farmer can then rear his chickens at small expense, for they will mow their own living. With a scratching pen and not too cold quarters to house the flock and with the barnyard to work in, the birds will shell out eggs in winter at a great rate.

Value of Green Bones. The liberal feeding of green cut bone will double the egg yield from a given number of hens. Green bone is the cheapest egg food on the market today and in many places can be had for the mere asking. In those places where it has acquired a commercial value it can be bought for 25 to 30 cents per 100 pounds. This is never cheaper than wheat, which is the best of the local egg producing foods. Green cut bone has such a potent force in increasing egg production that it will be found especially in winter, producing large quantities of eggs when they are of greatest value.

Double Yolked Eggs. When double yolked eggs are found, it is to be regretted, as they invariably indicate that the hens are out of condition—too fat. A hen in good laying condition will never produce an egg other than of the normal size peculiar to her breed, and if fat she is entirely unfitted for laying. If a fat hen is killed, she will be found full of eggs, so to speak, but they will be noticed to be of all sizes, and the poultryman will be amazed over the fact that she did not lay, but examination will show that obstructions of fat were the cause, and that the hen is then more profitable dead than when alive.

Hard and Soft Food. If any one will moisten a gill of cornmeal it will be noticed that a large quantity of water will be absorbed. This water is not taken by the corn itself, but the crop is packed with soft food and digestion is slow, decomposition begins, being hastened by the animal heat of

the body. When the fowl consumes dry food and must seek it, the first portion is digested before the last enters the crop; hence when it drinks there is but a portion of the food eaten moistened and the crop is never full. This matter has been alluded to before, but it is one which should attract attention and receive consideration. To give soft food when it is necessary to do so is correct, but such food should be given only in limited quantities, and the ground food should be given dry in the trough, if possible, instead of forcing more water on the birds than they really require.

POULTRY AND DAIRY. How Much Waste Can Be Converted Into a Profit. Professor Myers of the West Virginia experiment station would combine the dairy and poultry and so insure success on the farm. He writes as follows: "The poultry business requires no large amount of capital, and labor upon the farm that would otherwise be idle can very largely be utilized in the dairy. The same animals that take the dairy products will be only too glad to get the poultry supplies, so that there is no additional expense in marketing the supplies. Every hen, properly cared for, can be expected to pay the farmer at least \$1 net per year in eggs and considerable additional, either in the form of eggs or chickens raised for