

POULTRY - KEEPING.

[By F. C. BROWN, Poultry Instructor.]

(Continued.)

LOCATION AND SOIL.

ONE of the most important questions to decide in establishing a poultry plant is location. This requires to be dry and well sheltered, and, if possible, within easy reach of a good market. It is not necessary that expensive land should be bought close to a large centre, in order that the owner may deliver his own produce. I have seen large losses made owing to the personal marketing interfering too much with the work of supervision. The best plan is to go a few miles inland, where land is cheap, and select a site close to the railway. Time and money will thus be saved, and the product can be railed to market, where care should be taken to secure a reliable agent.

I have frequent inquiries as to how many birds can be kept on a certain area of land. Much depends on the class of land. The best of all soils is a sandy loam, which dries up quickly. On free sandy loam, four hundred, even five hundred, fowls to the acre may be run without fear of disease. With this intense stocking, however, the grass will probably soon be scratched out, so that the whole of the green food may have to be grown separately. On damp, heavy land it is necessary that grass be grown, and the number of stock to the acre considerably reduced, otherwise the runs will be a puddle in winter. In the summer it will form a hard cake—one of the causes, by the way, of corns on the birds' feet. The sandy loam never becomes sloppy in winter, and in summer the birds can always find a free moist place to dust in.

The best remedy for tainted ground is to give the run a rest. A good sprinkling of lime on the run is good, as it not only sweetens the soil, but encourages plant-growth. Fowls are better on a moderate piece of clean ground than on double the area of tainted soil.

HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION.

The housing question is of great importance, not only from the point of view of health and the best results in production, but in regard to re-