

the utility type of White Leghorn could lay well over two hundred eggs in the year. This fact has not been added to, while the striving after higher records has reduced the value of many strains of White Leghorns by bringing about deterioration in the size of the eggs they produce.

It should hardly be necessary to again emphasize the importance of proper feeding and careful management if a flock of laying-birds is to be made really profitable.

#### CONSTITUTION.

The problem of the age is the maintenance of constitution. In a state of nature constitution is effectively maintained—the strongest male selects the best breeding female by reason of brute force. With the advent of civilization and man's interference with the breeding of the animals he has domesticated, natural selection is rendered impossible, and man has not the wit nor the knowledge to mate according to nature's dictation.

The history of the domestic fowl is a striking instance. With the natural process of selection impossible, we have improved the egg-yielding capacity to such an extent that every ounce of stamina is demanded if the modern high-type layer is to continue its great artificial production without bringing about its deterioration. The fact cannot be too strongly emphasized that the greater demands we make on a fowl by way of egg-yield the greater the care we must exercise in seeing that her vigour is not impaired in the process, while we must take every means to see that she has all the care and attention (particularly in the matter of housing and feeding) which she demands if she is to produce her maximum and if her breeding-power is not to be lowered. Disease is the thing the poultryman has most to fear, and we know that the more we remove an animal from natural conditions of life and production the greater the tendency to contract disease. The best way to fight disease is by never allowing the constitution to deteriorate, and to house the birds in fresh air but draught-proof and roomy quarters, and feed them liberally with sound and suitable food. The more artificial the animal the greater the care demanded of the owner, and there is no domestic animal of a more artificial type than the New-Zealand-bred egg stamp of White Leghorn.

In many tribes of farm stock breeders have attained almost an ideal in a certain character of an animal, only to find that their life's work has been thrown away, because in the process they neglected constitution. Breeders of utility poultry stock should heed the lesson and see to it that in aiming for extreme egg-production they do not neglect the vital consideration of constitution, or the power of production without