

fertility and unsatisfactory stock are the result of spare feeding of a breeding-pen, owing to a good cock bird being too solicitous for the hens in allowing them to have all the feed. Of course, while the diet should be liberal it should be plain. Records are of no account in breeding operations. It is the record of fertility and percentage of vigorous stock produced that should be the objective. Too often we hear of incubating and brooding troubles which could all be put down to mismanagement in the breeding-pen.

It is generally recognized now that the late moult, if of the desired type, is the bird to breed from, a principle I have long advocated and heartily subscribe to; but if the late moult is to be bred from it should not be put into a breeding-pen immediately after the moult following its long and exhausting laying season. The best plan is to force the selected birds into a false moult, in the direction of changing the feed from wheat to maize or oats. The moult having been brought about, they should then be liberally fed on a plain and nutritious diet, so that the stamina of the birds may be built up before mating.

The quarters for the breeders should be as clean and sweet as possible. It is not always possible, however desirable, to keep the breeding-pens for their special purpose, therefore the houses and runs to be used for the breeders should now receive a thorough cleansing. Abundant scratching-material should be provided. This is an excellent means of inducing exercise, the best way of all of building up bodily vigour. It is advisable in poultry-keeping to neglect no detail in regard to cleanliness, proper feeding, and general management, but with breeding stock this attention to detail is imperative.

ADOPT BUSINESS METHODS.

How few people there are, especially those who keep poultry as a side line, who really know whether their birds are paying them or not, much less know which are the money-makers and which are the wasters. It is coming to this in dairying: that the farmer who does not know exactly the amount of milk each cow in his herd is producing every year will have to retire from the business. While it may not be possible to keep a record of every fowl on the plant, still an intelligent study of the birds will enable one to decide which are profitable and which are unprofitable. This knowledge is necessary to reduce the cost of production and make the keeping of fowls really profitable. The profit-and-loss standpoint will never appeal to the poultry-keeper unless he acquires the habit of keeping a strict account of his receipts and expenditure. When he realizes, for instance, that his returns have declined he will be impelled to look for a cause, probably finding it in having too many old hens on hand, having bred from a weak cockerel, or not having been particular enough in regard to feeding and managing