

were doing their duty. This emphasizes the fact that a high percentage of these birds have not been properly managed. Hatching the winter layer at the desired period does not mean that winter eggs will be secured. It is only one factor. More depends on the subsequent management, especially at the laying-period, when everything in nature is against the bird laying.

I realize that the farmer, or his wife, who has studied egg-production on right lines experiences a greater difficulty every year in securing the necessary broodies, for the more the egg-yielding power of the flock is improved the greater becomes the tendency for the brooding propensity to diminish. The only thing to do is to go in for a small incubator or purchase day-old chicks from a reliable breeder. The difficulty, of course, will not be so great with the heavier breeds, but if the laying strains of these be secured—and they are the only types worth bothering with—the question of securing broodies will become almost as great as with the special egg-producing breeds, such as White Leghorns. The time is coming when natural rearing will be almost eliminated from successful poultry-keeping. While it is the specialist now, incubating only by artificial means, who produces the great bulk of the winter eggs, before many years are past it will be the farmer who will be responsible for the main supply. Before this comes about, however, the methods of the specialist will have to be adopted by the farmer.

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#### THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Do not starve your birds because they are not laying.

Do not have the birds standing about in a wet yard waiting for the morning meal.

Feed the layers in the house if this is, as it should be, roomy and well provided with litter.

Aim at making a high average profit from the flock rather than an exceptional return from a few.

The yolk of eggs may be made a deeper colour by feeding lucerne, clover, or watercress.

The moulting bird should be specially well fed. She has gone through an exhausting laying-period, and if early eggs are to be expected from her she should be done well now.

The wasters, which can generally be distinguished when quite young, should be weeded out without delay. Always bear in mind the food bill, the most serious factor of the business. Many hens die in debt to their owners; if they had been culled at the right time the boot would have been on the other foot.