

back to the home strain in the same way, carefully selecting for the desired type as before. This is what breeders and fanciers term "breeding back" to a strain, and the philosophy of it can be clearly understood from such a diagram as that before us. Every cross thus involves more or less breeding back to the "line" afterwards; but this need not be carried to the extent of incestuous matings, or interfere with vigour in any degree. The out-cross is not used as immediate material, but to provide either pullets or cockerels for really breeding into the strain the following year.

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Strong, healthy birds are the most difficult to catch in the run.

Maize-meal, pea-meal, or maize and peas fed whole may be used with advantage in cold weather.

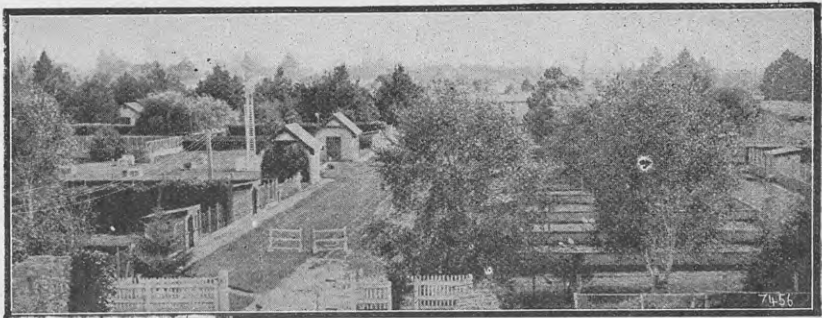
The moulting bird should have an abundant supply of nourishing food. It is poor policy to neglect the heavy layer when temporarily out of action.

Get rid of all surplus cockerels. They will give a better return if marketed at five months old than at a later age. Study the cost of production.

If the winter-egg yield has been unsatisfactory this season, now is the time to arrange matters so that winter eggs will be in abundant supply next year. Hatch good stock at the right time.

One breed is enough for most people to deal with, if the flock is to be bred and managed to the best advantage. One breed may be studied successfully, whereas two may be studied but indifferently.

Don't adopt new and untried methods. There are no get-rich-quick systems of poultry-keeping. Common-sense and hard work are the mainsprings of success.



POULTRY SECTION AT RUAKURA FARM OF INSTRUCTION.