

rarely develop into desirable breeding-stock, and as a rule lay smaller eggs and are more susceptible to disease than birds hatched at the right time. There are no chicks that do so well as those that are brought out just after the days commence to lengthen, and are well developed before the hot, trying summer-weather conditions prevail.

Great care should be exercised in selecting the breeders. The first essential is to have purebred stock, good specimens of the breed they represent, combined with laying type and the maximum points indicative of constitution. Of course, constitutional points must be given first consideration, for unless a bird possesses a strong constitution it cannot be expected that its offspring will have the necessary stamina to last out a long heavy-laying season, nor the same power of resistance to ward off disease. Now that it is proved and recognized that there is a special laying type the whole object of the breeder should be as far as possible to breed a uniform flock conforming to the correct type. It is true that fowls that have no special type or points indicative of purity of breed will at times produce good records. There are exceptions to every rule, but this does not disprove that in selecting the breeding-bird a definite type should be aimed at. A crossbred bird may have proved a prolific producer, but, not possessing the necessary fixity of type, she cannot transmit her laying-qualities with any degree of certainty. It may be said that like produces like, but this only applies where the parents are absolutely pure. One great weakness in utility poultry stock to-day is the great variation of type in individual breeds. Even in the egg-laying competitions few pens even of the popular White Leghorns conform to the same type, while it is also exceptional to find six birds in one pen uniform in this respect. It is well known with all classes of live-stock that to maintain purity of breed and to intensify desirable characteristics only purebred stock must be used for breeding. Many a common practice, such as treating phenomenal egg-records as the chief qualification of the breeding-pen, selecting on the pelvic-bone test, crossing the different breeds, or, in fact, anything which means the ignoring of breed characteristics, is certain to have a disastrous effect on the poultry stock of the country.

It is gratifying to notice that utility poultrymen are taking a greater interest in the poultry shows of the Dominion. These shows are practically the only means we have of preserving in a state of purity the many useful and beautiful breeds of poultry that are at our command. One of the greatest mistakes made in the past was to assume that because a bird was built on utility