

give evidence of developing a good-sized frame combined with constitutional vigour. The chief signs indicating good health and vigour are a bold, bright, clear eye, tight feathering, a deep body, a well-developed crop, short strong shanks (the bone to be flat), and the legs set wide apart. The ideal breeding male should be active in his habits and carry himself in a proud manner. No male should be selected for the breeding-pen that is lacking in these important points.

Each bird should be carefully examined for breed defects, as these are apt to be reproduced in the progeny, and probably in an exaggerated form. Never breed from a cockerel that has matured at a very young age. These are usually pleasing to the eye when young, having a well-developed comb, well-furnished plumage, and a sprightly appearance. Such birds seldom or never grow to a desired size, and are more like bantams than the breed they represent. Obviously they will produce stock of poor quality. As a rule, the cockerel that makes the best sire is somewhat ungainly in appearance during the growing-stage, and does not catch the eye so readily as his more precocious brothers.

A common mistake made, even by those who realize the importance of breeding only from robust stock, is that after choosing the best cockerels they later are placed in too-confined quarters, such as a small run, coop, &c. This means that they become overforced, like hothouse plants, which not only weakens the constitution but brings on leg-weakness, abnormal development, and falling-over of the comb, as well as other serious troubles.

The careful breeder who is intent on raising the productive capacity of his flock pays special care to the selection and management of the cockerels intended as future stock birds. He is guided by the sound principles upon which the successful breeding of all classes of stock rest. The A B C of this is that "like produces like," and that no trouble is too great to have the right class of stock in the breeding-pen. It is advisable in poultry-keeping to neglect no detail in regard to exercise, cleanliness, proper feeding, and general management, but with the cockerel intended for next season's breeding-pen this attention to detail is imperative.

THE APIARY.

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BEEKEEPERS should be optimistic, always expecting a good crop. It is better to have a good supply of spare supers and combs, even if not required, than to experience a shortage during a good flow of honey. If, however, the beekeeper should find the bees filling up the supers and brood-nest and have no spare combs, he must keep the extractor going continuously to cope with the supply, replacing the wet empty combs on the hives at night in order to avoid starting the bees robbing.

In districts where there is a variety of flora from which honey is obtained it is advisable to keep separate the different extractings, marking the tins accordingly. This is necessary where two or more colours or grades of honey are obtained.