

## POULTRY-KEEPING.

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JUNE is generally an easy month on the poultry-farm, but nevertheless there are several important things which should now be attended to. Perhaps the most important is to see that the pullets are specially cared for, in order that they may produce their maximum egg-yield while high prices rule for this product. The first essential in this respect is to see that the birds are well housed and are provided with ample room to exercise under cover when unfavourable weather conditions prevail. The floor of the house should be covered with litter in which the grain foods should be scattered. This will induce the birds to exercise in searching for the grain—an essential to good health and vigour. Having the birds confined and under such favourable conditions will not only tend to promote egg-laying, but will be an assurance that the eggs can be gathered in a clean condition.

Hand-in-hand with good housing should go regular and liberal feeding. Only the best grain materials available should be used, while the mash should be made as appetizing as possible by moistening it with meat, soup, milk, or hot water. Further, to secure a maximum egg-yield at this period of the year, animal food, such as boiled meat, meat-meal, or milk albumen, must be provided. Green food must also be liberally fed, while crushed sea-shell, gravel, grit, and clean water should be always in reach of the birds.

Special attention to cleanliness and the prevention of insect pests is imperative for the maintenance of a healthy flock. The quarters should be frequently cleaned and sprayed with a good disinfectant or limewash. Especially must the nests be kept in a thorough sanitary state to ensure that they are free from vermin. Neglect to attend to this detail is a common cause of hens laying their eggs in the corners of the house, and laying away in hedges, &c., when provided with a free range. A kerosene-tin with the half of each end cut out makes a suitable nest, and is easily cleaned. When these are used, a good plan is to put in about 2 in. of clean sand before the nesting-material, such as hay, &c., is placed. The sand will prevent the latter from slipping when the hen enters or leaves the nest, thus lessening the risk of having broken eggs and the hens acquiring the habit of egg-eating. When cleaning operations are taking place a good idea is to place the tin nests over a fire for a few seconds, as this will have the effect of ridding them of any vermin that may be present. The perches may be treated in a similar manner when red mite is present, and with the same desirable effect.

### THE SURPLUS COCKERELS.

It should be unnecessary to again emphasize the importance of sending to market all surplus cockerels that are four and a half to five months old. It is never wise to keep a cockerel beyond that age, for if not marketed then it will be weeks, and even months, before it can be brought to prime condition, and then, although heavier than at the prime-chicken stage, the return will not be as profitable as if marketed earlier. Once the chicken stage has been passed the con-