

**POULTRY DEPARTMENT.**

All communications and inquiries should be addressed to

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We shall be much obliged to the writer of the question about sorehead in the paper of October 25, will send her address again. We sent the original letter to the printing office and did not keep a copy of the address and now would like to have it.

**Chickens and Children.**

Does that seem to you a curious combination? It is a pity that it is not more common. It would go a long ways toward solving the old problem how to keep the boys on the farm. There is no anchor that will hold so well as the ownership of some livestock. Begin with chickens and add to the list as the boy gets older, but do not make the very common but unfortunate mistake of selling any of the boy's stock and putting the cash in your own pocket. That will drive him away sooner than almost anything else. The following is from the Successful Poultry Journal:

I am asked to write something reasonable for Successful Poultry Journal, and wonder if there be a more reasonable topic which I might discuss at this growing season of the year, when every animate thing seems to be permeated with the idea of growth and development; than to write in some way for the development not alone of the poultry hobby in which I am so much interested, but at the same time for the development of the more important members of your household, your children.

I am well aware that in very many homes the children are not accorded any such high place in the family, but if you are to do your full duty as parents by these whom God has given you the privilege to train and educate, then the succeeding generation is to be at least a little more noble than the present, and if that is to be true, then for the good of the following generation which they are to train in turn, the very highest place is none too high, and the more perfectly we shall be able to round out every side of the child life, the more perfectly we shall fit them to take their place and meet the sterner duties which shall come to them a little later on, just a little in advance of the point where we shall leave them off.

The writer has spent much time in the study of child development and we are very sure you will in no other way so surely and so fully minister to the best development of the very best side of your children, be they either boys or girls, than by placing them in charge of the ownership and the consequent responsibility and care of some animal creature, and of all living things there are none more interesting or profitable than fowls.

Give your boy or girl a pair or trio of well bred fowls, and please don't make the mistake of giving them just common scrubs, rather buy the very best you can afford, yea strain a point on that side. Teach them the superior value of these over the commoner sort, get them a copy of the Standard of Perfection, study it yourself, teach the children the intelligent use of it, teach them the science of breeding for the development of certain desirable qualities, help them as far as it be practicable to be independent and to make their own coops, houses and utensils, help them to understand the art and necessity of advertising in order that they may realize the best return from the sale of stock and eggs. Emphasize especially the necessity of good order and cleanliness, and in their dealing with others the prime necessity of the use of the golden rule, and be sure in it all that you remember

that they are the owners, for the importance of proprietorship does much for the child even while quite young. You are to be only the teacher and guide, and only as you shall come to a good understanding of the lesson yourself, shall you be "apt to teach."

That father or mother who shall thus co-operate in the development of son or daughter, will find less time to spend themselves in questionable company and places, and thus become a better father, mother, citizen; and find in the end not alone that you have reared a worthy representative of the human race, but that while educating your children you have gained much of useful information for yourself, for no man or woman can fit themselves to rightly teach without themselves being very thoroughly taught.

Do I hear some one say that they have no room for chickens? There is scarcely the smallest city yard where at least a few of the diminutive little Cochins Bantams may not be kept profitably and well, for they require but little space, do not fret or worry over confinement where kept strictly clean; they are wonderfully tame and interesting little pets where carefully bred and find a ready sale at very profitable prices, and at the same time yield a lot of very good eggs which are large indeed in proportion to the little hens which produce them.

If in the production of this article I shall induce so much as one household to adopt the suggestions herein laid down, I am sure that my writing shall not be alone reasonable but profitable as well; yea, the very highest of all profit, that which shall minister to the uplift of another.

**"Perhaps," Maybe.**

Do you lose your chicks from no reason that you can see? If so you have plenty of company. A prominent poultryman writes to the Poultry Standard as follows:

In the July number of The Poultry Standard I read an article by C. H. Ward relative to losses of little chicks.

Bro. Ward's expression as to the cause that "they just died, that's all" hits the case exactly and while he and all others afflicted have my most earnest sympathy I feel much cheered that I have companions in misery, that there are still others. This season my records show that I hatched 945 chicks and after four or five months of the most painstaking care and labor I find that 40 per cent are "non est," gone where the woodbine twineth not "simply memories," "they just died that's all" some say perhaps its this, others maybe so and so and I think its because, but who knows? One old lady of my acquaintance says, "why don't somebody know? search me. Authorities (supposed to be) claim its the weather, perhaps, but not a positive word or statement even then. Perhaps and maybe. Words easy spoken and they mean a great deal. Yea, perhaps.

One wag claims that the Beef Trust has purchased the Sun for a cold storage plant, which accounts for these strange atmospheric disturbances so out of season. Maybe so, perhaps. But then there are causes explainable and no perhaps about it, with preventatives ready at hand. Only today I had an experience with a most apparent cause and an almost immediate preventive applied. A big five pound Buff Rock cockerel, (one I was getting ready for Danbury Fair to beat Wilson and Menzies with) got into my pig pen and his funeral wasn't tomorrow, it was right then and there. That pig pen now is covered (I was going to say air tight) with chicken wire from stem to stern. Now I know not perhaps, what killed that chicken. But those just died kind, I'm positive, dead sure, so was the chicken, (lucky thing for Wilson), again I say, search me. I dissected many that died and was not much enlightened as to cause, simply this, that condition of organs showed inaction, intestines stopped or clogged and lining of gizzard dried and dead looking. I changed feeds and worked

like a beaver to keep things clean, studied and investigated, got nervous and cranky, but all of no avail, "they just died that's all," of the March and April chicks I lost but very few, but the May and June chicks, well I have some of them yet, but the rest, "they just died, that's all."

In the Farm-Poultry, August 1st number I read of a brother henman in Oregon whose experience is identical with mine and I notice the editor remarks that such cases are common throughout the United States so there must be something wrong with all creation, you see. It surely can't be "us fellows" after all these years of experience in hen culture. Then again we hear that sweet refrain "maybe, perhaps" it's dry feed, it's wet feed, no feed at all is best. Then you go down to your neighbors who hasn't lost a chick by the "just died" style and you find him going contrary to all accepted rules and regulations, feeding corn meal and sour milk with lusty strong chicks coming from all directions, "Will some one that has raised more than ten chicks please explain? But even if there is so much perhaps and maybe about the business its all right even with the losses.

Four thousand fresh eggs would sell for at least \$80 at hatching time. Well, supposing you incubate them instead and you hatch 50 per cent, and you raise 50 per cent of those you hatch, which would be 1,000 chicks worth at least \$500; that beats fresh eggs at 2 cents each, now don't it? So afflicted brethren don't get discouraged, try again as Bro. Ward says, but remember to not count your chicks till the marketman comes, but, my how it hurts our conceit, we old vets, that feel as though relegated into the novice class, with chances of getting to the end of the class at that.

One reads of some vast business, mastered, but you read further and you find it isn't the hen business, and that there are hen culturists who became millionaires through that void rion, but with all our disappointments and the ever present peculiarity of the business to prevent the increase of millionaires, we keep at it, because, well, in my own case, the fascination, unexplainable and surely undefinable, imperfectly understood at the best, and the more one studies the stronger becomes the problem. My latest experience and investigation of cases might be of benefit an experience which leads me to thoroughly investigate the, supposed to be, most harmless necessary in the growing of young chicks and ducklings, namely, fresh water.

In growing my Muscovy ducklings I pen them up nights for the first four or five weeks secure from rats, etc., till 6 a. m. In order to facilitate work I thought I would let them out about half an hour before I fed, watering them when I let them out. About the second morning along after 9 a. m. I chanced in the duck yard and found twelve or fifteen of the youngest ducklings lying here and there in stupor or cramps with excrements all about of a sloppy wet sand consistency, and at once it flashed through my mind that the almost ice cold water from my well had chilled them. (My duck fountains are constructed to prevent ducklings getting into them to swim, I gave them remedies at once such as pepper-corns or whole pepper and lost but two that day and one the next day, at present writing three or four are still on the anxious seat, but their drinking water is slightly warmer every time I have occasion to replenish the fountains and things have wonderfully improved thereby. The above experience brings to mind the idea or notion perhaps, yes perhaps, that the same well water given to my little chicks when released from brooders or coops in the morning, when of course, they are exceedingly thirsty, especially in the hot weather of June and parts of May is partly responsible for the heavy mortality in those months. Why March and April chicks were not thus affected, I conclude is because of the nearly same temperament of water and weather, but in June and July there was



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a wide difference in the temperature of water and weather, hence my conclusion although not positive except in the case of the ducklings. I examined the intestines of the ducklings and found them much inflamed with gizzard lining dried up and peeling off like dead bark, similar to the condition of the little chicks, which could be caused by inaction or indigestion brought on by a sudden chill. Naturally my investigations thus far have been quite limited and very imperfect, but it's a point to think of and to investigate.

Changing feeds brought no results, changing locations of brooders and coops had no apparent effect, observing all known methods of disinfection and cleanliness did not prevent the of doubt and perplexity that hangs over these chicks "just died that's all."

It's now too late to prove or disprove that there is a rift in this cloud trouble; I have arrived at the water problem and we shall see, what we shall see. The ducklings are surely waxing strong on the warm water treatment, (by warm water, I mean with just the chill taken off) and I prove our suspicions for this season as weather and water are again nearing the same temperature, but I deem it wise for "we uns" to jot this notion down in our experience book for next season's perusal and investigations.

Then maybe, perhaps, these perhaps and maybe's may be facts.

Yours, for further investigation, "that's all."  
W. H. Card.

In a later number of the Poultry Standard Mr. Ward answers the above as follows:

**Or Maybe "Perhaps."**

In August issue, Bro. Card refers to my article in July issue regarding little chicks "just dying" and offers an interesting solution of the trouble in his warm water treatment. There "maybe" considerable reason in this. The water direct from a spring well is cold and chicks are thirsty in the early morning and drink quite heartily. In cold weather of early spring I warm the water, but later on thought nothing of it.

Possibly ("perhaps") herein lies my difficulty. I shall certainly make a point of warming the water of all chicks another season and note results.

I feel a brotherly feeling toward Friend Card, as our names, as the Irishman says are the same only different. Do you solve the rebus—C. H. Ward vs. W. H. Card? I might claim a distant relationship, as Adam was our mutual ancestor. At any rate, we have both been breeding chickens long enough to know more about the cause of bowel trouble, pip, gapes and "just dying" than we do. I suppose Bro. Card's reason for not knowing more is the same as mine, not having enough of such trouble in the past to warrant a closer study of the matter.

**Poultry Notes.**

Damp floors are productive of disease.

A sole diet of corn produces too much fat.

Warm sweet milk is one of the best tonics for sick fowls.

The nests must be renewed occasionally and kept clean.

Fowls having a free run find their own feather making food.

A good way to feed lime is in the form of a raw crushed bones.

Fresh eggs are more transparent at the center, old ones at the top.

Treatment of diseases of fowls must begin with the first symptoms.

Provide dusting boxes and keep them well filled with loose dirt.