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SPECIAL.

We have arranged with Mr. C. G. Patterson, manager of the Brook Ranch Commission Co., for a series of articles bearing directly on the market condition governing eggs and poultry in the Intermountain country. Mr. Patterson is a poultryman of wide experience, and by reason of his close connection with the market in his present position, we may look for something of a very practical nature from his pen. Those producing eggs and poultry for market (and this means practically every farmer) should follow these articles very closely. Editor.

MATING SINGLE STANDARD.

C. S. Gorline.

Doubtless ninety-nine out of a hundred of those who keep poultry use the single mating system, and for that reason we will take up the study of the method first. Its use is best adapted to solid colored birds, such as white, black, buff and red. Many follow this system because they believe it is right in principle, but doubtless the great majority use it because of its greater convenience and saving in room, both in yarding and in housing the birds. To produce a fair number of average good birds by this system it is a primary requisite of the first importance to start with the best stock obtainable-male and females of standard markingsspecimens that conform in size, shape, color, head and leg points to the standard requirements of that variety. By this method of mating we expect to obtain males and females in the progeny that conform to standard requirements. The secret of success in this method lies in the ability to select a high class male and equally high class females to make up a pen. There are five chief points of excellence to consider: 1st. Birds of constitutional strength and in good health. 2nd. Only those of standard shape. 3rd. Standard color, 4th. Head points of standard excellence. 5th. Shanks, toes and

requirements may be had, a copy of the Standard of Perfection should be in the hands of every breeder, and the breed and variety bred should be studied in detail until each separate requirement is learned and understood. Especially is this true of shape, which is the stumbling block for every beginner and often for the experienced breeder. For instance, in the Brahmas; it has been noted in a previous chapter that there is considerable difference between the Light and Dark varieties. This applies equally to the Wyandottes, the Orpingtons and the Leghorns, Although these differences may be ever so slight, they will at once be detected by the expert poultry judge and cuts made accordingly. We have seen Wyandottes with shape like the Rocks, with long shanks of a beautiful pea-green color and with combs somewhat like the rose comb; we have seen Orpingtons of the same general type and nice yellow shanks and with combs that a Leghorn might have been proud of and we have seen Leghorns with shanks that might have belonged to ducks and with breasts and combs that for slimness and smallness would have been becoming to a lot of scrub games, and the innocent owners were wholly unaware that there was anything amiss in the shape and style of their pets. Assuming then that health and vigor predominate, we give preference to the birds having as nearly standard shape as possible and in mating white varieties we want those of a pearl white plumage showing in the sunlight a silvery sheen or gloss. This is the color so hard to obtain and the one so much prized by fanciers. A bird of a dead chalkwhite color will rarely show good color in the shanks of the yellow shank varieties, which will be nearly white or a faded washed out straw color instead of the rich orange yellow shanks sought. A great fault to be guarded against is the tendency to creaminess on the breast, back and flights often resulting in a de-

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