

THE  
**CHANTECLER**  

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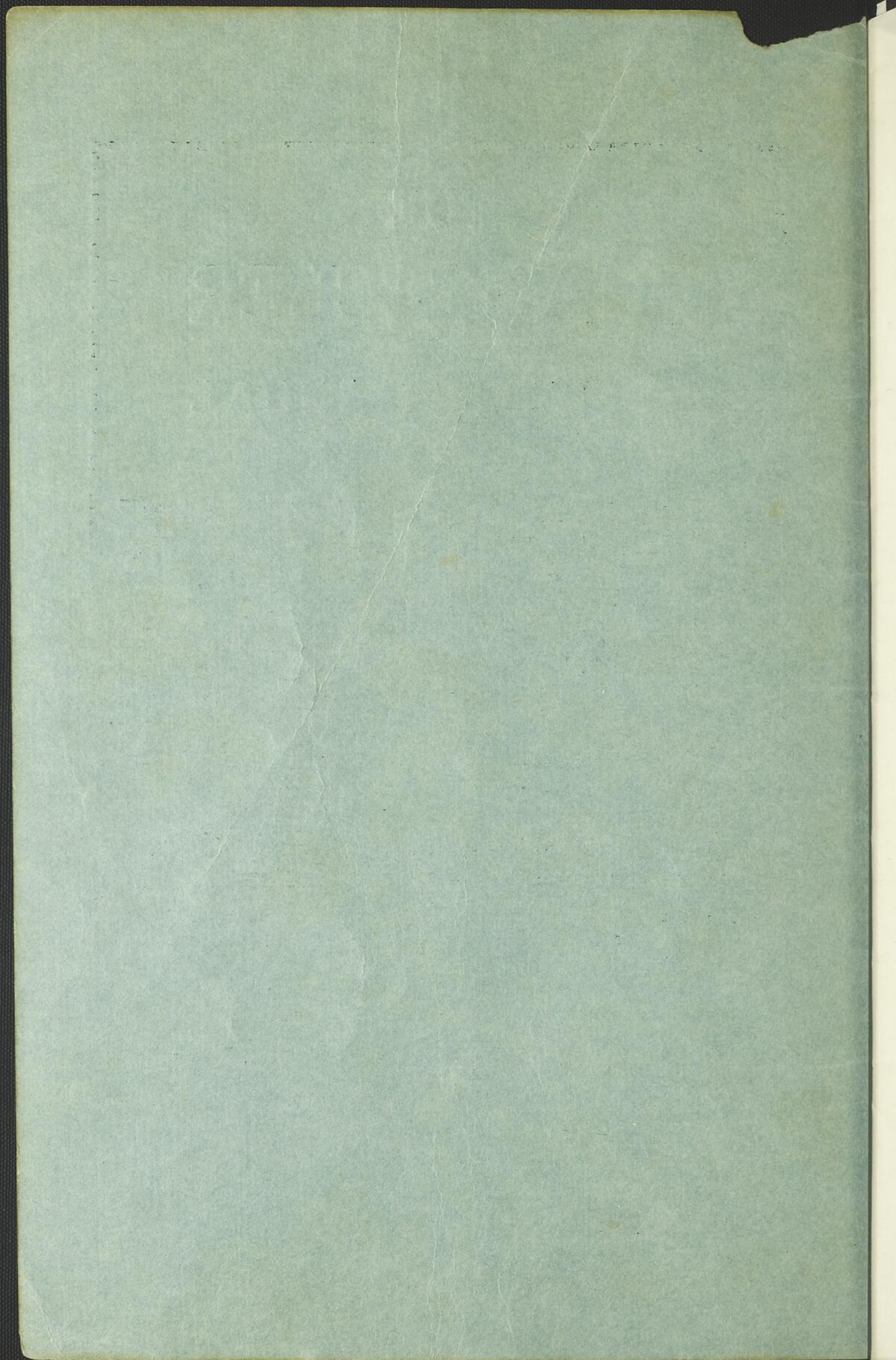
**BREEDERS MANUAL**  

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Brother M. WILFRID,  
Oka Agricultural Institute,  
LA TRAPPE, QUE.

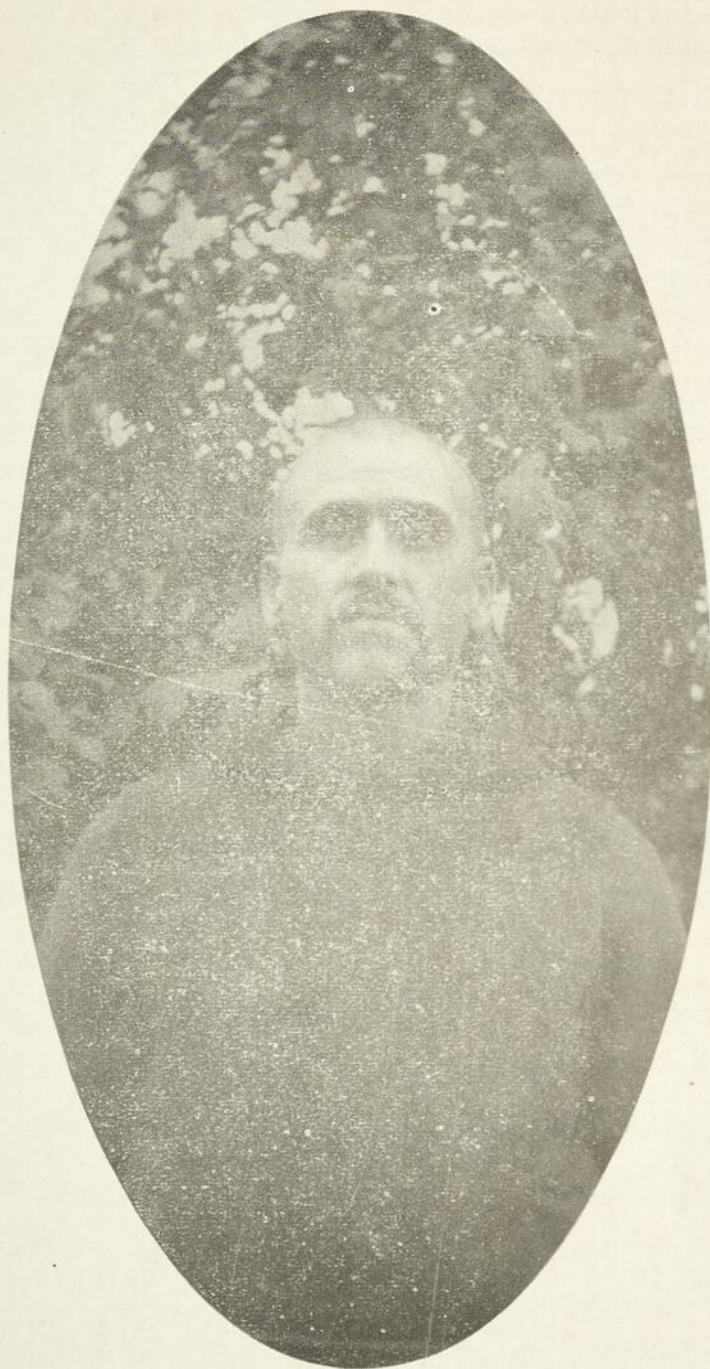
1922



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THE  
**CHANTECLER**  
BREEDERS MANUAL



**BROTHER M. WILFRID,**  
Technical Adviser and Secretary-Treasurer of the Association,  
OKA AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE,  
LA TRAPPE, Que.

1922

# *The White Chantecler*

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Truly Canadian is the White Chantecler;  
Her snowy plumage but portrays our winter,  
With head, free of comb, proud and intelligent,  
She withstands zero weather whene'er it is sent;  
To her the North wind is only a zephyr,  
So fearlessly she looks to a future fair.

March onward, Chantecler, you beautiful bird;  
For the great duty before you your courage gird;  
Your progeny must be spread over the land;  
Characteristics kept while you gain your stand.  
Your blood with other breeds never must mingle,  
Your sterling qualities keep free from tinsel:  
Is not this the aim of your ambition?  
Canadian, you are, but on this condition.

Go. Spread your immaculate wings, and soar,  
Making yourself known all this Dominion o'er.  
Guard with pride your type and color; keep these;  
So may your beauty and value never decrease.  
Hardy, very prolific, of noble mien,  
Your chief qualities by your creator seen;  
Let this monk, modest and true, his pride retain;  
You, White Chantecler, Canadian must remain.

Dr. P.-E. ROCHON,  
Clarence Creek, Ont.

January, 1919.

Translated by  
Horace S. Higgs, editor, "Poultry Guide" of the "Citizen", Ottawa.

## *“Habent Sua Fata Libelli”*

TERENTIUS

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Twice already the Reverend Brother Wilfrid has insisted that I write a foreword for this manual and our friend Lee has just telephoned to call this fact to my mind. He also tells me that he is taking the next train and waits for me to give him this before leaving. Terentius however has written “Books have already their destiny”, and I do not believe that this necessitates one of those long forewords to mark either the value or the object of a book or to give excuses for it.

Consequently I will only say that this booklet was needed in order to reply more readily and conveniently to the requests for information, more and more numerous, which are received each day from those who are beginning to breed the Chantecler. It serves also to assemble and make known the facts concerning the origin and development of the breed.

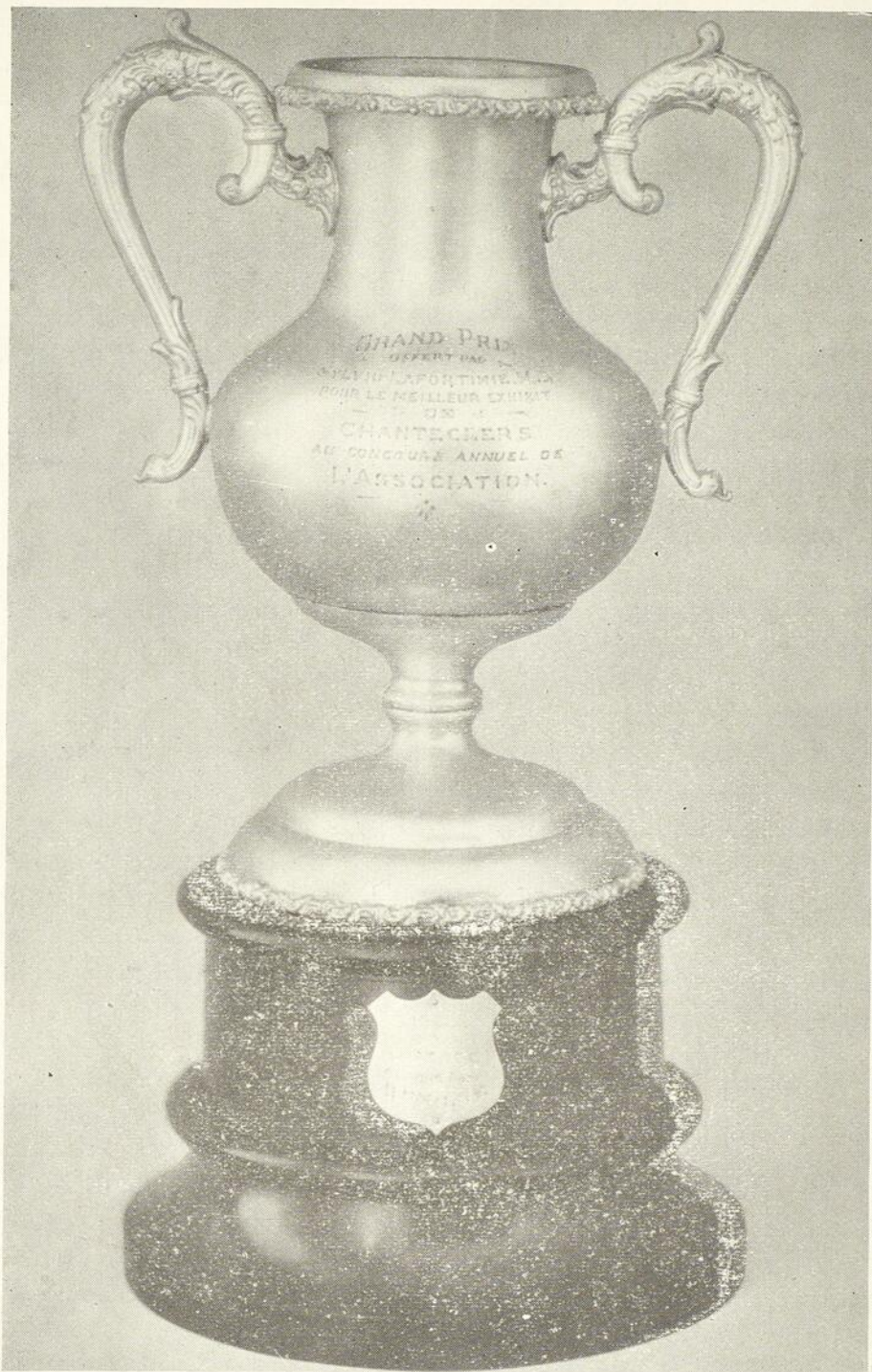
In reality the Chantecler is an epoch in Canadian poultry breeding. Made known to the public barely four years ago, the Chantecler is already known in all parts of Canada, “a mari usque ad mare”, and has given of its progeny to Europe, the United States and to South America. Never before has the poultry world given such a universal and hearty reception to a new breed. This origination symbolises all the poultry breeding efforts of that admirable institution, personified in poultrydom by the distinguished and modest monk of La Trappe, Brother Wilfrid, and has so manifestly influenced and guided, during the last four years, the poultry work of its friends that it was proper to write it. “Scripta manent”.

From the outset the markedly valuable characteristics of the Chantecler resulted in its being surrounded by a legion of active poultrymen, who, inspired by the originator, have worked assiduously to make it known throughout the progressive poultry world. The Association of Chantecler breeders was, in fact, the first Canadian poultry association to request registration of poultry based on production, and if this request was refused, it was not because of their weakness or inactivity. Likewise, when in January 1921, the American Poultry Association officially recognized its existence, the event was properly celebrated in the Capital City, where the dignitaries and deans of Canadian poultrydom gathered to write the first page of the Chantecler history.

Hence the reason why I do not see the necessity of a long preface, for I, also, can say of this creation of Brother Wilfrid the words of Horatius: “Exegi monumentum aere perennius”. “I have built a monument more lasting than bronze”.

SYLVIO LAFORTUNE, M.D.

Pointe Gatineau, October 20th, 1922.



Silver Cup, valued at \$75.00 given by Dr. S. Lafortune, M.D., President of the Chantecler Association.

Other cups have been successively given by: The Oka Agricultural Institute, and Messrs Hette, Que., Carter, Simcoe, Ont., Wm. Milne, Toronto, Ont., R. Bushell, Kingston, Ont. (the last mentioned being reserved for Quebec breeders). The Association itself gives a cup each year.

# *Monograph of the Chantecler*

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## ORIGIN OF THE BREED

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Permit me to express at the outset, my sincere thanks to Mr. G. Toupin, B.A., B.S.A., M.A., the first secretary of the Association, at present professor of animal husbandry at the Oka Agricultural Institute, for allowing me to republish, almost in the original text, the history of the Chantecler, written by him four years ago, while still a student, a history which still retains all its freshness and interest.

“Our poultry yards will soon be enriched by a new breed of poultry: the CHANTECLER.

“The breeds Rhode-Island, Plymouth Rock, Cornish, Leghorn and Wyandotte, the denizens of our modern poultry houses, will receive it gladly, for it is their product. Being the first breed originated on valuable quality, but if it had no more than this, it would be enough Canadian soil, by this fact the Chantecler has already to its credit a to make all those who are interested in poultry, welcome it with open arms.

“Simply to contemplate its dove-like feathers, its slightly curving beak, its cushion comb and short wattles, its golden yellow legs and its general appearance, brings to ones mind the thought “This is the work of a master”.

“It too, like its illustrious ancestors, possesses its short history, as follows:

One August afternoon ten years ago, Reverend Brother Wilfrid, who for several preceeding years had had charge of the poultry department at La Trappe, was walking through the poultry yards, which at that time contained about a dozen different breeds. He went from one to the other, when suddenly the thought came to him that Canada had no representative in his flock. This idea was so striking, that instead of being forgotten as the days went by, it came to him with renewed force each morning, and followed him to his cell in the monastery each night.

“By a happy coincidence, one day while studying the problem of the formation of a breed, his father, a Plymouth Rock breeder, came to visit him at La Trappe. Together they made the rounds of the poultry yards, and while the young monk explained to his visitor the qualities of each breed, the superiorities of the one, and the inferiorities of the other, the old gentleman said smilingly: “That is all very well, but the Canadian breed, where is it?” This was enough to make the young Brother decide to originate a Canadian breed.

“However, to give to his country a breed essentially Canadian was not the only ideal of this young poultryman. He desired that this breed should have a personality, a characteristic... a particular quality... but what?

“Knowing by experience the damage done to the combs of male birds by the intense cold of the winters, and having had more than once the proof of the resulting inconveniences, he wished to obtain in his breed a small closely set comb, with wattles in proportion. His pronounced taste for white plumage decided him to adopt that colour. In addition, preferring general purpose poultry to either the smaller heavy laying breeds, or those of the distinctively meat type, he tried to develop both meat, and winter egg production at the same time.

“Having once fixed his ideals, he began to carefully study the possible methods by which to attain them. A judicious crossing of the best breeds, from the viewpoint of egg as well as meat production, seemed to him the best course to follow.

“Knowing the qualities of almost all the existing breeds, the Cornish seemed to him the type of bird to give the future Canadian fowl a vigorous temperament, an abundant supply of delicate meat, and above all, the desired type of comb and wattles. The Leghorn should transmit remarkable laying qualities; the Rhode Island, Wyandotte, and Plymouth Rock, while making for additional weight, should also increase winter egg production.

“In the spring of 1908, Brother Wilfrid put his project into execution. At the outset he mated up a Dark Cornish cock with a White Leghorn hen, and a Rhode Island Red cock with a White Wyandotte hen. A fact worth noting is that in these two first matings the hens were white, the colour desired in their progeny, this conforming to a principle overlooked by many originators of new breeds, that the female transmits the colour, and the male the shape.

“Of these two first matings, the former gave progeny of dirty white colour having short close feathers, slender in shape, having neither comb, wattles, or ear lobes. The latter gave progeny white in colour, spotted here and there with grey and black, but among it a magnificent cock, a true Columbian Wyandotte.

“In the spring of 1909, he mated his Columbian Wyandotte with the selected whitest pullets from the second crossing. The progeny resulting from this last mating was in some cases ash-coloured, and spotted in others, but while a small number bore the characteristics of the Leghorn or the Rhode Island the majority were more approaching the Cornish type.

“During these first two years, the differences in shape, the variations in colouring, and at the same time a very low egg production characterised the greater proportion of the progeny.

“In 1910, the Brother resorted to a new crossing. He mated a White Plymouth Rock cock weighing  $9\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. with pullets approaching most nearly the ideal type for colour, shape, and comb. A decided improvement followed, particularly with regard to the colour, but from the standpoint of shape and egg-production the results left much to be desired.

“In no wise discouraged, Brother Wilfrid continued his work, eliminating each year the poor layers and undersized specimens.

“Three years after, during the winter of 1913, the success was more marked. At this period the colour became fixed, egg-production increased remarkably, a large number of pullets and cockerels had both comb and wattles considerably reduced, there was more regularity in the shape, and above all the progeny displayed a noticeable vigour and hardiness. This was the first recompense for five long years work, patiently and methodically followed, keeping the ideal always in sight.

“Encouraged by the results of 1913, the Brother divided his birds into two flocks. In the one, he practised inbreeding, while with the other he started a new line by introducing Wyandotte blood by means of a good male of that breed. The resulting progeny was of a graceful compact shape, and inclined to be shorter in the body. He continued a rigorous selection from the standpoint of egg-production, at the same time trying to improve the breed along other lines from year to year. In 1916, the flock attained a uniformity and gave an egg-production so remarkable, that he considered his ends practically achieved except for the fact that the birds were not yet heavy enough, and consequently did not give the desired amount of meat.

“Fortunately, in the spring of this same year, 1916, he obtained a magnificent pullet, which weighed  $7\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. at 7 months, and which proved to be a good layer, laying 91 eggs during the four months of November and December 1916 and January and February 1917. The arrival of this unexpected bird opened up new horizons for the young breed. Brother Wilfrid then conceived the idea, rash though it seemed to some breeders, of mating this magnificent pullet with a superb White Plymouth Rock cock weighing 10 lbs. He felt that as a result, he could not but obtain heavier and larger birds, without diminishing the laying capacity. The offspring of this mating proved the force of his contentions.

“The Brother then chose the best cockerels coming from this new mating, and mated them in the spring of 1918 to the best hens of the two lines followed to that date. As he had foreseen, among the progeny there were a few birds with single combs, but the elimination of these poultry specimens, was more than compensated for, by the general improvement in the others. He then considered that the new breed was sufficiently fixed in type and general characteristics to be presented to the poultry world.

“All those who are interested in agriculture, and who are anxious for its advancement in all branches, will be glad, we trust, to know of this new breed. They will see in it one additional step “towards the superiority”, and we do not doubt but that they will applaud the high and noble thoughts which inspired the origin of this, the first Canadian fowl.”

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### FORMATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

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The new breed was so warmly received by the poultry public, that it was immediately decided to organise a Chantecler Breeders Association. The first general meeting was held March 1st 1918, in Montreal. A board of directors was then elected as follows:

Hon. President: The Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture, Quebec.

1st Hon. Vice-President: Rev. Brother Ligouri, Chief of the Poultry Service, Quebec.

2nd Hon. Vice-President: Mrs L. Ph. de Meslé, Montreal.

President: A. A Lapointe, President of the Montreal Poultry Association

Vice-President: A. J. Héroux, Prof. at the Oka Agricultural Institute.

Directors: R. Dumaine, Provincial Poultry Instructor, Quebec; Rev. J. Grou, St. Laurent College, Montréal; G. Toupin, Inspector, St. Isidore, Laprairie, Que.

Secretary: Gustave Toupin, student at the Oka Agricultural Institute.

I consented to accept the position of Technical Advisor of the new Association, which was named: “The Association of Breeders of the Canadian Hen Chantecler”.

The various clauses of the proposed rules and regulations were then discussed. These rules stated that every person who became a member engaged himself to:

1.—Neither sell, lend, lease, give, exchange, allow to be utilised or procured in any manner whatever, any living bird of the new breed, nor hatching eggs, to or by any person except members, for two years. Any breach of this engagement rendered the delinquent liable “ipso facto” to the payment of the sum of \$25.00 and expulsion from the Association.

2.—Bring or send, the first year, all his birds to the annual meeting or any other place designated, where they would be examined by competent judges named by the Association. Any birds found to be unfit for breeding purposes, to be killed there, and sold, their value to be transmitted to their owners. A breach of this engagement rendered the member liable to expulsion from the Association.

3.—Furnish at any time, upon request from the board of directors, a complete list of all their birds, with as exact a description as possible of each one.

4.—Keep for breeding purposes only the birds approaching standard type, and so far as possible to breed only Chanteclers.

Only the board of directors had the power to exempt a member from any of these obligations.

The ramparts protecting the Chantecler were certainly high and solid. The rules were adopted "en bloc" by the members, who in their very natural desire to conserve the ideal type of the Canadian fowl, did not realise that in their enthusiasm they had perhaps overstepped the bounds of strict legality.

From the beginning, numerous favours were accorded to the new breed. Mr. U. H. Dandurand offered the free use of his Montreal office to the board of directors, an example graciously followed by the Management of the Queen's Hotel, by the Montreal Veterinary College, and the Oka Agricultural Institute, which also offered the secretary of the Association a room in its building. Mr. A. Lapointe, the president, placed at the disposal of the Montreal exhibitors, the coops of the Poultry Association of that city, and several students of the Oka Agricultural Institute gave their services freely in the organization of the successive shows held in Montreal. The first of these shows was held in 1919. Comprising exclusively Chanteclers, it was actually the manifestation of the fowl to the general public, anxious to see at last, this new breed about which the papers had spoken so much in the preceding months. In order to worthily bring to a climax these days so glorious for the breed, the Association organised a banquet, at which members, friends, and benefactors celebrated to the full, the qualities of the Chantecler. Its charms were praised even in poetry.

Tout au bas d'une colline,  
A l'ombre d'un peuplier,  
Sans que personn' le devine,  
Un' poule se mit à chanter!

C'est un' poule Canadienne  
Chantecler est son petit nom,  
La faridon daine,  
La faridondon....  
Dans tous les cantons!....

Son chant redit la victoire  
De son vaillant créateur;  
Sa démarche militaire  
Annonce une grande vigueur!....

H. LEBLANC, E.E.A.

On the occasion of this first review of the breed, judges were named to make a rigorous selection of the 300 birds exhibited. Of this number, only 18 % were sacrificed, the remainder conforming to the standard.

The second Montreal show in 1920 achieved a success even more striking. Over 25,000 people, according to the papers, visited the show, charmed both by the shape and the hardiness of the birds exhibited. Following this date, the restrictive clause of the regulations was rescinded, and any Chantecler breeder was hereafter free to participate in the various shows and competitions.

September 16th 1919, Dr Sylvio Lafortune of Pointe Gatineau, Que., president of the Provincial Poultry Association of Quebec, was elected president of the Chantecler Association. Thoroughly conversant with the problems of poultry breeding, active and devoted, possessing rare talents for organization, Dr. Lafortune gave to the Association an impulse, which perhaps it is not an exaggeration to say, assured its success. It was under his administration that the association, after the thousand and one troubles inherent to all new undertakings, found the means necessary to assure the survival and development of the Chantecler.

To meet the expressed wishes of all the members for a rigorous selection, a system known as registration was adopted in 1919. It consisted of placing a sealed leg-band, bearing a number and the initials of the Association, on the leg of each bird conforming to the standard. Judges named for that purpose, made the examination at special meetings held at Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and also at the breeders residences.

In order to encourage its members, the association decided to give special annual prizes at various shows: cups, gold, silver and bronze medals, etc. In addition to those given by the Association itself, the list of other donators of specials will soon be a long one. By way of example, I will enumerate only those given at Kingston, Ont., in 1919:

- 1.—\$10.00 in gold, donated by Hon. J. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture, Quebec.
- 2.—Silver cup, by the Kingston Agricultural and Industrial Association.
- 3.—Silver cup, by Dr. S. Lafortune, Point Gatineau, Que.
- 4.—Gold medal, by G. H. Crepeau, Laval des Rapides, Que.
- 5.—Silver medal, by J. Lebeau, Montreal, Que.
- 6.—Bronze medal, by G. Matte, Oka Agricultural Institute, La Trappe, Que.

- 7.—\$5.00 in gold, by R. Dumaine, Ottawa.
- 8.—\$5.00 in gold, by F. Campbell, Montreal.
- 9.—\$5.00 in gold, by J. Charbonneau, Montreal.
- 10.—\$4.00 by Mrs. J O'Brien, l'Orignal, Ont.
- 11.—A Chantecler cock, by Rev. Bro. Wilfrid, La Trappe, Que.

Since that date this generosity has increased. In 1920, Ottawa had 13 specials, in 1921, Quebec had 14, and Toronto has for 1922 a nice list of 11, of which four are silver cups.

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### EXPANSION OF THE BREED

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Relating the first general meeting in 1918, the secretary wrote that "The elected president invited his colleagues of the board of directors to take their place around the table, and the Chantecler Breeders Association opened its wings and took flight". It would be impossible to express in terms more just or more graceful, the unanimous welcome accorded to the Chantecler. One felt that each breeder was proud to possess in it a fowl actually Canadian, endowed with characteristics distinctive and appropriate to the Canadian climate, and particularly with regard to vigour and hardiness. I will quote here a few extracts from breeders letters:

POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES, Que.—I wish you could see the chicks which were delivered to me on May 25th. Everybody who sees them covets them; they are larger, fleshier and smarter than any around here.—Mrs. L. S.

TROIS-RIVIERES, Que.—From the dozen of eggs that I purchased from you on April 8, I have 8 chickens: 3 cockerels and 5 pullets. Two of the cockerels weighed, on October 5th, 7¼ lbs. and one 7 lbs. The pullets weigh 6¼ lbs, 5½, 5¼, 5¼, and 5 lbs. Three of the pullets will begin to lay before they are six month old, and if the egg production is good, I will keep only Chanteclers.—L. A. P.

RIDGEVILLE, Ont.—I am delighted with my Chanteclers and I believe that it is the coming breed. I have also Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes of the same age, but the Chanteclers have proved themselves superior: more fertile eggs, lower mortality, and above all more vigour. I am truly proud of them.—A. M.

CONSORT, Alta.—The pullets develop wonderfully, standing the climate exceptionally well. Its rigours seem to amuse them, whereas the other breeds are numbed by the cold. I have decided to keep only Chanteclers in the future.—J. F. H.

HELENA, Montana, U.S.A.—My first hatched pullets are growing splendidly. They are beginning to feather and are full of vigour.—J.P.

There is yet another power which has most effectively helped in the expansion of the breed: the Press which the Chantecler has been fortunate enough to find most sympathetic and kindly disposed towards it since the first days. All the agricultural magazine of the Province of Quebec, the greater part of the weeklies, both English and French, as well as practically all the poultry press both in Ontario and the United States, have shown themselves anxious to make it known to their readers. I may be permitted to remark however that no-one could equal the admiration expressed by Mr. Bruno Wilson, agricultural editor of "La Presse", Montreal. In fact it would be difficult to resist the natural sentiments of curiosity evoked by descriptions such as the following: "The most striking feature of the Chantecler is the whiteness of its plumage, a whiteness like the snow flake, something which makes one dream of a beam of sunshine fixed on a body supple, graceful, and vigorous. It has the colour of our hoar frosts, likewise of our small immaculate flowers, the field daisies. How supple in its movements! One would say that it is conscious of its superiority and originality."

These statements explain in part the success of the Chantecler at the various shows in Canada and the United States: Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Quebec, Ste. Scholastique, Oakville, Brantford, Winnipeg, Calgary, Chicago, Helena, etc. Everywhere it was fêted. The secretary of the Ste. Scolastique show spared no pains to mark its debut. "It is right for Two Mountains county", he wrote, "Where it first saw the light, to celebrate this inauguration". Mr. R. Bushell, the secretary of the Kingston Fair also did things royally. The Chantecler was welcomed in a special pavillon and a page of the program was devoted to it. At Chicago, Mr. T. Hewes, the secretary, went so far as to remit spontaneously the entry fees which had not been properly forwarded.

But for the capital of Canada was reserved the actual coronation of the Chantecler. The Ottawa Show, held in connection with the Winter Fair, the 18th to 21st of January 1921, had that significance. The recent success attained at the Coliseum Show, Chicago, together with the favourable vote of the committee charged to judge of its qualities with a view to its admission to the Standard were sufficient to inspire the highest hopes. In a message dated the 20th of December 1920, the president, Dr. S. Lafortune, had asked all the members of the Association to unite their efforts to celebrate fittingly that which he designated "The civil baptism of the new breed".

His aspirations were amply realised when, on January 20th 1921, he presided at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, at a banquet of honour, organized by the Association, having at his side the dignitaries of the Canadian agricultural and poultry world. Among others present were: The Hon. Dr. S. Tolmie, Federal Minister of Agriculture; Dr. J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Rev. Brother Ligouri, O.C.R., Chief of the Quebec Provincial Poultry Service, and representative of the Quebec Minister of Agriculture; Dr. R. Barnes, President of the Canadian National Poultry Association; W. A. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division, Live Stock Branch; F. C. Elford, Dominion Poultry Husbandman; George Robertson, Assistant Dominion Poultry Husbandman; Notary J. Girouard; Gustave Toupin, the first secretary, and many members of the Association.

Arranged for and carried out in all its details with the greatest care, this Ottawa Exhibition was a veritable epoch in the history of the Chantecler. Many speeches were made, and the orators were most enthusiastic. Dr. Tolmie, after having celebrated the origination of the Chantecler, paid a delicate and sincere homage to "The religious institutions in Canada which devote themselves to the perfecting of agriculture, arts, and to the moral and material uplift of the people, whom they can reach more easily than anyone else, because of their way of living, the prestige which surrounds them and the finished manner in which they execute all their labours". He also congratulated the Association upon its success and promised it his hearty cooperation. Dr. Grisdale lauded the Chantecler as an original product of which the Province of Quebec had the right to be proud, and of which the other provinces as well as other countries might well envy the glory.

The participation in these various shows was one of the causes which gave sufficient value to the breed, to justify the honour of its admission to the standard of the American Poultry Association on August 10th, 1921. The reasons given were presented in such a favourable manner that the project met no serious obstacles. The motion, presented by Mr. C. G. Pape, a member of the executive board of the American Association, and seconded by Mr. G. Robertson, Assistant Dominion Poultry Husbandman, Ottawa, was received with favour by the members of the board. By this means the Chantecler Breeders Association acquired considerable prestige. "We, as fellow Canadians", wrote the secretary of the B. C. Poultry Association, "Feel extremely proud of the fact that, at last, we have a purely Canadian breed of fowls in the International standard. I really believe that the admission of the Chantecler to the standard was a compliment to what you and your association have done in furthering the poultry industry". The requests for breeding stock, from Canada,

the United States and also from France, are more numerous than ever. From this last named country only one has so far been acceded to, that of Mrs. Coussy, president of the Nièvre Poultry Association. Many of the Ontario poultry shows have also expressed their desire to have Chantecler fowls for demonstration purposes.

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### THE CHANTECLER AS A UTILITY BREED

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Does the Chantecler merit being placed among the good dual-purpose breeds? I will here let the facts speak for themselves.

At the Montreal show of 1919, the first pullet, had to its credit a record of 45 eggs in 55 days, and laid during the three days of the show. At the Ottawa Winter Fair, 1920, hens belonging to Mr. Ovide Laffèche, Que, were placed second and third for laying capacity. At Oakville, Ont., the success was still more striking. The show comprised some 1,200 birds, including very big utility classes, over 200 utility birds shown, of all utility varieties, both single birds and pens. Mr. R. B. Fox judged the utility classes. He was selected by the Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto, when they were asked for a competent utility judge. When the whole show was judged, then a special prize had to be awarded to the best utility hen in the show. So the prize hens were judged against the utility winners for this. After a long time the judges get them down to two, a Wyandotte and a Chantecler hen belonging to Mr. P. G. Detmold, and it was nearly half an hour before they finally decided between the two, the award going to the Wyandotte, one of the earliest recorded breeds. These two hens were estimated by Mr. Fox to be 285 egg hens.

From the innumerable letters confirming these facts, received from all parts:

OKA, Que.—I have actually a May hatched pullet which at 4 months and 8 days laid 10 eggs in 11 days.—Mrs. G. J.

OAKVILLE, Ont.—My four pullets have shown themselves to be remarkable layers. They have laid continually since November, and they still give 2 or 3 eggs a day, today 3.—P G. D.

CHAPLEAU, Ont.—I believe that the Chantecler is the ideal fowl for the cold parts of Canada. This is one of the coldest and most rigorous parts of the country, for it is often 40° and 50° below zero. I have a cold poultry house, but never the less, my 8 hens give me regularly 6 to 8 eggs a day.—J. B.

CALGARY, Alta.—I have decided to enter a pen of 10 Chanteclers in the laying contest to start at Lethbridge November 1st. I may say that these birds are the best layers of all the breeds I have kept so far. I have been greatly surprised with the laying qualities of the Chantecler.—P. J. T.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.—You will be pleased to hear that one of my pullets has laid 158 eggs up to the present (Sept. 17) and is laying every second day, and her year will not be up until Oct. 31st. I am very well pleased with her, and think she would be a winner in good company.—W. H.

With regard to the meat, I will rely on two statements, one of which goes to prove that the Chantecler retains the tenderness of its meat to an advanced age:

DANVILLE, Que.—I killed a three year old hen, and I must say that I was more than surprised at the quality of the meat: succulent like that of a pullet of another breed, and not at all tough. It was almost a miracle of tenderness and flavour.—J. J. B.

OAKVILLE, Ont.—I fattened a cockerel for the table. At 6½ months he weighed just under 7 lbs. After taking off wings with good slice of breast with each, there remained ample breast for two hungry persons. The meat was very white and solid, the legs were small compared with breast, making it what I consider a perfect table bird.—P. G. D.

In view of these statements it would be superfluous for me to insist further on this point, but I may add that the Minister of Agriculture for Quebec, spontaneously placed the Chantecler among the general purpose breeds officially recognised by the province.

Despite all these auspicious debuts, we must not forget that the breed is young, and still demands a rigorous selection which alone can conserve its qualities. Further in this manual I explain how this selection should be carried out.

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### HEARTY THANKS

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As these pages have shown, those who have contributed to the development and success of the Chantecler, are many in number.

To all, I wish to express my sincere thanks: to the Hon. J. E. Caron, M.P., Dr. Sc., Minister of Agriculture, Quebec, who was always very much interested in the success of the Chantecler; to Mr. W. Milne,

of Toronto, who made a generous gift of \$50.00; to Mr. Louis Barbeau, student at the Oka Agricultural Institute, who has gratuitously consecrated his artistic talents to the preparation of the numerous instructive sketches contained herein: to the members of the Board of Directors of the Association, and particularly to its devoted president, Dr. S. Lafortune; to Mr. W. W. Lee, Poultry Husbandman, Ottawa, who agreed to translate this manual into English; to the various secretaries, who voluntarily gave their time and their devotion without remuneration; in fact, to all the members and friends of the Association, who by their support and the interest shown in the breeding of the Chantecler, have made possible the results obtained to date.

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### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHANTECLER

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The plumage of both sexes should be pure white, and inclined to be short and close feathered. One feather other than white is a disqualification.

The comb constitutes one of the absolute characteristics of the breed. It should be small in both sexes, in fact in the female it is hardly discernable; it is cushion shaped, square at the front and back, and free from wrinkles.

The wattles are also but slightly developed, and in some cases practically non-perceptible in the female (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4). The less the comb and wattles are developed in both sexes, the more valuable the bird for breeding. Specimens with combs other than cushion, or with earlobes showing any positive enamel white are rejected.

The head is also typically characteristic; it is somewhat short and small, but with a broad skull indicating exceptional vigour, the eye piercing and almost round, giving the male especially a proud almost belligerent expression accentuated further by the strong well placed legs and feet. The arched neck tapers gracefully to the small head, adding to the symmetrical and at the same time powerful appearance of the bird, which is one of the attractions to its breeders. (Figs. 5, 6).

The body is long and deep, inclined slightly to the rear; the back broad its entire length; the breast full, broad and carried well forward giving an impression of strength and robustness. The tail, of medium length is carried at the angle indicated in the Standard of Perfection.



Fig. 1.—Ideal male head.

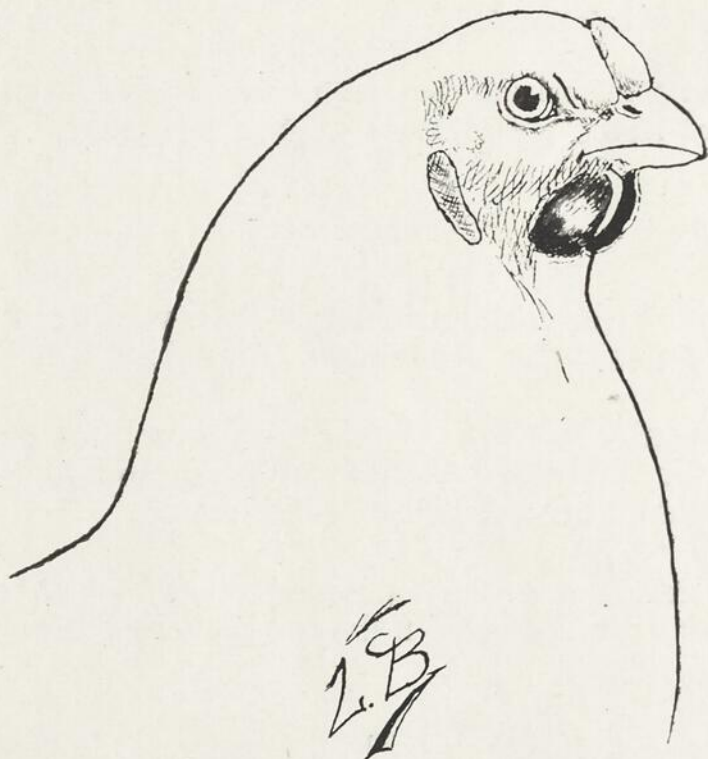


Fig. 2.—Male with extended comb, showing a space between the comb and the skull at the back. Wattles over developed. Any male having one or other of these defects should be rejected.

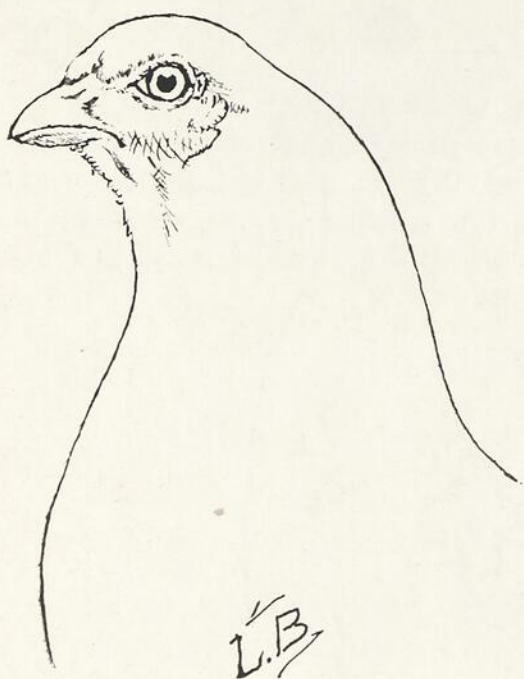


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.—Ideal female head.

Fig. 4.—Ideal female head, but with wattles over-developed. If this hen has not a good laying record, she should be rejected.

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The abdomen of the female should be full, well developed, giving the bird lots of capacity for production (Figs. 7, 8, 9).

The beak, shanks and toes should be yellow, but due allowance should be made for the fading of these parts due to age or production. Any feather on shank or toes is a disqualification.

The Chantecler is a general purpose breed, which explains the required weights: 9 lbs for cock, 8 lbs for cockerel; 7 lbs for hen and 6½ lbs for pullet.

These few notes, together with the various illustrations given in this manual should be enough to guide the breeder in the choice of his birds, either for breeding or exhibition. Those who desire further details will find them in the Standard of the American Poultry Association, whose copyright prohibits reproduction.

SCALE OF POINTS

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I am reproducing herewith the scale of points as given in the original Chantecler Standard. In the "Standard of Perfection" of the A.P.A., this scale has been revised to conform with that of the other American breeds, but in selecting birds for breeding purposes, it is better to rely upon the original scale, inasmuch that the points are accorded in proportion to the relative importance of the special characteristics of the breed.



Fig. 5.—Standard male.

Symmetry 4 points; Weight 4; Condition 4; Comb 12; Head 6 (shape 4, colour 2); Beak 4 (s.2, c. 2); Eyes 4 (s. 2, c. 2); Wattles and Ear-lobes 6 (s. 4, c. 2); Neck 8 (s. 5, c. 3); Wings 6 (s. 3, c. 3); Back 9 (s. 6, c. 3); Tail 8 (s. 5, c. 3); Breast 9 (s. 6, c. 3); Body and Fluff 9 (s. 6, c. 3); Legs and Toes 7 (s. 3, c. 4). Total: 100 points.

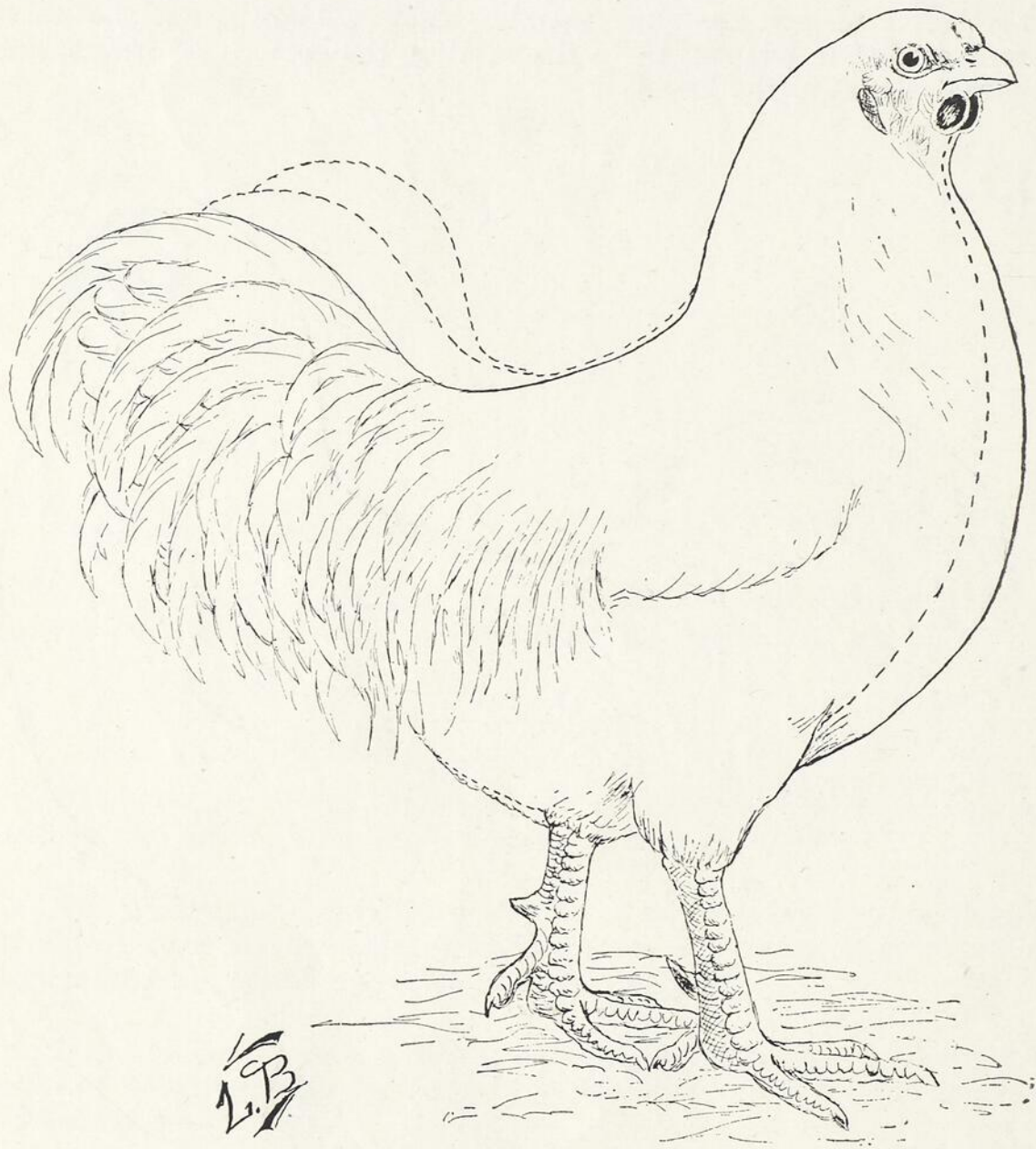


Fig. 6.—The dotted lines indicate a specimen with a breast large enough, but not protruding sufficiently. If this male had no other defects, and was standard weight, it could be kept for breeding purposes.—The dotted lines on the back indicate a short back, and a tail too upright. A bird of this type should not be used for breeding.

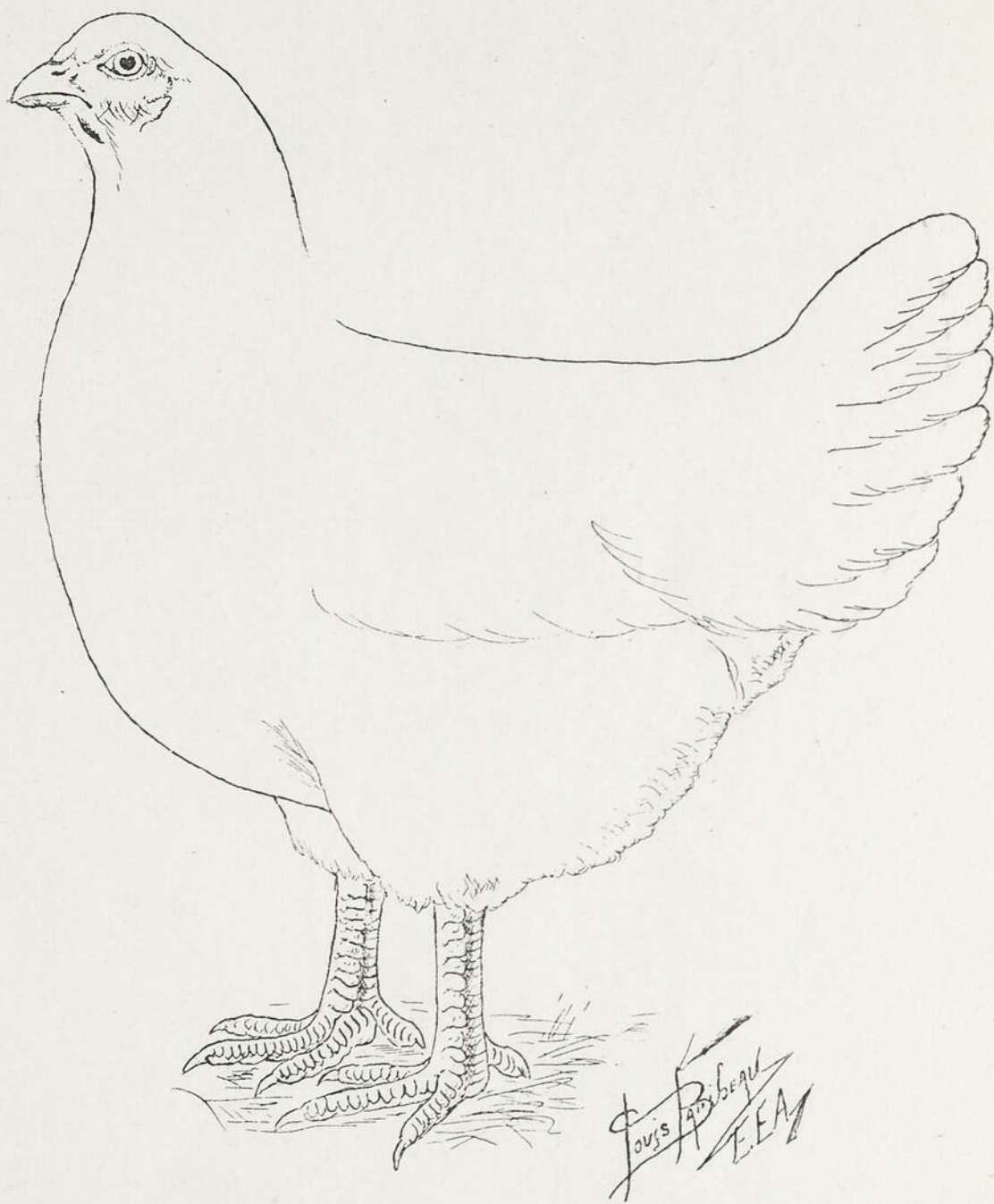


Fig. 7.—Standard female.

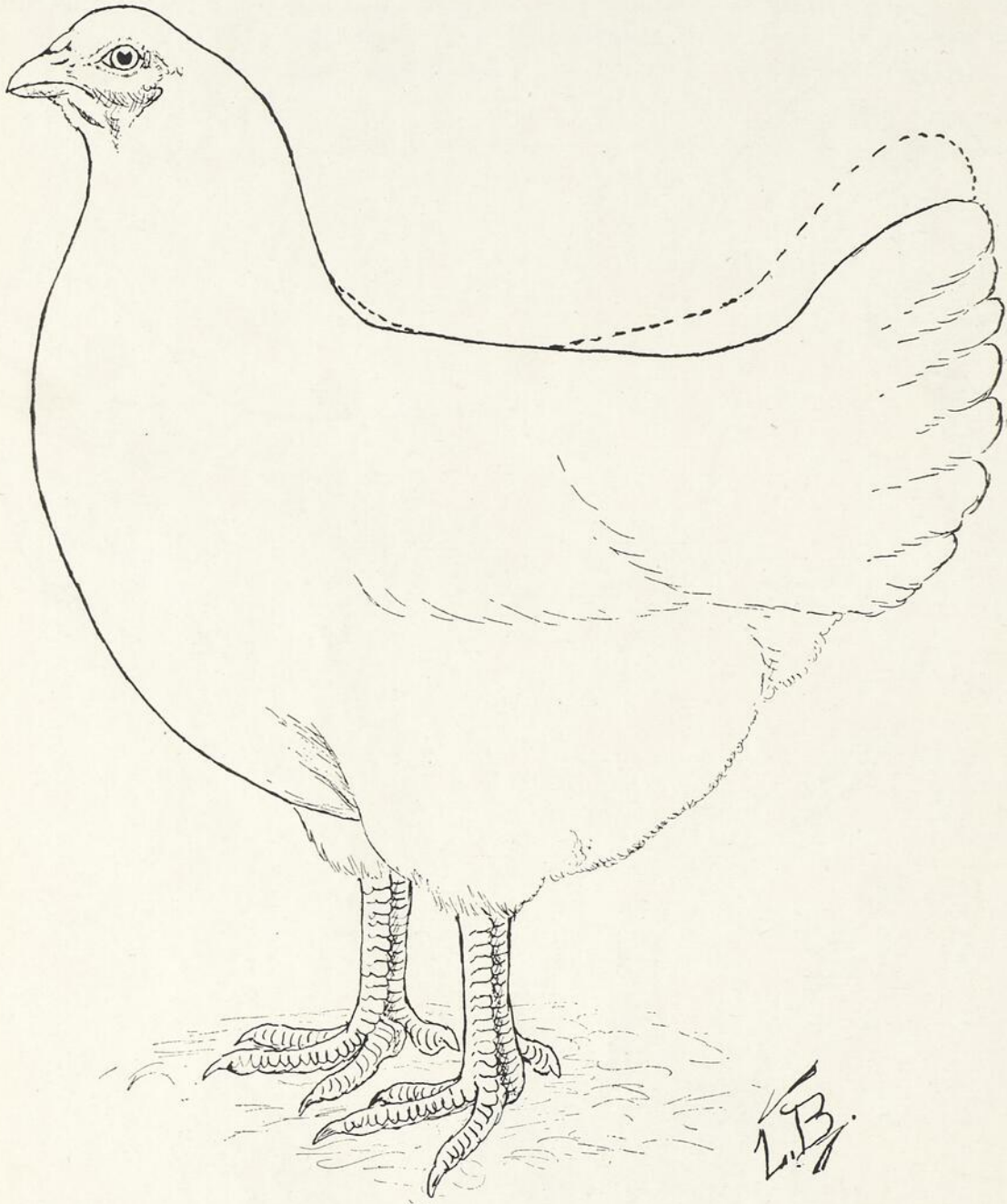


Fig. 8.—The dotted line indicates a short back, of the Wyandotte type. If this hen has not a good laying record, she should be rejected.

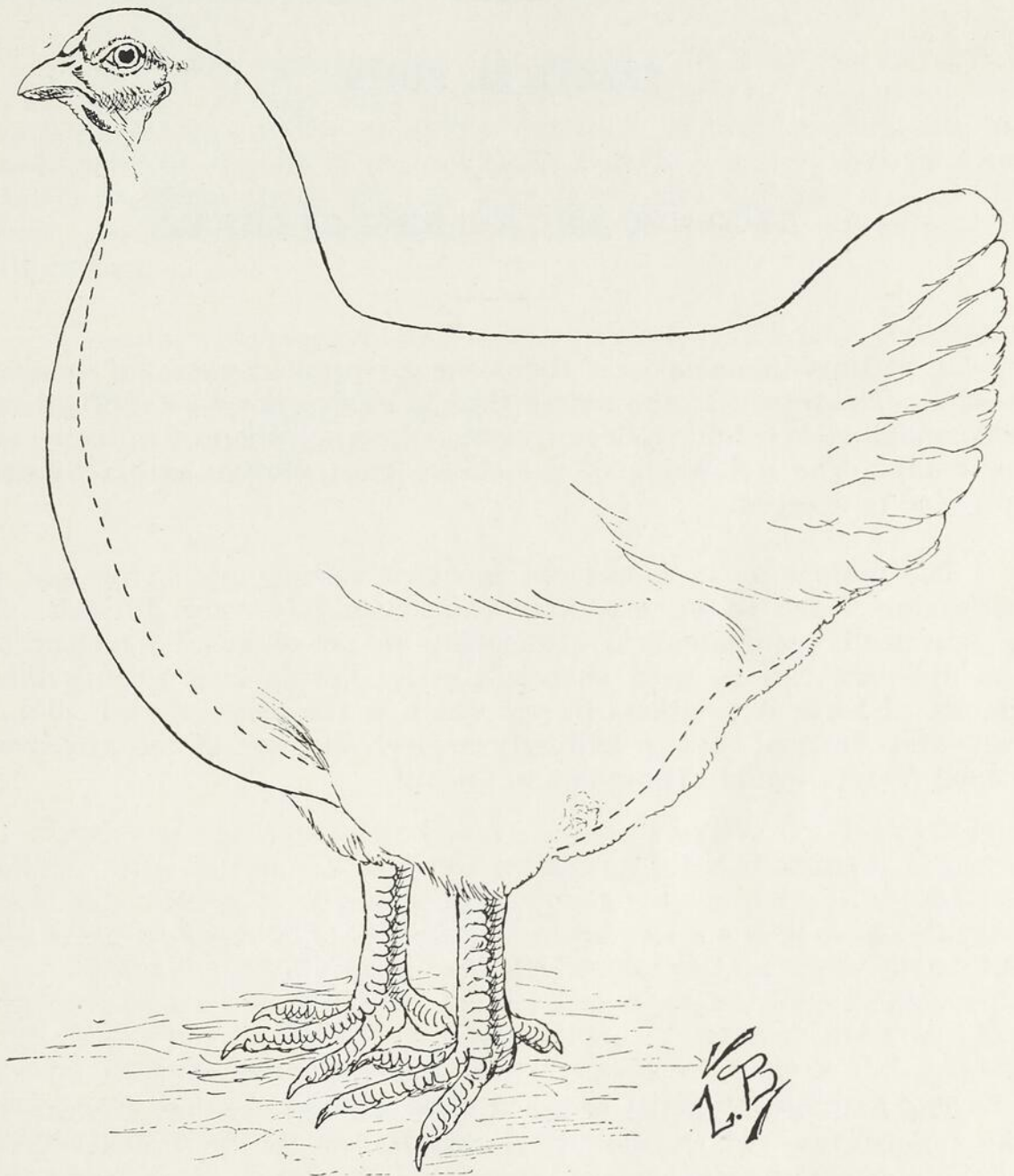


Fig. 9.—The dotted line indicates a delicate hen of the Leghorn type. If she has not a good laying record, she should be rejected.

## *PART TWO*

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### **PRACTICAL HINTS**

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#### **1.—BROODING AND REARING OF CHICKS.**

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If raising the chicks is the most interesting phase of poultry keeping, I may say at the outset that it is also the most difficult to accomplish successfully. Here it cannot be a question of a five or six hour day. The well-being of the chicks must always be placed first in order to succeed.

The factors to be considered in chick raising are many, and to determine which is the most important would be very difficult. It is practically equivalent to attempting to pronounce judgement on the different rations used successfully by breeders in raising their chicks. I leave it to others to say which is the most efficient, but it can safely be said that to willingly neglect any one of the aftermentioned factors would expose one to failure.

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#### **HEAT**

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The first point, in the order of time at least, is that of heat, or the temperature which should be maintained in the brooder-house at the moment the chicks come out of the incubator. It is preferable to have too much heat rather than too little, and especially during the first few days. The desired degree of temperature can easily be obtained in the modern brooders, for the stoves are provided with a regulator and thermometer, and with little trouble, the temperature can be maintained at the desired height, which should be at least 11°. It is better to raise to 110° than to lower to 90°. A temperature heightened accidentally cannot be harmful to the chicks: they simply get further away of their own accord, which gives them the opportunity to breath purer air than that under the hover. On the other hand,

a temperature too low would be dangerous, as it would tend to make them crowd against the stove, with the risk of crushing and smothering each other. One may conclude therefore that it is poor economy to save coal through fear of over-heating the brooder house.

In gradually reducing the heat one is guided by the behaviour of the chicks. If they have a tendency to withdraw from the stove, the temperature may be gradually reduced. If they stay outside the hover, without trying to get too much heat, it is a sign that they are healthy, whereas those that are seen habitually huddled against the stove, are generally sickly specimens which it is more profitable to kill at once.

When the chicks are placed in the brooder, it is a wise precaution to place a piece of roofing paper cut in two, around the hover about two or three feet from the edge, and to leave it night and day for the first two or three days. It is also prudent to replace this circle of paper afterwards for cold nights.

x x x

#### FEED

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It may be said theoretically that a chick can live ten days without eating. The delivery of day-old chicks at great distances, is based upon this principle. Nevertheless, for my own part, I would not risk shipping them when I foresaw a journey of more than two days.

The chicks should remain in the incubator 48 hours after hatching. The first feed given them in the brooder consists of sour skin milk, preferably butter-milk, and small quantities of charcoal and grit. For several years I have found it advantageous to replace the grit by finely ground oyster shells, as these help in the building up of the bony structure of the chicks.

Once and for all, I may say that the second day and always afterwards, the chicks should have milk, charcoal, grit and oyster shells before them constantly. They should be fed lightly every hour, or at least every two hours, during the first week, with rolled oats in the proportion of 1 oz. to 100 chicks per meal, alternated each meal by fine grain. This is fed on the sand with which the floor is covered. After a few days this sand is replaced by chopped clover or shavings, in which the feed is thrown, so that the chicks in hunting for it, obtain the necessary exercise.

This fine grain consists of the following mixture:

Finely cracked corn.. . . . .	1	part.
Cracked wheat.. . . . .	1	“
Small rice.. . . . .	1/4	“
Millet.. . . . .	1/4	“

The millet and rice may be replaced by the bad grains left in the fanning mill after the selection of seed grains. This year I experimented with screenings recommended by the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, which gave the following analysis:

Protein.. . . . .	14.15
Carbo-Hydrates.. . . . .	58.63
Fat.. . . . .	5.12

These screenings constitute a better feed than the preceeding mixture, and are decidedly cheaper. For 100 lbs of these screenings, 25 lbs of finely cracked corn are added, thus making an ideal chick ration.

In addition to these meals, during the first two or three days, bran in hoppers should be kept constantly before the chicks. The bran is then replaced by the undermentioned ration, care being taken to seive the oats and barley.

After the first week, the number of meals is gradually diminished until by the time the chicks are six weeks old they are fed only three times a day. After the first week they are given a mash composed of hard boiled eggs and bread crumbs. This is put through a meat mincer, and while it is somewhat dry, this is an advantage. The mash should contain one egg for each 100 chick, and the quantity of bread is regulated by the appetite of the birds. During the first days it is fed only once a day, and afterwards twice daily until the chicks are six weeks old. They are then given the screenings in hoppers, with the following ration, it not being necessary however to seive the oats and barley when they attain that age.

Finely ground oats.. . . . .	2	parts.
Barley flour.. . . . .	2	“
Corn meal.. . . . .	1	“
Bran.. . . . .	2	“
Shorts.. . . . .	1	“
Fine beef scrap.. . . . .	1/4	“
Choped alfalfa.. . . . .	1/4	“

If the alfalfa cannot be easily procured, it may be omitted, provided the chicks have access to range containing green feed, a most desirable thing. The beef scrap can also be omitted if the chicks have all the milk necessary, and can at the same time procure for themselves outdoors, animal food in the form of worms and insects.

The above ration may be continued until the autumn, but I may mention that it is somewhat expensive. On the other hand it has many advantages, and especially for those who can only devote a limited time to their chicks. The manual work is considerably decreased for with hoppers in proportion to the number of chicks, they need filling only once a week. In addition it is much cleaner work.

Certain companies sell prepared chick feeds which are excellent, but which are somewhat expensive. Nevertheless, breeders who are not in a position to mix the above-mentioned ration themselves, will do well to buy these commercial feeds.

The system known as "green mash feeding" demands more time and manual work. This mash is composed of Jerusalem artichokes, rape, clover, alfalfa, cabbages, nettles, "St. John" weed, etc., (the last two in very small quantities), all chopped very finely. For 10 lbs of this greenfeed 5 lbs of meal, (corn-meal, buckwheat flour and barley flour) are added, together with a teaspoonful of salt.

On giving this mash, the quantity of meal is gradually decreased as the chicks develop. This green mash may be fed as soon as the chicks are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  months old, and a day or two after beginning to feed it, all the mixtures previously kept in the hoppers should be taken out, and replaced by wheat bran for fifteen days. At the end of this period the green feed becomes the regular ration.

For feeding this mash, the automatic hopper (Fig. 10) is very serviceable. This hopper is made in two pieces: the part which holds the mash, and a dish. The former is in the shape of a truncated cone, larger at one end than the other. The end placed in the dish is 15" in diameter, and the other, which is furnished with a cover, 10". At the large end there are a number of small oval holes, 4" x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " by means of which the chicks procure their feed.

The other part is in the form of a dish 20" in diameter, on which the conical receptacle is attached by hooks. In the center there is a small cone 6" high and 10" in diameter, which spreads the mash towards the sides containing the openings. A hopper of this size will contain enough mash for 100 chicks for one day. In filling the hopper, care must be taken not to pack the mash tightly. This hopper is two feet in height.

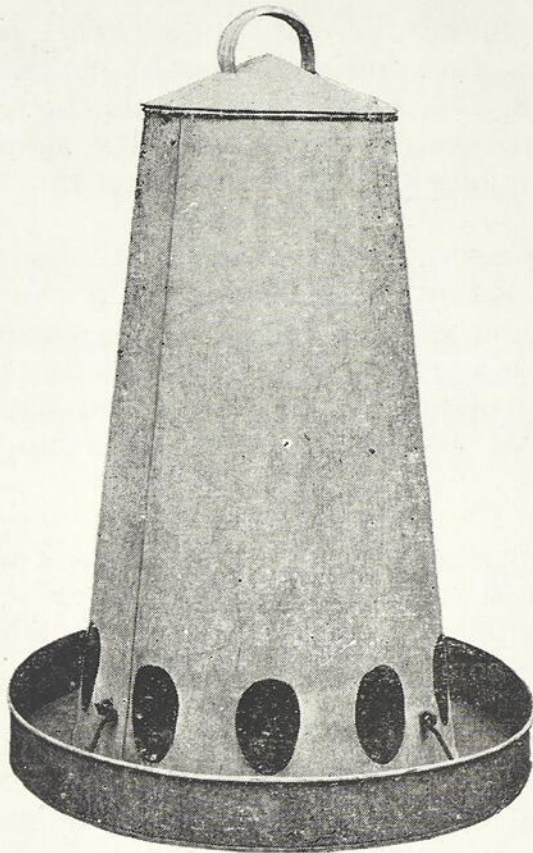


Fig. 10.—Automatic hopper.

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### ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

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Young chicks need food almost continuously. Notwithstanding the fact that they always have feed before them in the hoppers, they should also be fed every hour. How then can it be rational to leave them without food during the long March and April nights? For my part I attach great importance to the use of electric lights in the brooder-house, and especially during the first months. I cannot therefore do otherwise than encourage those breeders who have electric light in the house, to incur the small expense of installation and extend it to their poultry house. Any electrician, by an ingenious but simple contrivance, can connect the current to an alarm clock which will insure the lights being put on at the desired hour. The lights may be switched on at 10 or 11 P.M. for the first six weeks and after that the amount of light given may be reduced about 10 minutes per night.

In the evening, before it gets dark, after having filled the stove with coal, and making sure that it is in order for the night, feed should be scattered in the litter, the drinking fountains filled with milk, and the hoppers placed to face the electric light. As a result of this latter, the chicks are around all the night, and the hoppers (and more especially the drinking fountains) are never deserted.

Some breeders may think that this use of lights will tend towards a too rapid development of the chicks, which in their opinion will result in the pullets beginning to lay too early. This however is not the principal aim in the use of electric lights. It is rather to decrease the percentage of chick mortality. So far as too early laying is concerned, this can easily be remedied. About the age of 4 months, the time at which with this regime the pullet would be liable to lay, the ration is decreased by eliminating the feeds rich in protein. The fact of changing the quarters of a pullet that is about to lay suffices to retard its laying.

Lower mortality and a more rapid development are the advantages of the use of electric lights in chick raising.

## 2.—HOUSING OF CHICKS

### TWO NEW BROODERS HOUSES.

In spring time, the great question of the day for the breeder is to discover a suitable place to raise his chicks. Consequently I feel that I cannot do better than to give the details of two model brooders: (1) Brood coop for hen and chicks; (2) Colony-brooder house for 500 chicks.

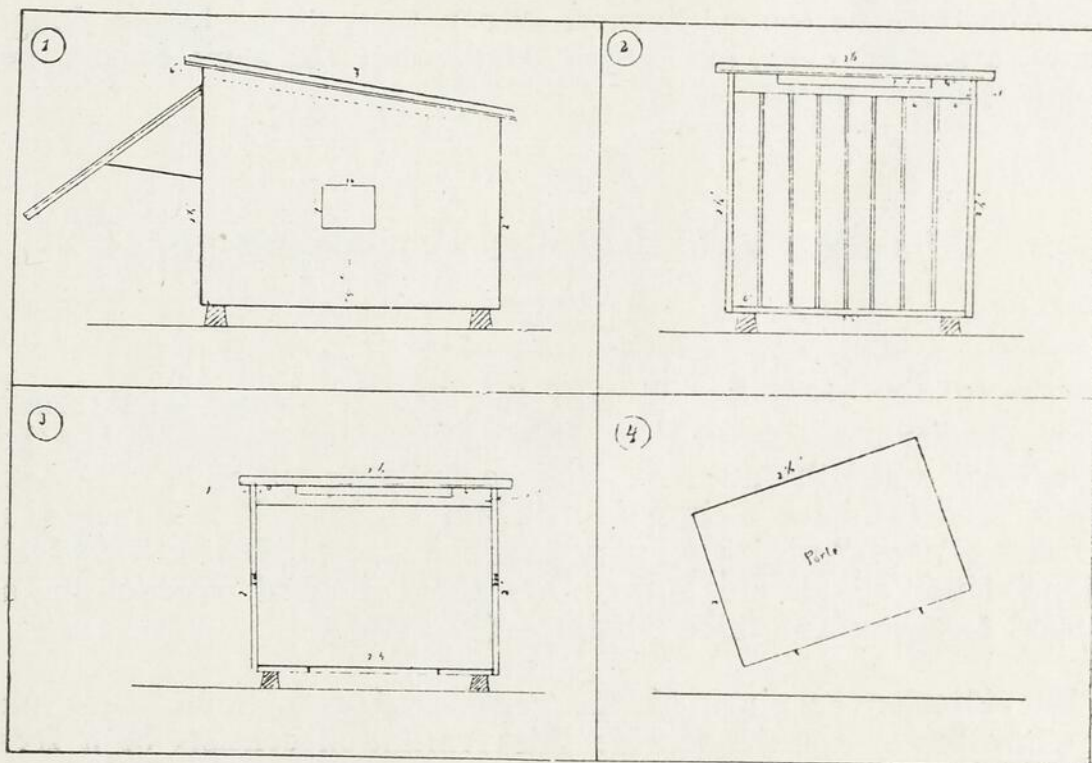


Fig. 11.—Coop for hen and chicks.

### BROOD COOP FOR HEN AND CHICKS.

(Fig. 11).—This coop measures 3' x 2½', and is 3 feet high in the front by 2½' at the back. I will refer to the plan for details, and show the advantages of this new coop.

(1) SIDE VIEW (East).

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It is because of this small window that early hatching and brooding are possible: by reason of its presence the door can be closed without leaving the chicks in darkness. In addition, when it is too cold to let the chicks run, they have the advantage of the sun's heat falling on them through this window. (2)—The front is lathed, which allows the chicks to run while keeping the hen enclosed. As this should not be allowed during bad weather, a hinged door is added which may be opened to the desired degree. This addition is most important, for upon it depends the comfort of the chicks during the cold nights and driving rains. Above this door there is an opening one inch high by twenty long. A similar opening at the back creates a current of air which assures good ventilation without draughts. It also serves to carry off any excess of heat.

(3)—It will be noticed that the back is completely closed, by a door. This is held in place by two buttons, permitting the interior to be cleaned easily. Notice also the ventilation opening at the top.

(4)—The door taken off.

This coop is made of single match-boarding. The front should always be towards the south east. When there is no longer danger of cold, a similar coop, six inches smaller but the same height, and without window, may be used.

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COLONY-BROODER HOUSE FOR 500 CHICKS.

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(Fig.12)—It seems to me that this brooder house is extremely serviceable, for it can be used to shelter the chicks, from the day they are hatched, until the autumn. It is a building 10' x 12' the front being 6' and the back 5' in height. Two windows 4' x 3' placed in the front, allow for plenty of early sunshine, so beneficial in its effects. The principal advantage however is that of good ventilation, an essential to successful chick raising.—(Fig. 13).

The interior openings of the ventilators are placed three feet above the floor. On the outside this ventilation consists of a fresh air vent six inches square, opening towards the ground, which prevents the wind from entering directly. Two of these ventilators are placed in the middle of the colony brooder house, one at the east and the other at the west end. The fresh air on entering, descends gradually and is warmed before it touches the chicks. Two foul air outlets, similar in shape to the fresh air vents, extend from three feet above the floor to the roof.—(Fig. 14).

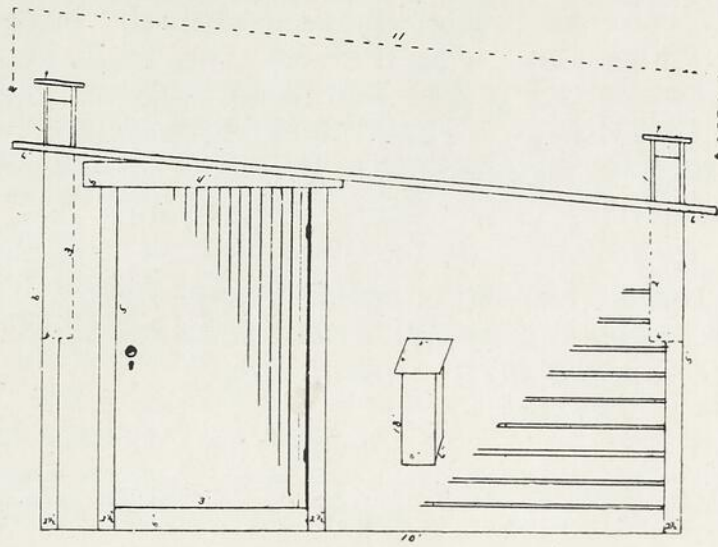


Fig. 12.—Colony-brooder for 500 chicks: side view.

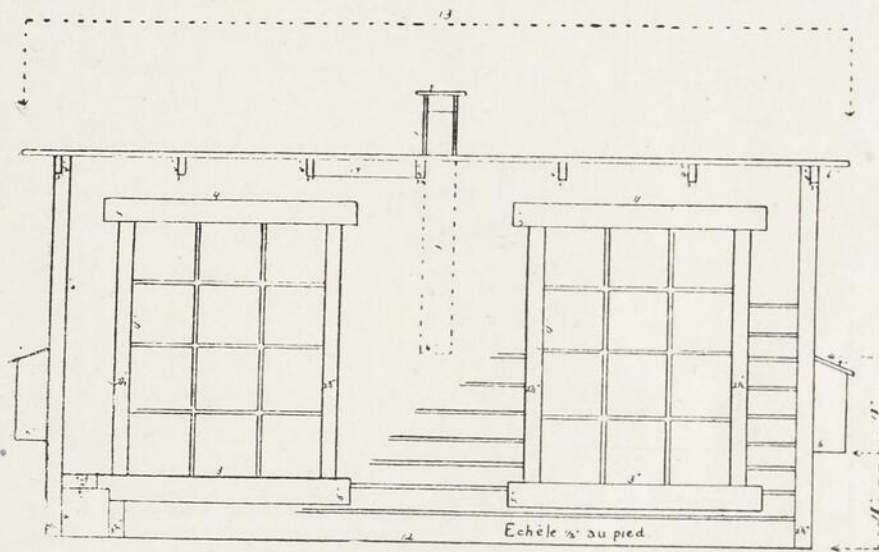


Fig. 13.—Colony-brooder for 500 chicks: front view.

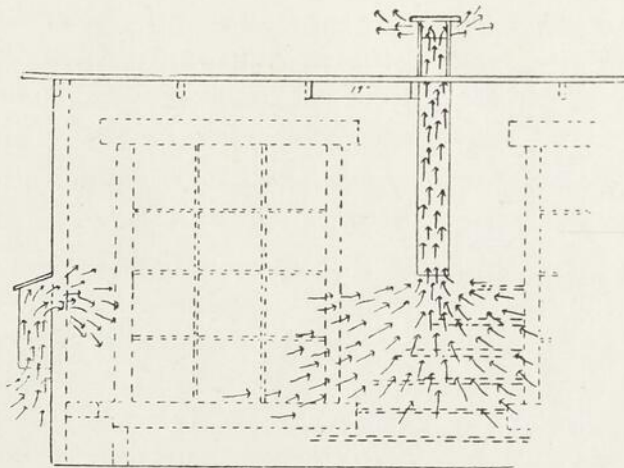


Fig. 14.—Colony-brooder for 500 chicks: circulation of air.

This system would be incomplete as described. In order to expel the vitiated air which stays near the roof, two small holes are made in the walls between the center scantlings, one on the north and the other on the south side. These holes are provided with a small sliding door, which if necessary can be made to open and shut by means of a thermostat.

This colony brooder house is made of single match boarding. The floor should be double, and raised about ten inches above the ground. The stove is placed in the center.—(Fig. 15).

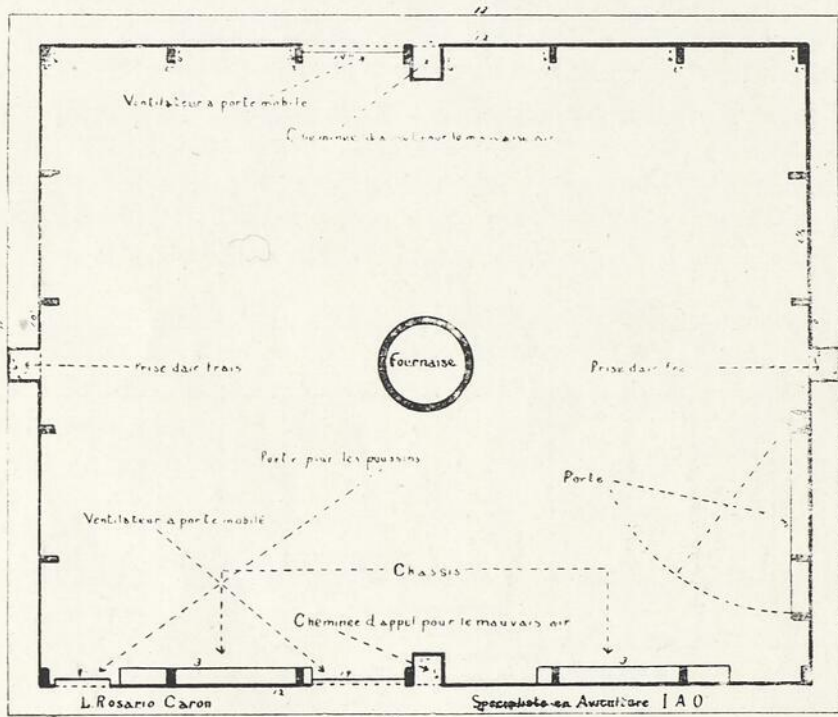


Fig. 15.—Colony-brooder for 500 chicks: interior view.

### 3.—THE SELECTION OF MALES AS BREEDERS

The judicious choice of males for breeding is one of the most important problems facing the breeder, and one which cannot be over estimated. It is the male that transmits the characteristics of the breed and particularly the qualities of egg production.

Obviously, the method and manner of choosing male birds as breeders will depend in the first place upon the ultimate result desired, that is to say exhibition birds, or general purpose. In the former case, the greater emphasis will necessarily be placed upon the breed type as laid down in the standard, for colour, weight and shape, especially weight. Here however, constitutional vigour is a most important factor.

In the second case the breed type must not be lost sight of, and particularly today, when the slogan of the poultry world is to make the useful more beautiful and the beautiful more useful. Here however there is a quality even more important than that—the dam's egg record. In fact it is undeniable that one of the best guides in choosing a male for a utility flock is the pedigree record. There are occasional exceptions however, for cases have been known where with two full brothers from a heavy layer, the one gave a line of good layers and the other poor ones.

When no pedigree is available, resource must be had to other means, and the first thing to look for is constitutional vigour as indicated by the general appearance. Even with a good pedigree, if this is lacking, satisfactory results cannot be anticipated.

Generally speaking the signs indicating this vigour are: eyes prominent, active, bright, piercing and vivid: head, carried high and of standard type: face, red and vivid: the beak relatively short and strong: breast, well developed: back, long and wide with width carried back to tail: breast and keel bone long and straight: pubic bones well spaced, and the shanks round and well spaced. In addition, the general carriage of the bird will give a good idea of its constitutional vigour.—(Fig. 3).

Males to be used for breeding should undergo a triple selection. The first is made when they are two or three months old, and is based upon their general development, for a cockerel well developed at this age, already gives promise for the future.

The second selection is made when the birds are put into winter quarters, and is based upon the characteristics above-mentioned.

The third and definite selection is made preceeding the mating season. To make this final choice, in my opinion, the best plan is to place say 10 males that have been wintered together, with a flock of 100 hens. There will inevitably be fights: the weaker ones being eliminated and the best left for breeding purposes. In my experience the best fertility is obtained when several males are placed in a flock. It is evident however that this is impracticable for pedigree breeding.

#### 4.—INDICATION OF LAYING CAPACITY

For several years past, we have witnessed experiments and heard theories expounded by specialists regarding the indications of the laying capacity of the hen, among others Walter Hogan's system. He was I think, one of the first poultry breeders to recognise a good layer by external characteristics, and while his theories have met with much opposition, they have rendered signal service to poultry breeding.

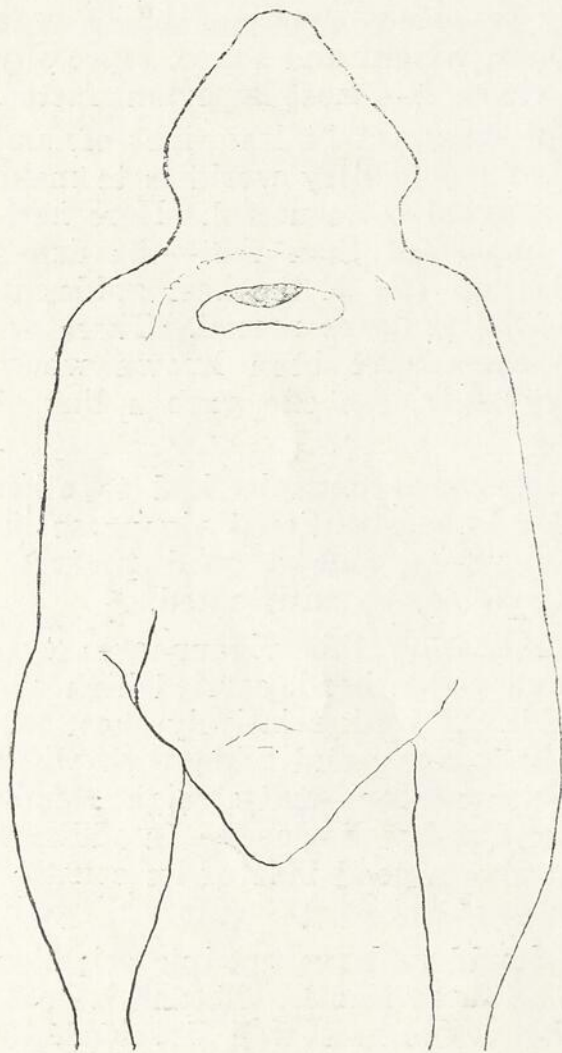


Fig. 16.—Figure indicating a heavy layer. Note the large space between the keel and pubic bones, also the open prominent shape of the caudal vertebrae.

Each specialist has his method for recognising a good layer. Some judge by temperament and the body shape, others by the pigmentation, and others again by the most striking feature of a hen, the head

According to the scientific investigations conducted to date, the number of eggs which a pullet will lay, and the number laid by a hen during her first year can be determined approximately. This is already a considerable advance.

Any breeder who relies upon only one of the above mentioned methods, to the exclusion of the others, will be often mistaken; but if he combines them, the calling becomes comparatively simple. The following are the indications:

(a)—A good layer is a good worker. Roosts late, comes off the perch early, and eats a large quantity of feed which she hunts for herself, her short nails showing her industry in scratching.

(b)—She is of good temperament, easy to handle, and cackles continually.

(c)—Her comb and wattles are red and vivid, plump and waxy. She moults late (not before September) and re-feathers quickly.

(b)—She is of good temperament, easy to handle, and cackles

(d)—After a certain period of laying her skin bleaches out, a change which is first noticed around the anus which becomes soft and moist. The beak and shanks also bleach out, but this applies only to yellow skinned breeds.

(e)—Her body is long and deep, her skin supple, silky and elastic: her back long and broad, the breadth being carried right back to the tail: her breast well developed and her abdomen is elastic, soft and deep.—(Fig. 7).



Fig. 17.—Note the five finger capacity of the abdomen, between the pubic bones and the keel bone, indicating a heavy layer.

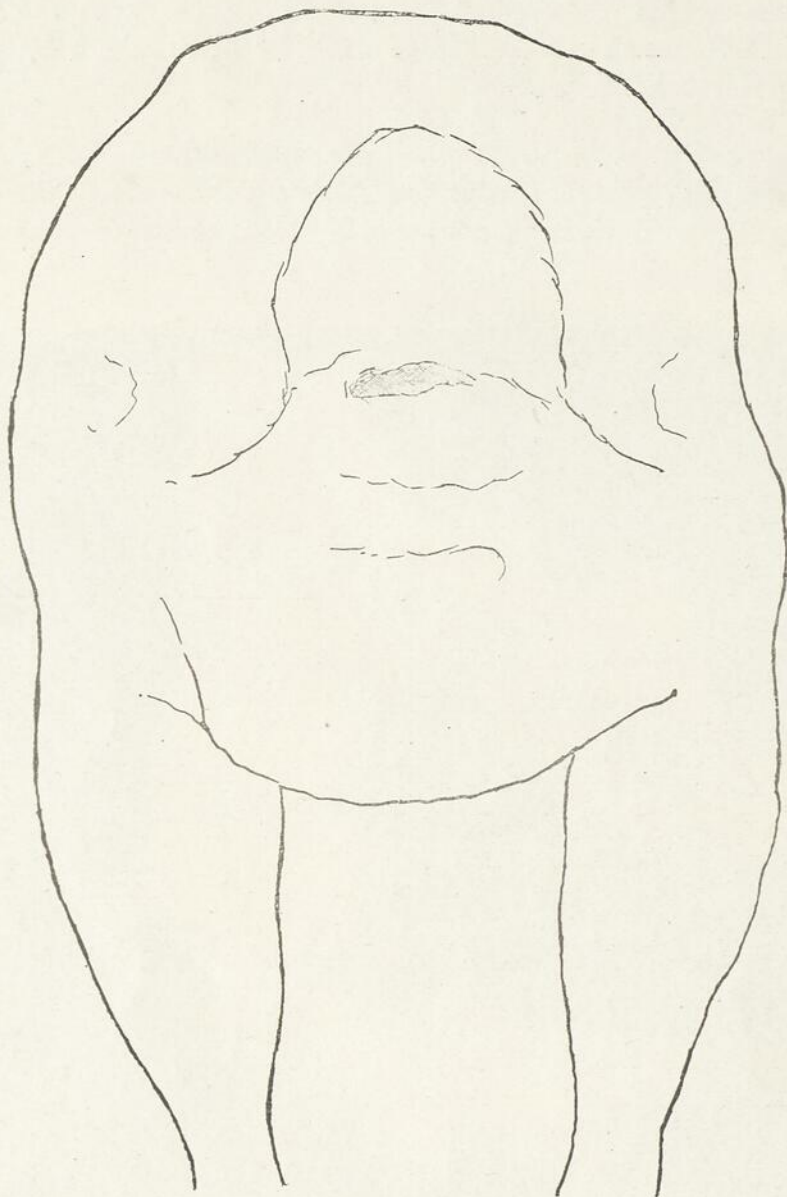


Fig. 18—Figure indicating a poor layer: this is more the meat type. Note the small space between the pubic bones and keel bone, as well as the compact barrel shape.

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(f)—The laying capacity is proportionate to the space, large or small, between the keel bone and the pubic bones. The Figs. 16 and 17 indicate a heavy layer, while Figs. 18 and 19 indicate very poor layers.

(g)—Her pubic bones are thin and flexible, (Fig. 20), and the space between these bones increases during the laying season (Figs. 21, 22). If these bones are very thick, the hen is not a good layer but would be of the meat type as indicated by Fig. 23.



Fig. 19.—On finger capacity only between keel bone and pubic bones, indicating a very poor layer.

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(h)—Her head should be delicate, fine, and somewhat small. Her eye, full and prominent, is placed high in the head and as near the beak as possible, in a manner that on looking from above, both eyes may be seen at the same time.—(Fig. 3).

(i)—Her face is smooth, slight, and free from wrinkles and fleshy excrescences. (Fig. 24 indicating a face fleshy and coarse).

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### 5.—LAYING RATIONS

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The value of a laying ration depends not only upon its composition but also upon the manner in which it is fed. The important point is that the hens should be kept active all day. To this end they should be fed lightly during the day, to force them to hunt for their feed, and heavily at night, so that their crops will be full when they go to roost.



Fig. 20.—This hen has the pubic bones very thin and flexible, which indicates the probability of a very heavy egg production.

The following mixtures fulfil the conditions of a well balanced ration :

MIXED GRAIN, given in small quantities in the morning, and heavily at night.

Wheat . . . . .	100 lbs.
Cracked corn . . . . .	50 “
Oats . . . . .	50 “
Buckweat . . . . .	50 “
Barley . . . . .	25 “

DRY MASH, kept constantly before the hens, in hoppers.

Bran . . . . .	100 lbs.
Shorts . . . . .	100 “
Ground oats . . . . .	100 “
Corn meal . . . . .	50 “
Linseed meal or oil meal . . . . .	25 “
Beef scrap . . . . .	25 “
Cut alfalfa or Clover . . . . .	20 “

Beef scrap may also be kept constantly before the birds with advantage.

### WET MASH

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The composition of this mash is similar to the dry mash except that it is moistened with milk or table scraps. It is given to the hens at noon, in sufficient quantities to half satisfy their appetites, and they should not be given more than they can clear up in five minutes. Following this mash they should be fed a little grain in



Fig. 21.—The three finger space between the pubic bones indicates that this hen is actually laying.

the litter, to induce exercise. The quantity of mash fed in the summer should be considerably in excess of that in the winter. In addition they should be given milk, preferably butter milk. If milk is not available the quantity of beef scrap should be increased by 25 lbs. This is an excellent way in which to utilise, in winter, the meat of any healthy animal, such as horse flesh.

If the hens get too fat the quantity of wet mash should be reduced. This mash should not be given to breeding stock, male or female.

Charcoal, grit and oyster shells are kept constantly before the birds, and green feed such as mangels or cabbage should be fed once or twice a day. Failing these legumes, sprouted oats may advantageously be fed in their place. This green feed is fed morning and noon.

X X X  
ELECTRIC LIGHTS

I may add that electric light plays an important role in egg production. Differing from those breeders who provide this light morning and night, I am of the opinion that it should be given in the morning



Fig. 22.—The one finger space between the pubic bones indicates that this hen has not laid recently.

only, for the hen, by nature, prefers to roost early in the evening and comes off the perch early in the morning. I have already stated, in speaking of chick raising, that the electric light can easily be provided in the morning without interrupting one sleep.

One may begin on November 1st at 4 a.m., advancing five minutes per day until 3 A.M. is reached. After the hens have gone to roost grain should be thrown in the litter, and the drinking fountains filled.



Fig. 23.—Pubic bones thicker than one inch indicates a poor layer, and rather the meat type.

Birds whose eggs are to be used for hatching, should not be kept under lights.

Furthermore, I may add that birds kept for breeding purposes should not be forced for egg production in any way, for if this takes its normal course the hens will be in condition to produce strongly germed eggs during the breeding season.

N.B.—If pullets are used for breeding purposes they should be hatched early in April.

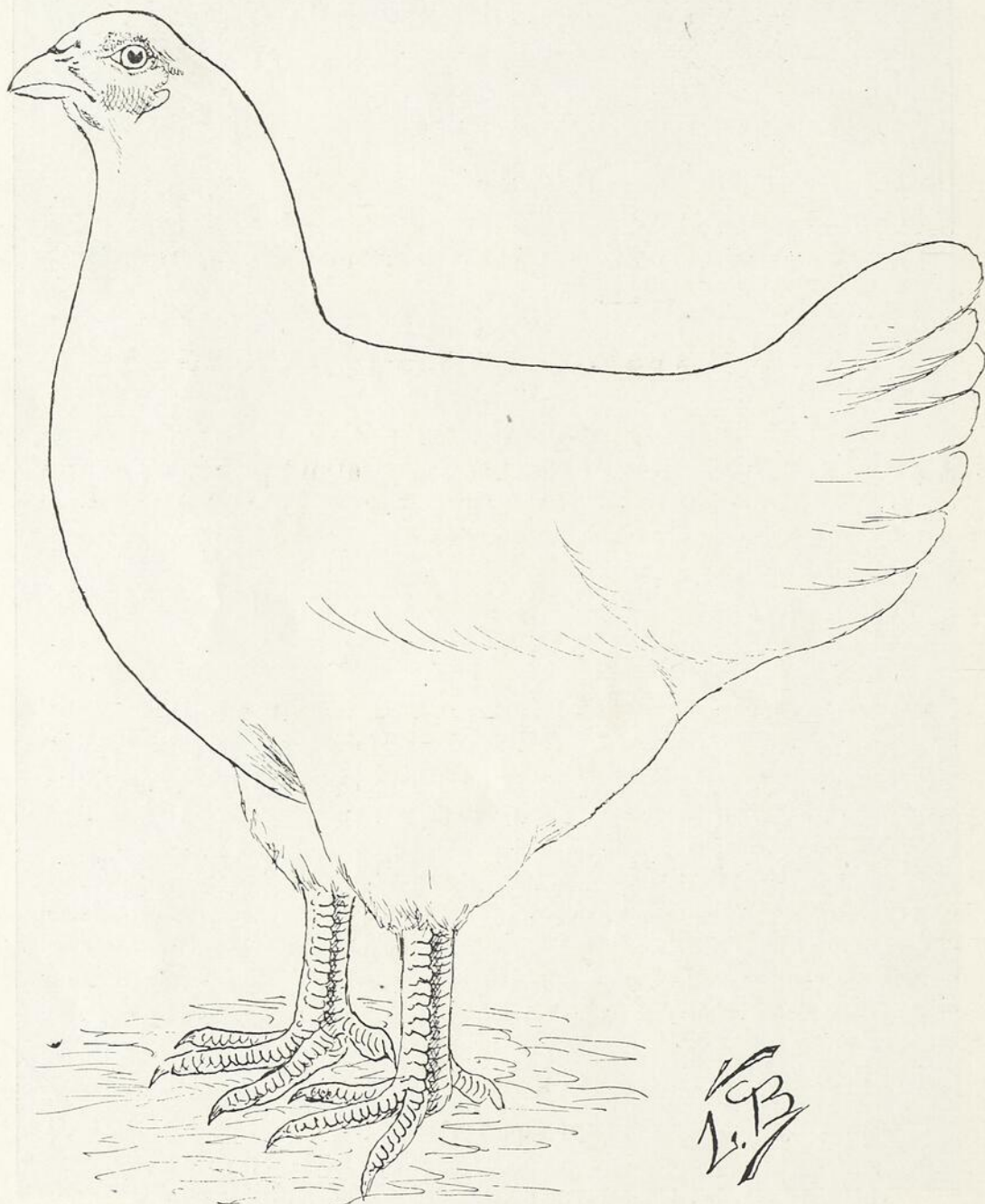


Fig. 24.—The figure indicates a very poor layer: lacking breast and abdomen: head weak and long, eyes distant from the beak, face fleshy and coarse.

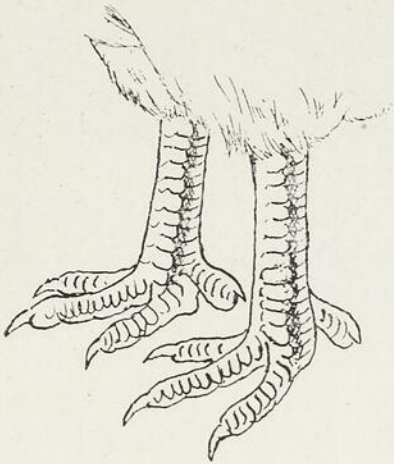


Fig. 25.

Fig. 25.—Shanks indicating a good layer. A good layer has lean, “dried out” shanks.

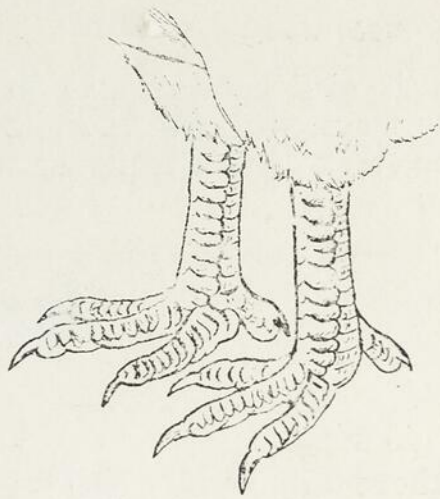


Fig. 26.

Fig. 26.—Figure indicating a poor layer. A poor layer has large, “greasy” shanks, almost round.

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## 6.—PREPARATION OF EXHIBITION BIRDS

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When a breeder contemplates competing in poultry shows, he must give early attention to the mating, hatching, brooding and conditioning of his birds. The preparation of exhibition birds should not be left until a week before the show, and especially in the case of those of white plumage.

X X X  
MATING

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Correct mating is most important. In considering exhibition birds, as it is generally the male which transmits the shape and the female the colour, if the females are under standard weight, they should be mated to a male of strong constitution, ideal shape, and above standard weight.

To offset the tendency to brassiness in the Chantecler, the hens should be snow-white, and as the comb plays an important rôle, it is essential in order to conserve the ideal type, that the breeding males should have combs smaller than standard size. The female may have a large comb, but it must be short and only slightly developed.

X X X  
HATCHING

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For the autumn shows it is important to hatch the chicks as early in the spring as possible, but for winter shows, the birds hatched later (in June for instance) make the best specimens.

## FEED

It is also necessary to be very particular regarding the feed. Yellow maize will give the plumage a yellow tinge, and raw meat, if fed too freely, has a tendency to develop the comb and wattles.

x x x

## MANAGEMENT

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Above all, vermin must be prevented, for it does incalculable damage to the plumage (Fig. 27). The best safe-guard against vermin is absolute cleanliness.



Fig. 27.—Plumage attacked by vermin.

x x x

## TRAINING AND CONDITIONING

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Before showing birds it is best to give them a little training, to tame them and to accustom them to the coops. Fowls, like men, have not all the same temperament, and some are more nervous than others. These should be placed in an exhibition coop, and in the evening, should be examined in a dim light, to accustom them to being handled. It is also a good plan to smooth and stroke the wattles gently, as this seems to have a soothing effect on the birds. By these means they become tame in a short time and the training can then be continued by daylight.

At the outset offer the birds some tasty tidbit, such as a piece of meat, or bread crumbs soaked in milk. Then, on returning clothed in a judge's dust-coat, and carrying a short stick, by repeated practice the bird is trained to pose itself in such a manner as to display its best qualities. If this training is well done, when the judge approaches the coop, the bird instinctively assumes the desired pose.

This training sometimes entails repeated and patient exercise, but it must be remembered that to have the bird display its best points at the show is to the advantage of the owner.

x x x

## WASHING

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A day before the show the specimens should be washed. This operation entails more minutes attention than one would think. In fact it is better to not wash at all than to wash badly. A bird that is naturally white and clean is perhaps better not washed.

Two people are required for this washing, one to hold the bird and the other to wash it. Four tubs of **SOFT WATER** should be prepared (this point is essential), and a small basin in which the feet of the birds can be brushed to get rid of the heavy dirt.

The first tub contains the real washing water, which should be as hot as the hand can endure. By means of a good soap, such as "Sunlight" or "Pearline", a thick lather is made in which the bird is immersed to the head. The plumage is then sponged with the lather several times, following the direction of the feathers, care being taken to part them and to sponge to the shaft, especially in the tail and wings. The beak and face are then washed, as also are the shanks and toes, after having been cleaned with a nail brush.

In the second tub, which should be larger and contain plenty of hot water, the bird is thoroughly washed to remove all traces of soap. This is the difficult point.

The third tub contains tepid water in which washing blue has been dissolved in the same proportion as for washing fine linens. This must be well mixed in order not to dye the feathers. The bird is completely immersed, firstly head downward, and secondly feet first, in two separate operations.

The fourth tub contains clear water for the last rinsing, in order to remove the excess of blue, if any exists. As soon as the bird is taken out of this tub it is wiped with a soft towel (following the direction of the feathers, afterwards being placed on a table and sponged with peroxide. It may also be dried by fanning for several minutes, especially the tail coverts.

The bird should dry as quickly as possible, and to that end should be placed in a room heated to 80° to 85°. A higher temperature will tend to curl the feathers. Failing a room heated to this temperature the bird may be perched on a radiator or stove pipe to dry, or it may be placed in a barred front box facing a stove.

Once dried, and until shipped, the specimen should be kept in a temperature of about 60°, and free from draughts.

Four or five inches of shavings should be placed in the bottom of the shipping coops. These coops, which should be 1½' x 2' by 2½' deep for an adult male, can either be bought ready made or made at home.

Before putting the bird in this coop it is well to lightly grease the shanks and feet, comb, wattles, earlobes, face and beak with vaseline, afterwards rubbing them with a soft cloth to bring out the true colour. This may well be repeated in the show a few minutes before judging commences.

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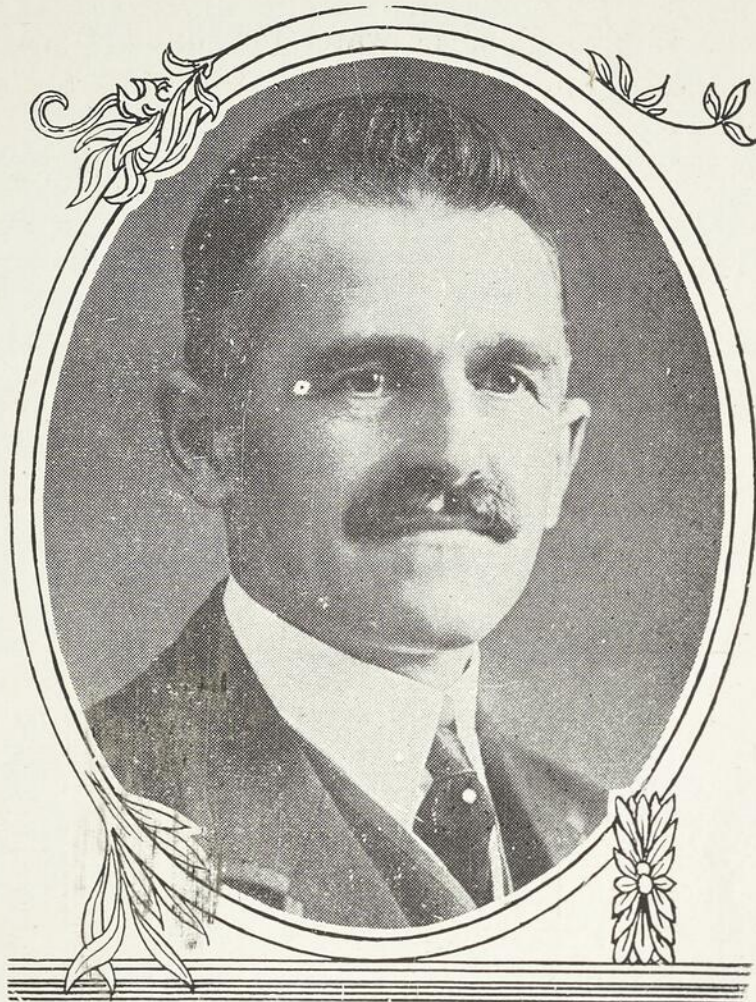
## 7.—HYGIENIC CARE OF THE POULTRY YARD

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It would evidently be useless to talk of hygiene to those breeders whose poultry houses are simply stables shared with the cows.

Owing to the initiative and generous help of the Provincial Poultry Service, this unfortunate promiscuity is becoming increasingly rare in the Province of Quebec. Consequently hygienic rules are more easily followed, and by means of a little observation, epidemics are easily prevented in our modern hygienic poultry houses.

A good annual housecleaning; whitewashing each spring; disinfection weekly against the mites during the very hot weather, and each time that there are any signs of serious disease; the isolation of affected birds immediately the symptoms appear, these are the principal preventive measures that each breeder should apply, to keep his flock free from vermin and disease, and make poultry keeping a profitable industry on the farm.

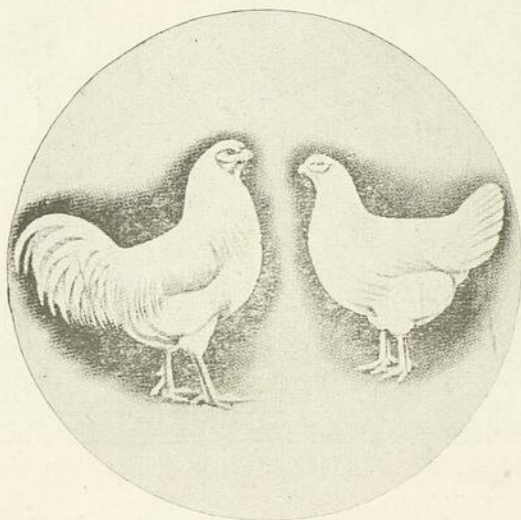


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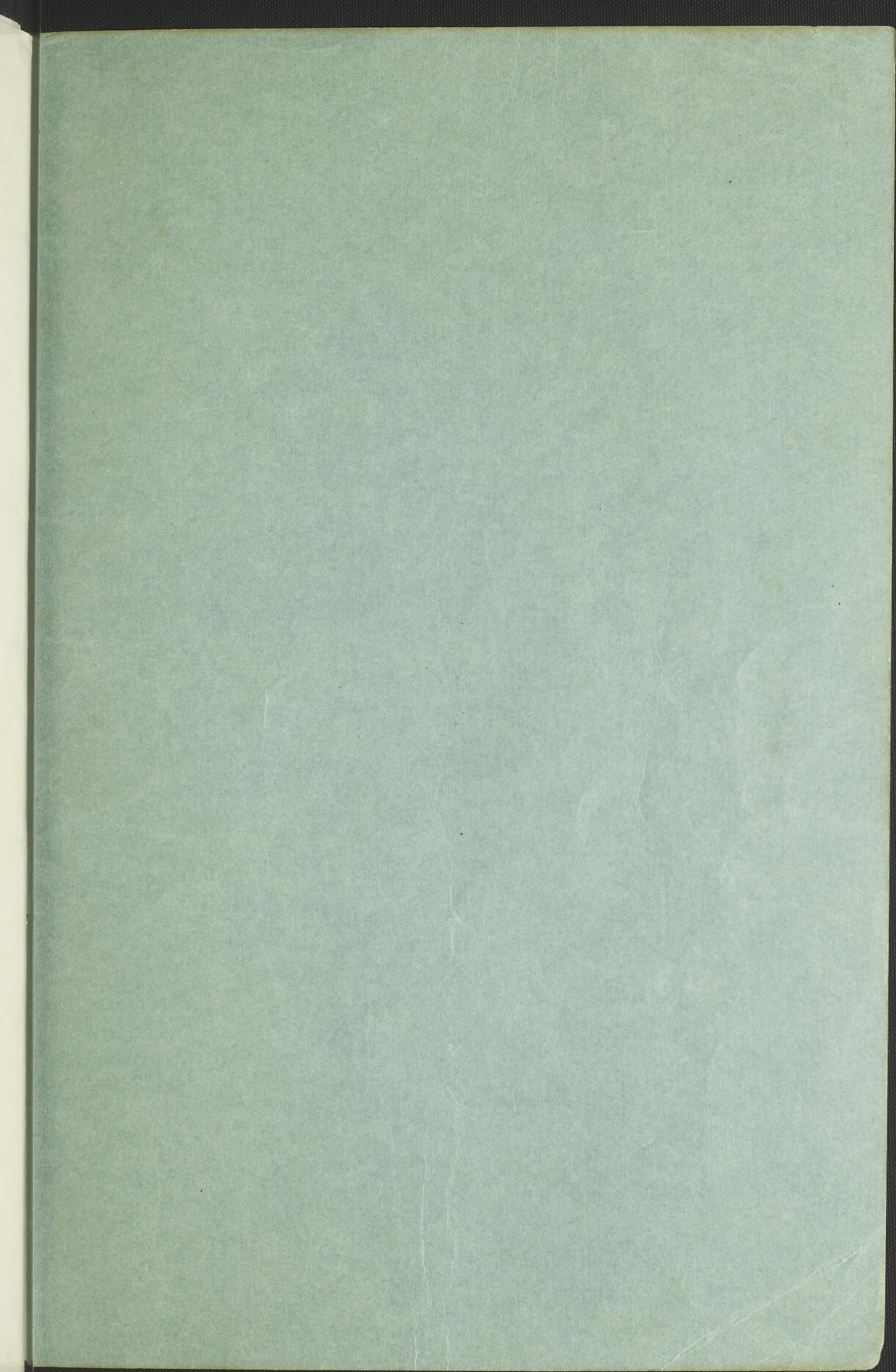
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