POULTRY.

Patented Poultry Articles.

We have been examining a variety of fountains, and feed troughs, and coops, and nests, for poultry, which have been patented, and which have figured largely in the poultry journals.

We have examined them thoroughly and we cannot see any advantage a single one of them possesses, which would warrant any raiser of poultry to pay extra to have it.

The simplest method of feeding and of watering is always the best method. We do not think it advisable to have any food-hopper arranged so that the poultry can always help themselves.

The water in fountains soon gets stale, and the health of poultry depends more upon having fresh water than upon any other one item. It should be renewed frequently every day.

As to coops, whether folding, or stationary, or on wheels, we still find many forms not patented fully equal to those patented. And the patent nest boxes are generally of very little account when compared with others in common use.

We have not thus far seen any plans of patented articles which we have thought worthy to supersede the simplest any poultryman may devise.

A person who invents a really good article of any description, of right should receive a compensation for it, if he desires it; but we have yet to find one in the poultry department which can command a reward.

Poultry Houses.

Advanced Agriculture in this department demands a house of the very plainest and cheapest character, without a crevice or an ornament where vermin can hide.

Everything around it must be best adapted to facility in cleaning. It should be arranged so that it will be warm in winter and cool in summer.

It should be solid, so that nothing about it can be easily injured. Made of rough boards with plenty of tarred paper, and good strong nails or spikes. The roosts capable of holding plenty of coal oil on their surface; and the nest boxes so that they can be readily cleaned by the ordeal of fire, if we desire it.

They should be small houses, of shed pattern capable of holding roosts for about a dozen chickens; six feet high behind and eight feet high in front, six wide by twelve long is plenty large.

In such houses, chickens, if properly cared for, will thrive. Give them a small yard for exercise, and the conditions of success are secured.

Best Time to Sell.

We have watched very closely the markets for poultry, and we would give our experience.

In July, August and September prices are generally low, and it will scarcely pay to carry chickens to market.

Later prices are somewhat better for dressed poultry until just before thanksgiving, when the quantity rushed into market generally depresses the price again, which does not rise until after the holidays.

Poultry is generally scarce and high in March and April, and then is the best time to sell. If you have winter layers you will reap a double benefit.

Special Attention.

The profits of Poultry Keeping depend to a large extent, in a general way, upon the amount of attention which is given to the stock.

There are so many small, but very important items, that go to swell the account of profit and loss, that only the very closest attention will bring the profit where you would like to have it—from 200 to 400 per cent. Particularly, in the winter, is this a necessity. Warm shelter, proper food and water, cleanliness, and care.

The Chickens.

Said the first little chicken,
With a queer little squirm,
"I wish I could find
A fat little worm."

Said the next little chicken,
With an odd little shrug,
"I wish I could find
A fat little slug."

Said the third little chicken,
With a sharp little squeal.
"I wish I could find
Some nice yellow meal."

Said the fourth little chicken
With a small sigh of grief,
"I wish I could find
A green little leaf."

Said the fifth little chicken
With a faint little moan,
"I wish I could find
A wee gravel stone."

"Now see here," said the Mother
From the green garden patch:
"If you want any breakfast,
Just come here and scratch."

—*The Sunbeam.*