

The
S.A.P.A.
POULTRY

Die
S.A.P.V.
PLUIMVEE

BULLETIN

Official Organ of the S.A. Poultry Association. Amptelike Organ van die S.A. Pluimveevereniging.

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Gratis to Members—Gratis aan Lede.

Editorial

: Redaksioneel

MEALIES.

It will be welcome news to most poultry farmers that the Mealie Control Board has at last determined to show a little sympathy towards poultry farmers, and while imposing a levy of four shillings upon all mealies and mealie products consumed in the Union, they will refund two shillings a bag to all stock feeders upon a claim being submitted to the Board.

Full particulars of the course to be adopted have not yet been published. What relief this will mean it is impossible to say, as apparently the figure to which the levy will be added is not yet known, but probably will be based upon export parity and in the neighbourhood of 8/6 to 7/-. This will mean that mealies on the farm will cost 10/- to 11/6 per bag, depending on whether crushed mealies or whole mealies are bought and upon cartage, etc. While this may afford some relief, we are still left with the fight to abolish the system of making the internal consumer pay for loss on export, and it is hoped that all members of the Association will still agitate to secure a change in the present pernicious system which so unfairly penalises the Union stock feeder.

MARKETING.

The Rand has again seen an uncalled for price cutting ramp in eggs with, of course, serious results to the producer, who is dependent upon marketing through the wholesale firms and market agents. Misrepresentation still goes on merrily, as advertisements in the daily papers on one line quote National Mark Eggs 2/3 and on the next line "New Laid Eggs" 1/3. Could anything be more culpable in the way of deceiving the public? If an egg is "New Laid" it would qualify for National Mark, and would anybody in their right senses offer an article at 1/- below its true value?

MIELIES.

Pluimveeboere sal bly wees om te vernem dat die Mielie Beheerraad eindelijk 'n mate van simpatie teenoor die pluimveeboere getoon het en terwyl 'n heffing van 4/- per sak op alle mielies en mielie produkte wat in die Unie gebruik word geplaas is, is hulle gewillig om 'n terugbetaling van 2/- per sak te maak aan alle vervoerders wat hulle eise na die Raad stuur. Volledige besonderhede is nog nie gepubliseer nie.

Watter verligting hierdie gedragslyn vir vervoerders sal beteken kan nie op hierdie stadium vasgestel word nie, want dit is nog onbekend op watter syfer die heffing gebaseer sal word, maar dit sal waarskynlik gebaseer word op uitvoer pryse en dit sal onstreeks 8/6 tot 7/- wees. Dit beteken dat die prys gelewer op die plaas sal 10/- tot 11/6 per sak wees, afhangend of heel of getrekte mielies aangekoop word en ook op vervoer-koste, ens. Terwyl ons 'n mate van verligting sien geniet, bly daar nog die stryd teenoor die beginsel om buitelandse verbruikers te losseer om die verlies op uitvoer te betaal, en ons hoop stellig dat alle lede hulle kragte sal inspan om die teenwoordige skadelike beleid, wat so onregverdig is teenoor die verbruiker, uit die weg te ruim.

BEMARKING.

Op die Rand het ons nog weer 'n skadelike en onnodige pryvermindering in eiers gehad met die natuurlike gevolge dat die produsente, wat afhanklik is op groothandel firmas en mark agente, ernstig daaronder gely het. Waarsaamstelling daar nog voort. Ons vind goedverteen in die daelike pers Nasionale Merk Eiers teen 2/3 en op die volgende lys "Pangelegde Eiers" teen 1/3. Kan enige bedriegery meer duidelik wees? As 'n eier, „Pangeel" is, sou dit vir Nasionale Merk geskik wees, en sou enige persoon met goeie verstand 'n artikel vir 1/- minder as sy egte waarde aanbied?

Unfortunately the Government is condoning this type of business, as despite frequent requests for standardisation of grades and compulsory grading, and the repeated recommendations of the Secretary for Agriculture that grading was essential for improved marketing, difficulties are still being found in the application of the desired measure.

Producers can rightly and justly blame the Government for the heavy financial loss they have suffered through the chaotic marketing conditions on the Rand and the practices adopted by retailers and wholesalers due to the absence of regulations to safeguard producer and consumer.

It is very evident that only an organisation controlled by producers will give poultry farmers, marketing their eggs from a distance, a "fair deal," and until all other channels of handling eggs for grading and marketing are eliminated, so long will producers be pawns in the hands of people only concerned with making the maximum profit out of the farmer.

The latest development where definite promises were broken, only too conclusively proves this fact, and that all the endeavours of the Association to protect the producer in the country can only be stop-gaps until a comprehensive scheme of control can be evolved.

The fact that local New Laid Eggs have been commanding a heavy demand at a premium of 6d. to 9d. per dozen above National Mark Blue Label prices is ample evidence that supplies have warranted a rise in price rather than a drop of 6d. to 9d. per dozen. Our efforts have once more succeeded in stabilising prices, but take heed and realise that you have the "right to call the tune" instead of only "paying the paper" and can make your own marketing scheme.

WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL UNION CONGRESS.

The Women's Agricultural Unions are to be congratulated upon a most successful Congress, setting an example of enthusiasm which puts the men's organisations to shame.

The Principal Poultry Officer gave an instructive address on poultry farming with much useful information which should help the industry. It is regretted, however, that in his concluding remarks he made statements which can only do infinite harm and raise false impressions. It is possible that the wording of the English translation may not be too happy, but the above remarks as to marketing of eggs on the Rand, and similar experiences elsewhere, should prove to all that when food prices are controlled against you, and markets are exploited at your expense, only one course is open: information, advice and propaganda, except for this one purpose, will only result in your losing more money.

The question of limiting production to country areas is controlled by economic factors and the rapid increase in specialist farms around consuming areas proves the necessity for these plants and their ability to produce a high quality article at a price the public can pay.

Dit is werklik jammer dat die Goewerment hierdie besighedsmetodes deur die vingers sien, want tensypte van aansoekende versoeke vir Standardisasie van grade en verpligte gradering, en die aansoekende voorstelle van die Sekretaris van Landbou dat gradering noodsaaklik is vir die verbetering van markte, is moeilik-bede vir die in werking stel van gradering nog steeds gevind.

Produsente kan met regverdigheid die Goewerment beskuldig vir die groot geldelike verliese deur hulle gely, wens die koetiese bemerkingstoestande op die Rand en die metodes wat groot- en klein-handelaars gebruik van maak in die afwesigheid van regulasies om verbruiker en produsent te beskerm.

Dit is klaarblyklik dat die plattelandse produsent geen billike behandeling sal kan geniet voordat 'n produsente organisasie in werking gestel is nie, en nie voordat alle ander kanale vir die hantering van eiers vir gradering en bemerking uit die weg geruim is nie, sal die produsent 'n pyn wees in die hande van diegene wie alleen bekommer is oor die grootste wins teenkoste van die boer.

Hierdie feite is bewys deur die jongste ontwikkeling waar definitiewe belofte gebreek is, en ons is van mening dat nie voordat 'n volledige skema vir die beheer van ons produkte ingestel is nie, kan die pogings van die Vereniging meer doen as om tydelike verligting te gee.

Die feit dat die prys van plaaslike pangelede eiers van 6d. tot 9d. per dosyn hoër as die van Nasionale Merk Blou-etiket was, is voldoende bewys dat voorrade beperk was en die pryse moes gestyg het in plaas van 'n vermindering van 6d. tot 9d. per dosyn. Die Vereniging, deur sy pogings het pryse weer vaargestel, maar onthou moet word dat produsente hulle eie bemerkingsskema moet instel as hulle die hele vraagstuk wil oplos.

VROUË LANDBOU-UNIE KONGRES.

Ons moet ons gelukwense aan die Vroue Landbou-unies uitspreek vir hulle suksesvolle Kongres, wat die man's organisasies in die skadewe bring.

Die Hoof Pluimveebeampte het 'n leersame voorlesing aldaar gegee. Dit is nogtans jammer dat in die laaste gedeelte van sy toespraak het hy verklarings gemaak wat slegs kwaad kan doen en valse indrukke kan gee.

Die hierbovengemelde aanmerkings oor bemerking op die Rand en soortgelyke ondervindings elders in die Unie, behoort te dien as bewys dat wanneer voedingspryse teen die belange van die produsente beheer is, en markte is ge-eksploiteer is daar net een uitweg: Verligting, raad en oortuigingswerk, sal tot 'n verliese nog verder bydra as die bemerkingvraagstuk nie opgelos is nie.

Of pluimveeprodukte voordeliger op die platteland kan geproduseer word, is 'n ekonomiese vraagstuk en die vinnige vermoedering in die getal kommersiële pluimveefarms in die nabyheid van groot stede is bewys dat die stigting van hierdie plase regverdig is asook dat hulle 'n hoër kwaliteit produk kan lewer waarvoor daar 'n aanvraag bestaan.

Is the Bulletin to remain a Free Issue?

Conference very fully discussed the question of a small charge for the Bulletin, and decided to leave the final decision to the members. Although 1/6 per member per year is a very small amount, collectively it will mean that:

1. The Bulletin will be placed on a profitable basis.
2. Improvements in the publication can be made.
3. It will have a greater appeal to advertisers and so increase revenue for the benefit of the members.

Readers receive the Bulletin each month because they are members of a body affiliated to the South African Poultry Association, or because they are individual members or members of the Breeders' Register.

Will readers please complete the form given below and send it **without delay** to the Secretary of the affiliation of which they are members, and in the case of being a member of more than one affiliation, please inform the Secretaries of other affiliations, to which they may belong, of their decision.

Please Post this Form without delay.

ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY FOR YOUR BULLETIN?

(NOTE.—Members of the East London Egg Circle who have completed similar forms need not submit this one.)

To the Hon. Secretary:

.....

(* Delete which not required.)

Dear Sir,

As a member of the Club,
 I agree to a charge of 1/6 per year for the
 I do not agree to a
 "S.A.P.V. Poultry Bulletin."

Yours faithfully,

SIGNATURE

Date

Moet die Bulletin 'n Gratis Uitgawe bly?

Die vraag of 'n geringe subskripsie vir die Bulletin betaal moet word is deur Konferensie volledig bespreek, en dit is besluit om die vraag aan die lede oor te laat.

Die betaling van 1/6 per lid per jaar is maar min, maar gesamentlik sal dit beteken dat:

1. Die Bulletin op 'n betalende basis geplaas sal word.
2. Verbeterings sal kan aangebring word.
3. Dit vir adverteerders meer aantreklik sal wees, en die vergrote inkomste sal tot die voordeel van die lede wees.

Lesers ontvang maandeliks die Bulletin omdat hulle of lede van een of ander liggaam is wat aan die Vereniging affilieer is, of individuele lede, of lede van die Telersregister is.

Sal lede asseblief die hierby gaande vorm **sonder enige tydversuim** voltooi en dit aan die affiliasie waarvan hulle lede is stuur, en in geval waar hulle lede van meer as een affiliasie is, sal hulle asseblief die Sekretaris van hierdie ander affiliasies van hulle besluit verwittig.

Geliewe hierdie Vorm sonder tydversuim te Pos.

IS U BEREID OM VIR U BULLETIN TE BETAAL?

(NOTE.—Dit is nie nodig dat lede van die Oos-Londen Eierkring wat 'n skemagelyke vorm alreeds voltooi het, hierdie vorm instuur nie.)

Aan die Ede-Iskertas:

.....

(* Skars uit wat nie verband word nie.)

Geigte Heer,

As 'n lid van die Klub,
 wens ek u aan te deel dat ek
 "gewillig is
 om 1/6 per jaar vir „Die S.A.P.V. Bulletin“
 nie gewillig is nie
 te betaal.

Die aan,

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Datum

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Birds fed with 2 ozs. daily, will maintain top-top results in Fertility, Hatchability, and High egg yields, and the "ALL IN ONE" minerals work out at the trifling cost of ONE PENNY per day, for 100 birds: can you obtain reliable minerals for less?

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Enkele Kuiken-siektes Veroorsaak deur 'n Tekort aan Vitamien.

Op die Konferensie onlangs gehou op George, het Mr. J. D. W. A. Coles van Ouderstepoort 'n leersame en interessante voordrag gegee oor enkele kuiken-siektes wat deur 'n tekort aan vitamien veroorsaak is, en hier volg 'n kort beskrywing van die vernameeste punte deur hom aangehaal:—

VITAMIEN A.

'n Tekort aan vitamien A gebeur gewoonlik gedurende tyd van droogte. Hierdie vitamien word deur die eier versamel en die hoeveelheid versamel het 'n definitiewe uitwerking op die lewe van die kuiken wat van daardie eier uitbroei. Dié vitamien is verskaf deur die voer van groenvoer, geel mielies, lewertraanolie en melk, en as hulle gebruik word behoort daar nie enige tekort aan hierdie Vitamien te wees nie. Dit is in vet oplosbaar en kom dus in afgeroomde melk nie voor nie. Vitamien A sal vinnig vernietig word in Levertraan-olie as die olie aan die son of lig blootgestel word. Dus moet gesorg word dat wanneer Levertraan-olie in die mengsel gevoeg word hierdie mengsel binne een week gebruik moet word.

VITAMIEN B.

'n Tekort aan Vitamien B veroorsaak Berrie-Berrie in die mens, terwyl in hoenders sal hulle aan Aneurin of Thiamin ly, en op nasoodondersoek sal letsel van die senuwstelsel gevind word. 'n Gebrek aan B₁ of G, sal Norris verlamming en Kuiken Pellagra veroorsaak. Gebrek aan B₂ veroorsaak 'n algemene siekte onder some blanke en natuurlike wat verplig is om op mielies te lewe. B₂ is vir pluinvee net so belangrik as wat beensel vir ons beeste is. Viesmel en vleisemel (vervaardig op 'n hoë temperatuur) het 'n tekort aan hierdie vitamien. Gis, suurmelk en goeie gehalte lusernmeel sal enige tekort aan hierdie vitamien dek.

Norris verlamming is 'n alombekende siekte en ontwikkel gewoonlik binne drie tot vier weke. Kalkens wat daaraan lei loop met ingekrimpde tone. Wanneer gevalle selde voorkom is dit 'n teken dat die rantsoen nie heeltemal aan die nodige voorstes voldoen nie. Riboflavin kan verlamming veroorsaak en vermy. 'n Geringe dosis het geen uitwerking nie, 'n matige hoeveelheid sal verlamming veroorsaak, terwyl 'n oormatige dit sal genees. Met geen riboflavin sal daar geen verlamming wees nie. Dit kom in melk, gis en groenvoer voor. As dit heeltemal afwesig is sal die groei van die kalkens belemmer word, vrugbaarheid sal goed wees, maar geen kalkens sal uitbroei nie.

As dit nie in die voeding van jong kalkoete voorkom nie, vind ons met die nasoodondersoek eensaadige letsel. As kalken Pellagra teerwoordig is, is letsel in die bek en oë gevind, terwyl die bene skubberig en blou is. Die antipellagra faktor is deur hitte vernietig, dus moet kos nie gekook word nie.

B₃ affekteer slegs daise, terwyl B₄ is werklik 'n tekort aan 'n grondbestanddeel wat baie selde voorkom, en is nie 'n Vitamien nie. As dit in die kos nie voorkom nie loop die hoenders met 'n swakke hoë stap wat die bene teen die lyf groot. Die raad is om groenvoer te gebruik en 'n verandering in die dieet aan te bring. Hierdie siekte kom selde in die Unie voor, maar is verontrustend wanneer dit uitbreek.

VITAMIEN C.

Vitamien C is deur die liggaam self vervaardig.

VITAMIEN D.

'n Tekort aan Vitamien D veroorsaak Ragitis. Waar voëls aan direkte sonlig blootgestel is sal hulle nie gewoonlik deur Ragitis aangedas word nie, dit is wel moontlik, maar gevalle is buitengewoon. Slegs 'n geringe tyd in die son is genoeg om Ragitis te vermy.

Wanneer kalkens groot gemaak word of interniel of in areas waar daar 'n gebrek aan voldoende sonlig is, dan moet 1 tot 2 per sentum. Levertraan-olie by die mengsel bygevoeg word. D₃ is die belangrike faktor gevind in die olie van die lewers van visse. Dit is ook noodwendig dat die D₃ faktor beproef is.

VITAMIEN E.

Vitamien E is die faktor wat vrugbaarheid en uitbroei vermoë affekteer en 'n tekort kom selde in die natuur voor. As dit afwesig is gaan die kuiken klem gewoonlik binne drie tot vier dae in die dop dood. Met 'n tekort vind ons dat die kalkens 'n eensaadige krankeinnigheid vertoon, veroorsaak deur sagte harsings. Hierdie Vitamien kom gewoonlik in genoegsame hoeveelhede in ons gewone rantsoene voor, en die aankoop van Koring-olie is 'n verspilling van geld en van geen waarde nie.

VITAMIEN K.

'n Tekort aan Vitamien K sal veroorsaak dat kalkens op 3 maande ouderdom weens inwendige bloedstorting skielik doodgaan. Op lykskoning sal gevind word dat die bloed nie wil stol nie. Dit is eers bewys dat verrotte viesmel hierdie siekte veroorsaak het, maar dit is later gevind dat hierdie Vitamien K selfs in hierdie Viesmel voor kom. Vitamien K kom in groenvoer voor, en hier het ons weer bewys dat groenvoer 'n voerbehoed middel is. Groenvoer vermy ook die bloeding van die maag wat deur swere veroorsaak word. Laasgenoemde siekte kom selde in die Unie voor.

Bloedarmoede as gevolg van verkeerde voeding kom voor waar die rantsoen uit melk en mielies bestaan sonder om groenvoer te verskaf. Dit is veroorsaak deur 'n gebrek aan yster.

Verplaaste seninge kom gewoonlik in jong kalkoete voor, maar kalkens word ook aangedas. Die sening gly uit sy posisie uit, en die voël staan hoepelbeen. Hierdie siekte is deur 'n tekort aan mangaan veroorsaak en kom gewoonlik nie voor waar die bestanddele van die rantsoen in verskeie dele van die Unie gegroei is nie. Waar dié siekte deur 'n laboratorium vasgestel is, sal 1 ons. Kaliumpermangenaat in die drink-water van 4.000 voëls die nodige beskerming verskaf.

(Word vervol.)

POULTRY - PLUIMVEE.

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200—210 2-yr. eggs, £3 10s. each.

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Full particulars from
Head Office: P.O. Box 1606, DURBAN, Natal.

Production Costs and Marketing

By "NATALIAN."

Boards of Control have been set up to alleviate the hardships of producers consequent upon excessive supplies and depressed prices of most farm products. The efforts of these Boards are sincere; their intentions are doubtless excellent, and on that account one is loth to criticise their actions, yet the policy of the Wheat and Maize Control Boards is detrimental to poultry-keepers. They have increased the price of the main poultry feeds, and if something is not done, the repercussions will bring hardship instead of benefit to wheat and maize growers themselves. A sound poultry industry would ensure a big internal market for both maize and wheat, but if the prices fixed by the Control Boards are beyond the reach of poultry farmers there can be one effect and one only—thousands will be driven out of poultry keeping, the internal demand for maize and wheat will be considerably lessened, the price of eggs will soar, the egg will become a luxury, and malnutrition will rapidly develop into a more and more ugly problem for the State.

The laws of commerce have decreed that the price of foodstuffs shall be lower in their land of production than the figure at which they shall be sold in other countries, due to costs of transport. The action of the Control Boards has reversed the position. Contrary to the laws of economics, the fixing of artificial prices by the Boards of Control must be supported under existing conditions. If that policy was abandoned in favour of the law of supply and demand the price of farm products would be still further depressed, many insolvencies would quickly follow, and the State would be a heavy loser because it holds the bulk of the bonds on farms. Until some happening results in the rehabilitation of farmers, artificial prices must continue to be created by Boards of Control and the consumer must be happy to pay the increased price, because it is a sound policy to maintain a large number of primary producers, particularly during the present state of European affairs. However, the time is overdue for the Control Boards to clearly define "Internal Consumer." To my way of thinking, "Internal Consumer" means the human being in South Africa. It does not include the animals; it does not include the poultry. The prime need of

South Africa is a healthy animal. No animal can thrive unless it is adequately fed, and poultry is no exception.

It is unfair, to say the least, that the poultry industry should be victimised by the inflation of the price of maize and wheat. Such an action may bring temporary, short-lived gain to maize and wheat growers, but it will ruin the poultry industry and the repercussions will be suicidal. For one branch of farming to attack another branch of farming is not in the best interests of farming as a whole, and such a war would be accompanied by national disaster. Yet the time has arrived that poultry should no longer be treated as the Cinderella. Statistics show the national importance of poultry, and there could be nothing more beneficial to the maize and wheat growers than a thriving poultry industry, which is their main internal market. But what consideration has poultry received at the hands of the State? In the case of most farm commodities, a levy is imposed on all internal sales. That levy constitutes a fund to assist the sale of the surplus dumped on an unprofitable overseas market. Further assistance for export is given by the State in the form of subsidies. In the case of poultry what is the position? There is no levy on eggs sold on the local market. Those exported get no assistance. On the contrary, a levy is imposed on eggs shipped overseas. In actual fact, the poultry industry is penalised for all energy and enterprise which result in the export of eggs. The poultry industry is actually penalised for bringing new money into circulation in South Africa. Is that fair?

With the exception of poultry, every industry in South Africa (both primary and secondary) is fostered by the State. How long is poultry to remain the ONLY EXCEPTION? If the poultry industry was treated the same as all other farming industries, there would be a levy on all eggs sold in the Union, and out of that levy a bounty would be paid on all eggs exported. Think what that would mean. It would bring enormous development for the poultry industry, and a greatly increased local market for both maize and wheat. A levy of ½d. per dozen on all eggs sold in the Union would not be felt by even the most humble consumer, but it would bring untold relief and development for the poultry, maize and wheat industries, and we should strongly advocate for the imposition of such a levy.

(EDITORIAL NOTE.—These are the views of our correspondent and not necessarily those of the Association.)

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Known throughout South Africa — 27 Years' Successful Breeding.

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R. PORRITT, Kirkwood Stud Poultry Farm, Maritzburg.



ORGANISEER.

Die organisasies hieronder aangetrek maak 'n beroep op u vir u ondersteuning. Sluit nou aan en bevorder u belang soos al die van die bedryf.

S.A. Australorp Breeders' Club.—Sekretaris, N. W. Ayson, "Dallheimaan," Hornsey Weg, Mowbray, K.P.

Suid-Afrikaanse Pluimveevereniging.—Sekretaris, Postbus 1795, Johannesburg. Ledegeld, 7/6 per jaar.

S.A. Pluimveevereniging Teleregister.—Registrateur, Postbus 1795, Johannesburg. Ledegeld, £1 is. per jaar.

ORGANISE.

The organisations listed below appeal to you for support. Join now and further your interests and those of the industry.

Sassex Poultry Club.—Secretary, Miss M. O'Grady, P.O. Box 313, Johannesburg. Subscription 5/-, Entrance Fee 5/-.

S.A. Leghorn Club.—Secretary, L. Herbert, Box 2003, Capetown. Membership, 5/- per annum. Handbook Standard and advice free. Join now.

S.A. Bantam Club.—Secretary, H. J. Mills, 25, Eighth Avenue, Bezuidenhout Valley, Johannesburg. Subscription 5/- per year.

The East London & Border Co-op. Poultry Products, Ltd.—Regd. under Co-op. Societies Act 28 of 1922. Manager/Secretary, P.O. Box 473 (Fleet Street), East London. For Eggs and Butter Sales.

S.A. Wyandotte Club.—Hon. Secretary, F. W. Klein, 1, Akkerdal Avenue, Newlands, Cape. Membership, 5/- per annum.

South African Poultry Association.—Secretary, P.O. Box 1795, Johannesburg. Subscription, 7/6 per year.

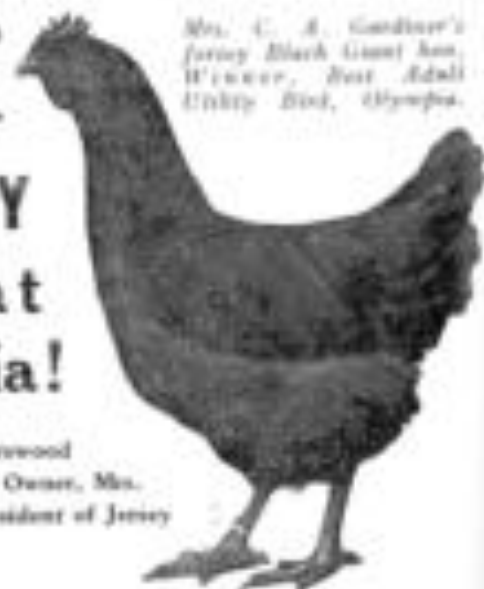
S.A. Poultry Association Breeders' Register.—Registrar, Box 1795, Johannesburg. Subscription, £1 is. per year.

Johannesburg Egg Market.

Egg Producers marketing in Johannesburg are urged to do their best to maintain satisfactory prices. This statement is made because of the fact that despite the Association doing everything possible to maintain a fair price for producers, these efforts are being largely nullified by sections of the trade undermining the Association's efforts despite agreements to the contrary.

BEST ADULT UTILITY BIRD at Olympia!

Mrs. C. A. Gardiner's Jersey Black Giant hen, Winner, Best Adult Utility Bird, Olympia.



Conditioned on Karwood Poultry Spice, says Owner, Mrs. C. A. Gardiner, President of Jersey Giant Club.

"Karwood Gets Birds into Condition and Keeps Them Fit."

Many of the awards at the recent National Dairy Show at Olympia, and also at Earl's Court Dairy Show, London, were captured by birds exhibited by users of Karwood Poultry Spice. Mrs. C. A. Gardiner, whose Jersey Black Giant hen won the C.A. House Cup for Best Adult Utility Bird at Olympia, pays warm tribute to the conditioning properties of this famous egg-producer. She writes:—

Only Exhibited Twice.

"My Jersey Black Giant hen (winner at Olympia) is a two-year-old bird and has only been exhibited twice owing to being in the brooding pen. She mated through early this year and I sent her to 'Thames' where she was first in a Male and Female class. She then went to Olympia where she was first in her class and won special for best 'Giant.' The Ladies' Poultry Club awarded her a ten guinea cup for best hen or pullet in any heavy breed, also medal for best Utility Bird, either sex, any breed. I use your Karwood Poultry Spice and find it very good for getting birds into condition and keeping them fit so that they are able to give of their best. People ask me how I manage to keep my birds in such splendid condition. I tell them: 'It's Karwood Poultry Spice.'—(Mrs.) C. A. Gardiner, Pine Trees, Elton Park, Ipswich, England.

Best Female Bird at Earl's Court.

Other tributes from prize winners include the following from Mr. H. Moore, whose wife, with her H.E.B. hen, won the Challenge Cup at Earl's Court for the Best Female Bird in show. Mr. Moore says: "Without a shadow of doubt, Karwood Poultry Spice possesses valuable properties for getting birds into perfect condition. It certainly possesses health-giving properties which are essential for heavy egg production."—Richard Moore, The Orchards, Long Sutton, Lincs., England.

Karwood Poultry Spice Contains Ground Insects.

There is no mystery about the properties of Karwood Poultry Spice in condition and egg-production. Karwood contains ground insects, Nature's own food for the hen, and it supplies phosphorus needed to secure the rich, even blood-stream necessary to health and full of the condition which the hen must have in order to ripen the first egg seeds and during the first production.

Karwood Poultry Spice containing ground insects costs no more than 1/- a tin for 12 hens. It is obtainable at all Dealers and Stores.

Karwood Poultry Spice

Increases Egg Production Without Forcing.

Wit Australorps nou 'n Erkende Ras-soort.

Die Jaarlike Algemene Vergadering van die Beoordelaars Vereniging gehou op George op 11 April het aan die Konferensie voorgestel dat Wit Australorps erken word as 'n ras-soort van die geslakte swaarras.

Hierdie voorstel is deur die Konferensie aangeneem.

Die ontwerpers van hierdie ras-soort, Mr. N. H. Addison van Middelburg, K.P., en Mr. Dan Jacobs van Germiston, Transvaal, het die verrigtinge bygewoon en het enkele van hierdie voëls ook vertoon.

Die Standaard ontwerp aangeneem lui as volg:—

Die Standaard beskrywing en puntetaal is dieselfde as die van die swart soort, met die volgende afwykings:—

- Vere:** Kleur: deurgans wit. Vir koper-skytsel moet punte afgetrek word. Vir effe swart stippele moet punte afgetrek word. Geheel swart vere in start of primêre vlakvere, 'n diskwalifikasie.
- Bek:** Wit of horing-kleur.
- Oë:** Bruin of rooi.
- Bene:** Wit liever as lei-kleur. Swart of geel, 'n diskwalifikasie.
- Toonmaalde:** Wit of horing-kleur. Onder die voet, ligrooi tot wit. Vir lei-kleur moet punte afgetrek word, terwyl geel 'n diskwalifikasie is.
- Vel:** Wit. Geel 'n diskwalifikasie.

Rhode Island Red Club.

The Chairman, in his Annual Report for the year ended December, 1938, discloses a satisfactory financial state of affairs, the Club being £15 16s. 9d. in credit. The subscriptions have decreased by £3 19s., but there is a slight increase of donations.

The Club Show, held in conjunction with the Championship Show at Pietermaritzburg, was well supported.

The Chairman particularly exhorts members to qualify as Judges, as he feels that an intimate knowledge of the Rhode Island Red Standard is very helpful to breeders. He also requests members to maintain their interest in Shows and Egg Laying Tests by entering whenever opportunity occurs, by which means the superiority of the breed may be demonstrated.

He gives a good word of thanks to the Club's Officials, who have contributed largely to the smooth and successful year's working, and reminds members that their subscriptions should be remitted promptly.

Shows - Tentoonstellings.

JUNE/JUNIE—

- 2 & 3.—Port Elizabeth Poultry Society (E.P. Challenge): Port Elizabeth.
- 8, 9 & 10.—S.A.P.A. CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW / S. A. P. V. KAMPIONENSOU-BLOEMFONTEIN.
- 14 & 15.—Transkeian Poultry Society: Butterworth.
- 16 & 17.—Griqualand West Poultry Club: Kimberley.
- 20, 21, 22 & 23.—Natal Poultry Club: Pietermaritzburg.
- 22, 23 & 24.—Capetown and Peninsula Poultry Society: Capetown. (W.P. Challenge.)
- 23 & 24.—East London Poultry Society: East London.
- 27, 28 & 29.—Durban and Coast Poultry Club: Durban.
- 30 & 1 July/Julie.—Queensdown Poultry Society: Queensdown.

JULY/JULIE—

- 7 & 8.—Benoni and District Poultry Club: Benoni.
- 21 & 22.—Pinetown and District Poultry Society: Pinetown.

S.A. CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
The S.A. Poultry Association's
Championship

Poultry and Pigeon Show

will be held at

BLOEMFONTEIN

ON

8th, 9th and 10th June
1939

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BLOEMFONTEIN & DISTRICT POULTRY SOCIETY,

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BACILLARY WHITE DIARRHEA TEST.
I hereby certify that during the last two tests NO reactions to the above test have been found in the fowls and turkeys belonging to
Name: MAJOR W. H. CHARTER.
Farm and Number: "THE RETREAT."
Post Office: UMHLALI.
District: LOWER TUGELA.
(Signed) A. S. CANHAM,
1st Director of Veterinary Services.
Date: 10th March, 1939.

Winners of Port Elizabeth Test 4 hens laid an average of 235 eggs in 48 weeks.
2nd and Silver Medal, Glen Test 4 hens laid an average of 242 eggs in 48 weeks.
12th Position at Glen Test 4 hens laid an average of 236 eggs in 48 weeks.

MY BIRDS ARE BRED TO CONFORM TO S.A. STANDARD OF PERFECTION.

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1st R.O.P. Hen.
1st Special and Blue Ribbon—Team of 4 Pullets.
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The Colleges of Agriculture offer SHORT COURSES IN POULTRY.

Potchefstroom - "Poultry," 3rd to 7th July, 1939.

Glen - - - "Poultry," 24th to 28th July, 1939.

Cedara - - - "Incubation and Chick Rearing,"
4th to 6th July, 1939.

"Feeding and Breeding of Poultry,"
18th to 20th July, 1939.

"Table Poultry," 1st to 3rd August,
1939.

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NATAL; OR GLEN, O.F.S.

THE ART OF BREEDING

By "BREEDER."

What Is It?

It might well be asked these days: "What is a Breeder of Poultry?" To the ordinary layman it is anybody who cares to advertise the fact that he or she will sell hatching eggs or day-old chicks, preferably at a cut-throat figure. Breeding is mistaken for haphazard reproduction, and the essential elements of a successful breeder are not even known to the majority who pose under the guise at the present time. Breeding is certainly reproduction, but it is a profession, an art, in which only the best of the parents is sought to be reproduced in the offspring.

Elemental Essentials.

It is therefore essential, as the first part of a breeder's equipment, that he should have a thorough knowledge of the breed he is concerned with. Now whether we deal with fowls, cows, or other pedigree stock, standards are laid down to which the breeder must conform. Individuals may not agree with those standards, but they have been formulated by groups of men with an intimate knowledge of the respective breeds, and proved by years of experience as possible and practical. Type, shape, size, colourings, markings, all form part of the standards of cows, pigs and fowls. Horses are in a different category, as to enter the stud book they must present an impeccable pedigree with no "bar sinister" figuring in it. No matter what wonderful performer a racehorse may be on the track, any trace of a "bar sinister" is an effectual obstacle to the stud book. It will be readily seen that some standard is necessary for a breeder to work to and maintain, otherwise individual fancies would soon distort a breed and we would have as many types in one breed as we had individual fancies. The standard must be rigid as to faults or disqualifications, as a dividing line must be drawn and observed, otherwise the setting up of a standard is useless.

The Value of a Pedigree.

The second essential in breeding is a knowledge of the history of the birds in the breeding pens, how they were born, particulars of their dams and sires, and the performance of each. It is true that many breeders have started flocks with none of this latter knowledge. They have selected birds which met with their approval and made a study of these birds and their offspring. It is of the greatest possible value, however, to know fuller histories. The keeping of accurate records of breeding birds must therefore follow. What must the records contain? As previously laid down, pedigree of dam and sire at least, with performance of dam and sire's dam; record of the bird concerned and, if possible, that of sisters. Egg production of hens, reproductive percentage of sire with performance of daughters, fertility and hatchability of hens will all go to form a complete record. Later, in the light of present-day knowledge, we will have the performances of daughters

placed alongside that of the dam, and on these performance will we pass judgment upon the dam. To-day the tendency is to base the value of any breeding birds upon the performance of their progeny. What does this mean to the breeder? Instead of appearance, pedigree, and individual performance being the guide to buyers of stock, particulars of progeny, livability, fertility and hatchability, as well as performance, will have to be furnished.

In the past the breeder based his mating upon one year's performance to a great extent, namely, the first year's record, though many breeders naturally kept records over a number of years of outstanding birds. The recording of progeny, however, entered into things to a very small extent, and naturally so, as there is a limit to the records a breeder can keep and to the stock he can handle. Moreover, to recompense one for the labour involved in extensive progeny testing, the lapse of time which must take place before stock can be sold, and the heavy culling which would follow, the price a breeder would need for progeny tested stock would be too high for the majority of poultry keepers. It must be realised that on a certain mating a hen which comes from a very good family has given excellent results so far as production goes, and handles well, may fail to give a daughter to equal or approach the dam's record. Under progeny testing such a hen would fail to qualify as a breeder, yet with a different mating the results may be found entirely the opposite. This is due to the innumerable characters which lie hidden in each fowl, and the blending in mating is to a great extent a matter of good fortune, especially in outcrossing. It is on these grounds that we are to-day having extensive experiments made in close inbreeding, and in so-called line breeding; the endeavour being to limit the undesirable traits in any mating by keeping within the family or strain and continually selecting for the desirable characteristics.

In England, at one experiment, mating of brother and sister nearly brought the flock to extinction, but after several years of apparent deterioration, a new lease of life has become apparent, and another year may bring interesting results. Such a course would naturally have ruined a private breeder. There is no doubt that intuition assists a breeder as much as records, and in fact the latter are best forgotten so far as an individual is concerned until he or she has satisfied the breeder's requirements as to coming up to expectations in type, size, weight and character.

When a Record May Become a Liability.

The performance of a dam is often the beginning and ending of what a certain type of breeder wants. It has been so for many years, and during the past twenty-five years the higher the record of a dam the more desirable she has been to both breeder and buying public. Undoubtedly a high record indicates stamina in cow or fowl. It does not indicate, however, either the power to reproduce satisfactorily or to

give us progeny capable of equalling the dam's performance. It has been overlooked that our modern birds and animals called upon for terrific production undergo a great strain. Their intake of nutrition is limited, the power to convert food into material to replace worn tissues, to be converted into eggs or milk, to provide nutriment to embryos, is limited. A heavy milking cow and a high record hen draws very heavily upon her bodily reserves, and it is impossible for her to take in an equivalent of the mineral output contained in milk or eggs. It is not to be wondered at, in view of present-day knowledge and experience, that we regard the extra high producer as a doubtful reproducer of similar stock; it is the sad practical experience of both dairymen and poultry farmers. We find that the middle course is the safer, and that in the case of cows, one which can give 1,000 gallons of milk and a calf in a year is generally a better proposition than the 2,000 gallon cow so far as breeding is concerned. With fowls the production of 200,250 eggs per annum plus a decent crop of livable chicks, with pullets who invariably equal or excel their dam's record, is now regarded as approaching the desirable limit. This is not to say that individuals cannot be found who apparently disprove this theory, but speaking generally, these facts are becoming accepted by the majority of breeders.

Breeding, therefore, is the assessing of a number of characteristics in bird or animal, the recognition of these characteristics by performance and the ability to hand down to progeny similar powers to those possessed by the parents. The ability to read these facts correctly, to merge and blend the stock to the best advantage, is the art of breeding. It means an aptitude for the job, a lifelong study of the breed, observation and attention to details, and the courage to ruthlessly discard where proved essential, irrespective of record or appearance, when a set standard is not reached in any degree whatever. Breeding is endeavouring to achieve the almost unattainable, constantly aiming for improvement and the 100 per cent. perfection which is the dream of all breeders. The difficulties attract the true breeder, as his pleasure is in surmounting them and proving his worth by doing so. He prefers a high standard with little tolerance allowance, as any lowering is an opening for deterioration in breed and breeding.

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Sterker Eierdoppe

Deur A. A. REED, Landbouuskool, Cedara.

As eiers bestemd vir uitvoer sowel as eiers wat in die loop van eierlewedstryde geproduseer word, ondersoek word, sal dit meesens duidelik word dat daar groot kans vir verbetering is wat die gehalte van die doppe betref. Die persentage gebarede uitboerders afkomstig van produserende uitvoerders, wat in die reël swaar lërasse aathou, is gewoonlik heelwat hoër as die wat van kommersiële uitvoerders af kom wat meesal klein hoerfellende eiers, afkomstig van die platteland (waar die gemiddelde produksie laer is) versend. Dit word veral op eierlewedstryde opgemerk dat jong henne begin met eiers waarvan die doppe van 'n goeie gehalte is, maar dat die doppe gedurende die lente en somer tot so'n mate verswak, dat hulle bars wanneer hulle aangeraak word. Dikwels word daar ook eiers met sagte doppe gekê. Derhalwe moet ons, kragtens die gegewens tot ons beskikking, tot die gevolgtrekking kom dat teling vir hoë produksie die doppe van die lente se eiers laat verswak het, wat waarskynlik toe te skryf is aan die feit dat dit meer van die hen se eiervormende apparaat veruis.

Tot nog toe is baie min gedoen om hierdie fout te verbeter. Op eierlewedstryde word sertifikate nie uitgereik vir henne wat gereed eiers lê wat misvormd of van 'n swak gehalte of tekstuur is nie, maar hul tellings geld vir plasing by 'n volgende geleentheid. Daar is dus niks wat die heler aanspoort om eierdoppe van 'n hoë gehalte te produseer toe, en daarom word doppe van 'n swak gehalte nog steeds op eierlewedstryde aangeneem.

As meer aandag geskenk kon word aan die gehalte van die eierdop by teelboenders, sou 'n aansienlik verbetering in hierdie opsig aangebring kon word, want die gehalte van die dop is ooreffik. Derhalwe behoort alle henne wat misvormde eiers lê, of waarvan die eiers maklik bars, uitgeskakel te word. Die dikte van die dop staan in noue verband met die sterkte daarvan; daarom, hoe dikker die dop hoe minder die gevaar dat dit gebreek of deursteek sal word. Maar ongelukkig, as van jong henne geteel word, kom swakbiede in die eierdop nie betyds te voorskyn toe, met die gevolg dat daar sonderlyds henne gebruik word wat naderhand eiers met swak doppe lê.

Behoefte voeding speel ook 'n rol deurdat dit die ontwikkeling van sterk eierdoppe bevorder. Die hennie behoort dus 2 persent kalk in die vorm van gemaalde oesterskulp of kalkmeel in hul melkos te kry. Aangesien laagsemetende bestanddele egter gevaarlik is wanneer dit meer as 2 persent magnesia bevat, behoort 'n waarborg dat sulks nie die geval is nie van die handelaar verkry te word. 'n Groter persentage magnesia veroorsaak 'n verminderde eierproduksie, en swakke eierdoppe en soms ook maagwerking. Behoefte die kalk in die melkos moet die boenders oesterskulp, seenskulp of kalkgruis in 'n afsonderlike bak kry. Ten aansien van ons klimaatstoestand behoort die boenders geen gebruek aan sonlig te ly nie maar as dit die geval is, moet 2 persent Lewertraan Olie by die melkos gevoeg te word. Dit sal die hen in staat stel om die kalk in haar gestel op te neem.

Aangesien gebarede eiers 'n vraagstuk van ekonomiese belang geword het en voeding slegs die hen in staat stel om die beste eierdop ooreenkomstig haar oer-effiktheid voort te bring, moet ons op taling verlaat om 'n algemene verbetering in die gehalte van eierdoppe aan te bring.

Elke Hoenderboer Behoort Eenmaal in die jaar weg te kom van sy Boerdery.

Ons leer ongetwyfeld die meeste deur dinge te doen; maar as ons nie weet wat om te doen of hoe om 'n ding te doen nie, maak ons weinig vordering. As dit vir die bestuur van hoenderde groot ondernemings soos motor- en staalfabrieke ens. noodsaaklik is om jaarliks byrekeer te kom om hul probleme te bespreek met die doel onmiddels te vind wat koste sal verminder, die doeltreffendheid van die produk wat hulle vervaardig, sal verhoog, of die afset van die produk sal vergroot, is dit dan nie noodsaaklik dat die hoenderboer ook so te werk moet gaan nie?

Dit is om hierdie rede dat ek glo dat elke hoenderboer minstens eenmaal per jaar van sy eie boerdery af moet weggom om te sien en te hoor hoe iemand anders so 'n onderneming bestuur. Elkeen het behoefte aan vakansie as hy gedurende die res van die jaar sy beste wil lewer en dit is byvoortbeeld meentlik om tydens 'n besoek aan 'n ander plaas 'n nuwe tipe kosbak raak te sien, waarin weinig of geen verkwisting van voer plaasvind. So 'n kosbak kan miskien 'n groot verbetering wees op die een wat u gebruik, en die gevolglike besparing op voer kan groot genoeg wees om die onkoste van verskeie uitstappies te dek. 'n Voedingstelsel kan toegepas word wat beter jong hennetjies sal voortbring as wat die hoenderboer in staat was om te tel. Hier en daar sal ongetwyfeld nuwe idees aangetref word wat van algemene belang en waarde behoort te wees.

Vir die onervare beginner is dit selfs nog belangriker om 'n paar dae vakansie te neem om na verhare van die sukses en mislukking van ander boer te luister. Hoenderboerdery bied aansienlike geleentheid wat wins sowel as plezier betref vir diegene wat op die regte wyse te werk gaan. Diegene wat voornemens is om hulle vanjaar vir die eerste keer op hoenderboerdery toe te lê, sal verstandig handel as hulle onthou dat hoenderboerdery 'n bedryf is en dat dit onverstandig is om dinge op groot skaal aan te pak as 'n mens nog nie vorige ondervinding gehad het nie.

Die beginner behoort alle moontlike inligting omtrent die nywerheid te verkry eer hy sy kapitaal daarin belê. Hy behoort te lees, vrae te stel, ander hoenderboers op te soek; binne die perke te bly van die kapitaal wat hy vir die doel kan aanwend, en pluimvee en toerusting van betroubare bronne te verkry.

Hoenderboers wat vanjaar hul plaas vir 'n kort tydjie wil verlaat, kan die geleentheid waarneem om die Landbouuskool, Potchefstroom, te besoek en die algemene kursus in pluimvee aan die begin van Julie bywoon. Verdere besonderhede omtrent die kursus is by die Prinsipaal verkrygbaar.

(P.J. Serfontein, Lektor in Pluimvee, Landbouuskool, Potchefstroom.)

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Mayfair Stud Poultry Farm,
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"Dear Mr. Gamble,

I have waited rather a long time in reporting to you about my incubator. My first hatches were as follows:—70%, 82%, 82%, 83% of fertile, which is considerably better than I have ever had.

Your slogan is "Happy Hatching Days." In my opinion it should be "Happy Every Day," for your machine runs like a clock. It is quite as easy as any machine I have ever had to set; it is just a question of slipping the eggs in. It is certainly very easy to clean, and the Gamble setting and hatching trays are a revelation. It is a real treat to find a tray full of nice clean chicks, which are not crowded out by egg shells and unhatched eggs.

I feel that I shall be doing poultrymen in South Africa and this country much good service by helping to draw their attention to the wonderful results obtained from the "Gamble," and therefore have no objection to your using this letter if you wish to do so. If you have an enquiry in this country, send 'em to me.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DENZIL JARVIS."

NOTE.—In Mr. Jarvis being able to hatch in April larger percentages of good chicks, it is evident that he will reach a record percentage in the normal hatching season. **THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH THE RESULTS OBTAINED BY ALL GAMBLE USERS.** A well-hatched chick is the foundation of a good, profitable flock. **BE SURE YOUR CHICKS ARE GAMBLE HATCHED.**

It is with regret that I have had to defer delivery of further machines until 1940. Having stayed longer in this country than I intended before coming here, I have now to return to headquarters to take care of the biggest season ever experienced.

My visit this season has given me considerable pleasure, and I was looking forward to a return visit next February. Please let me know your requirements early. I want to install them personally.

Yours truly,

STANLEY B. GAMBLE.

Stanhfield, N.S.W., Australia.



Preventing Crooked Breastbones

By A. A. REED, School of Agriculture, Cedara.

Anyone who has compared two dressed birds, one with a straight breastbone and one with a crooked breastbone, will realize the superior appearance of the former. Thus, if the table-poultry producer wishes to secure top market prices, he must see that he produces birds with straight breastbones. Fortunately, he can attack this problem of crooked breastbones from three angles, namely, breeding, feeding and management.

The tendency to develop crooked breastbones is inherited, so that breeding from birds which have straight breastbones will give progeny that are less likely to develop crooked breastbones, than are progeny of parents having crooked breasts. In a breeding experiment conducted in Germany it was shown that when birds with straight breastbones were mated together, 63 per cent. of the progeny had straight breasts and only 10 per cent. had very crooked breasts. On the other hand, of chicks raised together with these, but coming from parents with crooked breastbones, only 40 per cent. had straight breasts, while 26 per cent. had very crooked breasts. Thus, breeding stock should all possess long, straight indented breastbones.

Even if the parents have straight breastbones, however, the chick may still develop a crooked breastbone if the feeding is wrong. The chicks must receive and be able to take up sufficient minerals to build up a good, strong breastbone. This is ensured if it is fed in the mash a mineral supplement made up of 2 per cent. bonemeal, 2 per cent. oystershell powder and 1 per cent. salt. (N.B.—The bonemeal is not necessary if 6 per cent. or more of mealmeal or fishmeal is fed in the mash). To take up the minerals, however, the chick must also have an abundance of sunlight, or failing that, it must be fed 2 per cent. cod liver oil in the mash. On this ration the chick will then be able to build up a strong, sturdy breastbone that is least likely to become dented or crooked.

Another factor that determines the percentage of crooked breasts is the perches supplied. A narrow perch does not give support to the breast along all its length and the breast curves round the perch to conform to its shape. Very often, where narrow wattle laths with a diameter of 1 inch are used, the chicks will be found to have deep indentations on the breast into which the perch just fits. A perch 3 inches wide, into which the perch just fits. A perch 3 inches wide, is desirable with the edges slightly bevelled. In an experiment conducted at the New Jersey Experiment Station, 7 out of 12 birds on 1-inch perches developed decidedly crooked breasts, on 2-inch perches, 6 out of 12 developed less marked dents; and on 3-inch perches, 8 out of 12 showed only slight curvature.

By paying attention to the three points mentioned above, viz., breeding, feeding and perching, the poultry farmer and, especially, the table-poultry producer, should have a much smaller percentage of crooked breastbones in his birds and obtain better prices for his table poultry.

Stronger Egg Shells

By A. A. REED, School of Agriculture, Cedara.

In examining eggs submitted for export and also the eggs produced at the Egg-Laying Competitions, it is evident that there is a great need for improvement of shell quality. The percentage of cracks among export eggs is higher from the producer exporters, who keep mostly the heavy laying broods, while the commercial exporter whose eggs consist mostly of small lots sent in from the country (where the average production is lower) supplies a much smaller percentage of cracks. At the laying competitions in particular, one finds pullets starting off with good shelled eggs, but in spring and summer the shells deteriorate, some eggs laid having shells which crack on touching, and soft-shelled eggs are of frequent occurrence. Thus, the weight of evidence seems to show that in breeding for high production, egg-shell quality has deteriorated, probably owing to the greater strain placed on the egg-producing apparatus.

As yet, very little has been done to correct this fault. At the Laying Competitions, hens consistently laying misshapen, weak and bad-textured eggs, are not granted certificates, but their score is allowed to count for further position and places. Thus, there is no incentive to breed for best shell quality, and this continues to remain at a low level at the egg-laying competitions.

By devoting attention to the quality of the shell in the breeding stock, egg-shell quality can be improved considerably, for it is an inherited trait. All hens laying misshapen eggs or eggs that crack easily should be eliminated. The thickness of the shell is highly correlated with egg-shell strength, thus the thicker the shell, the more resistance the egg gives to crushing or piercing. Unfortunately, in breeding from pullets, the weaknesses in the eggs have not yet shown up, and birds may be used which later in the season will show weak shells.

Proper feeding also plays its part in encouraging good egg shells. In the laying mash the birds should receive 2 per cent. lime, either ground oystershell or limestone flour. However, the latter product is dangerous if it contains more than 2 per cent. of magnesia, and a guarantee to the effect should be obtained from the seller. A greater proportion of magnesia causes reduced egg production, weaker shells and sometimes diarrhoea. In addition to the lime in the mash, the birds should receive in a separate hopper either oystershell, seashell or limestone grit. In the South African climate there should be no danger of insufficient sunlight, but if this does occur, then 2 per cent. of cod liver oil added to the mash will ensure that the birds are able to take up the lime into their system.

The question of cracked eggs is important economically, and although feeding does allow the hen to build the shell as well as she is able by reason of her inheritance, it is to the breeding that we must look for general improvement in egg-shell quality.

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