



Winning pen—University egg laying contest.

from the back to the keel bone. The back is broad and the ribs long and flat. The pin bones are wide apart and low, allowing the placing of two or three fingers between them. The abdomen is soft and velvety to the touch and is very pliable. Testing the hens by their body conformation is easily done by comparing one hen with another, and the poultryman soon learns to measure a bird and determine whether or not to put the "butcher" sign on it.

Now equipped with such brief information as given above try your luck in eliminating the "boarders" from your flock. If you are not sure of

your judgment place your culls in a separate pen and determine their value by their actual production. Very likely you will have most of the "boarders" in the first culling.

And what will this mean to your income? If you have three hundred birds there will probably be forty or fifty in the flock that are low producers. It costs approximately seventeen cents to feed one bird thirty days which will mean that you are spending seven or eight dollars on your culls each month and doing a lot of extra work to boot. You can be the judge as to whether or not it pays to cull the farm flock.

THE IDEAL HOME

Every woman has a mental picture of what her ideal home would be like, which direction the house would face, the number and size of the rooms, their arrangement, how each would be furnished, what particular labor-saving devices she would install, and so on.

Fortunately the ideal home is usually only a picture, for a woman whose home was ideal would have nothing to look forward to in the way of further improvements. To my mind, the ideal home is one that offers a constant challenge to improve it. Every one knows that the happiest woman is she who is always planning ways to make her work easier, her home brighter and more cheer-

ful. Nothing pleases a woman more than planning an improvement, except standing back and looking at it after it is finished.

I have just been visiting a neighbor who is in raptures over her kitchen which has been done over. For several days now she has been asking me to come and see it. The walls and ceiling have been painted white, and the woodwork is creamy buff; even the shelving of the kitchen cabinet has been treated to a coat of glossy white paint. A white enamel sink has replaced the old one of ugly looking zinc. Fresh, brightly colored curtains drape the windows. There is new linoleum on the floor.

The whole atmosphere of the kitch-

en has been completely changed. Instead of the dull, dreary appearance it formerly possessed, it is now bright and cheerful. But the greatest change is in the woman herself. Previously she had no enthusiasm about her work in the kitchen, and her other work naturally suffered as well. Now she is just flowing over with enthusiasm, is planning new culinary surprises for her family, and is looking forward eagerly to a few new utensils and some extra kitchen cutlery. In a word, her kitchen fascinates her, and much to her surprise it seems easier to keep clean than previously.

I have had many similar experiences myself. Last year the whole family's outlook on life was changed by the installation of carbide gas lighting. No one who has not had the daily grind of trimming wicks, cleaning and refilling lamps, and carrying them about, can realize what freedom from this work has meant to me. But the real boon came in the more cheerful atmosphere of the house; the new-found pleasure of our evening at home. And I confess to a certain pride in inviting neighbors to visit us.

Each year we plan some new improvement in the house, and each one arouses me to fresh pleasure in my home. Two years ago we installed a new water system and modern bathroom. At the moment I am looking forward to a furnace and heating installation, and perhaps a radio at Christmas. A more carefully planned garden looms ahead next spring.

But there are an infinite number of similar things I have in mind, all of which will come about in time, and each one tending to make my home more enjoyable. I want another good-looking floor lamp in the living room, a built-in China closet, additional shelving in the pantry, a gas hot plate for emergency cooking, new rugs in a year or two, and certainly an enclosed porch. If my home were already perfect I think it would bore me. As it is, I find it ideal because it is always urging me to improve it.

Mrs. Grace Osgood, Ohio.

—A—

Cheese is a hearty food and should not be served in the same meal with other hearty foods. A bulletin entitled, "Use More Cheese," which is available at the state college at Ithaca, New York, gives a lot of good recipes for using this food. Ask for a copy on a post-card by number H 133.