

Incubator Chickens—The chickens hatched in incubator on 16th June, and reared in a brooder made 1lb. and 1lb. 2ozs. per month. The majority of these chickens were crosses between Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte, except one, a white Plymouth Rock, which made 1lb. 6ozs. per month.

From the above it will be seen that the Plymouth Rocks made the greatest headway, reaching a development, in some instances of nearly one and three quarter pounds per month, far distancing all others. The difference in progress made can be more easily seen by the following figures:—

COMPARATIVE RATE OF PROGRESS PER MONTH.

Breed	Lbs.	Ozs.
Plymouth Rocks.....	1	12
Brahma Pullet.....	1	02
do Cockerel.....	1	00
Wyandottes (laced and white).....	1	02
Buff Cochins.....	1	02
Houdans.....	1	00
Game-Minorca Cross....	1	03
Incub. Hatched Chicks. {	1	04
	1	02

EARLY LAYERS.

Of the four Plymouth Rock chickens hatched on the 7th April last three were pullets. The early development and laying of these pullets are worthy of note, as showing what care and good feeding will do to bring about desired results. One of the pullets began to lay on the 28th of August, four months and twenty-one days from date of hatching. The second pullet laid three days after the first and the third a short time after. A number of pullets of the same precocity would give a supply of eggs when the older stock is moulting and eggs are becoming scarce and dear in consequence.

NUMBER OF EGGS LAID BY CERTAIN BREEDS.

The following will show the number of eggs laid in twelve months by nine of the best known of the Standard breeds

It must be borne in mind that the majority of the layers were pullets, and that none of the laying stock were forced as much as they might have been, for the reason that the greater number were to be used as breeders in spring. As the sitters became broody they were given eggs, and the number of layers was correspondingly reduced. Twice during the later portion of the winter the buff Cochins, Leghorns, Minorcas, and Houdans were stopped laying on account of eating eggs. A certain number of hens were sick, some died, and some were sold. In the months of August, September, October and part November few eggs were laid, because the hens were in full moult:—

Breed.	Totals												
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septemb'r	October	Novemb'r	Decemb'r	
15 White Leghorns	99	40	210	162	166	56	40	71	10	14	18	9	895
10 Plymouth Rocks	24	44	67	95	54	26	33	37	31	12	15	29	467
8 Brahmas	27	7	39	70	66	9	19	17	1	1	15	7	278
8 Black Minorcas	47	10	51	51	52	8	10	27	29	2	12	5	304
5 Black Hamburgs	53	31	59	16	39	9	45	65	12	17	12	12	358
5 Buff Cochins	8	10	36	49	25	...	5	36	17	7	5	13	211
10 Houdans	43	6	56	77	92	...	...	15	2	3	3	...	294
2 Wyandottes	28	12	13	10	24	5	2	2	3	...	10	9	111
5 Dirigos	49	21	28	41	87	14	8	12	...	11	...	...	281
Total	3199												

The result aimed at was to have the hens lay when eggs were high in price and the sitting breed hatch chickens when the price was below eighteen cents

per dozen. The early pullets should begin to lay when the older hens are in moult and the new laid eggs are becoming scarce and high in price, as was done in the case of the three Plymouth Rock pullets hatched on 7th April, 1889. (See sub-head early layers.) A point to be considered is, that all the laying stock had limited runs compared with what one or two breeds could enjoy on a farm where a poultry department is made a source of revenue.

WEIGHT OF EGGS.

From time to time the eggs laid by the different breeds were weighed singly and in dozens, as follows:—

	Single Egg.	Per Dozen.
	ozs.	lb. ozs.
Plymouth Rocks, hens.	2 1/4	1 11
do pullets.	...	1 09
Wyandottes, hens.	...	1 09
do pullets.	2	1 07
White Leghorn, hens.	2 1/4	1 10
do pullets.	...	1 08
Brahmas, hens.	2 1/4	1 11
do pullets.	...	1 09
Buff Cochins, hens.	2 1/4	1 11
do pullets.	2	1 08
Black Minorcas, hens.	2 1/4	1 11
do pullets.	2	1 09
Black Hamburgs, hens.	...	1 06
do pullets.	...	1 04
Dirigos, hens.	...	1 10
do pullets.	...	1 08
Brahma-Minorcas, hens (not laying yet).	...	...
Brahma-Minorcas, pullets.	...	1 14

It will be noticed from the above that the pullets of the Brahma-Minorca cross laid exceptionally large eggs. The hens have turned out larger than either the average Brahma or Minorca hen. The eggs were mostly weighed in February and March of last year (1889). Some of the eggs from the white Leghorn hens, laid in the beginning of March, were remarkably large, as those who saw them on exhibition in the poultry house may remember. Taking two of the largest of these Leghorn eggs, one weighed 2 1/2 ozs. and the other 2 1/4.