

geese, but particularly so in the Afrikan: and having dark pin-feathers and down and a dark skin, they do not present as attractive a carcass as the white breeds.

Chinese Geese.—In shape the Chinese resemble the Afrikan, and is the only other breed having the knob at the base of the bill. The Chinese Geese are smaller than the three other breeds named. The adult gander weighs 14 lbs., the adult goose 12 lbs., the young birds being 4 lbs. lighter, respectively. There are two varieties of Chinese Geese:—

Brown Chinese Geese.—These resemble the Afrikans in colour as well as in other points mentioned. They are splendid layers, being the most prolific of all breeds, but they are the hardest to pluck and present a very undesirable appearance when dressed, as do all dark geese.

White Chinese Geese.—These are the same as the Brown, save in colour. They are prolific layers, splendid table birds, comparatively easy to dress, and are rivals of the Embdens. They have, however, one very undesirable characteristic and that is a large percentage of infertility in the eggs.

Mating and Breeding Geese.

It is advisable to mate geese in the fall of the year, else the birds, if mated late in the winter, will not mate satisfactorily. The female must become accustomed to her surroundings before she will commence to lay. Old birds are more desirable for breeding purposes than young ones, and the productiveness of the female is said to extend to ten years, while that of the male about six years.

In mating it is advisable to eliminate some of the weak points in a breed by introducing the strong points of another breed, *e. g.*, I said above that the Afrikan Geese were objectionable because of the difficulty in plucking them; on the other hand, the Embdens and White Chinese are comparatively easy pickers. Combine either of these breeds with the Afrikans and you are very likely to retain the strong points of both and eliminate the objectionable features. Other combinations, worked out on the same practical lines, have produced like good results.

"The natural tendency of young geese is to pair off. Young ganders will often mate only with one goose; older birds will generally mate with more. Generally geese are mated in trios, two geese and one gander. Where birds have a common range they may be mated four geese to one gander, with a few old ganders put into the flock extra. The matings should be put into separate yards until well satisfied with each other, then they can be turned into the common pasture.

"During the breeding season care should be taken not to let the geese get too fat; no grain should be fed as long as grass is available. Green rye, clover or peas makes splendid pasture. Feed corn during cold or very raw weather.

"When geese are used to hatch eggs they may be given about fifteen each. Usually they must be set where they have been laying. They will bear little interference when incubating."—*Poultry Craft*.

The great trouble with the hatching of geese has been the tough skin that is found on the eggs, and many goslings are unable to extricate them-