

insisted that Brahmas that did not sit could not be pure-bred; he was sure there must be a Leghorn or Spanish cross in them. In case this should reach the eye of our respected friend who keeps "ye ancient Brahmas," this is to inform him that I intend this season to raise a few pullets of the cross he mentioned, to hatch my Light Brahma chicks next season, as it would be about as safe to depend on my dog to hatch my chicks as to depend on my Light Brahmas for sitters.

Yours very truly,

T. A. WILLIAMS.

Ottawa, Jan. 1st, 1885.

More Light.

Editor Review.

I have just read the article written by "Novice" under the above heading, and will write my experience for his benefit.

As to over-feeding—A beginner is more apt to over-feed than not give enough. I find fowls that are confined in winter eat more than in summer, especially if they have a good sized yard, because they eat a great amount of young tender grass if they can get to it, besides other "bits" that we do not see or think of, whilst in winter they only get what we give them, and it takes the greater part of the food to keep them warm, consequently we get only a few or no eggs, unless their coop is warm. I am not in favor of a stove in the poultry house.

I feed soft food in the morning all the year round. Corn meal and middlings, equal parts, mixed with boiling water, crumbly, not soggy, the water or meal having been previously salted a little and a little red pepper added once a week (only during cold and damp weather). I have a condition powder, and feed a small quantity once in two weeks the year round.

Now in regard to what amount of food is sufficient for a fowl. There is no rule. I feed just what my fowls will eat up clean. I always stay and watch them while eating, and stop giving them their food when their appetites are satisfied,—three times a day in winter and twice a day in summer—and do not allow a particle of food to lie upon the ground or in the feeding troughs; wheat at noon, corn at night in winter, and in summer oats, wheat, barley, and a very little corn occasionally, a little meat once a week, plenty of shell or lime in old plaster, sand and gravel, and plenty of fresh water. This I have found to be the best rule, and have never had trouble with overfed fowls, while I never complain of not getting eggs enough. I have a Partridge Cochiti hen that laid last spring and summer 62 eggs before wanting to sit, which I think is a good record for a Cochiti.

The best way to feed clover hay or lawn clippings is to steam or steep in hot water until soft, but should be cut into lengths of three-quarters of an inch before steaming, for if fed without cutting they eat whole blades of the hay and it rolls into balls in the crop—which I think is the disease that "Novice" refers to in his letter—and the hay cannot pass through, and will stay in the crop until it causes death. I have a Partridge pullet that ate in this way so that I had to open her crop twice during the spring. I first gave her a tablespoonful of castor oil, but that did no good; after a few days I opened her crop. This is not such a difficult job as one would think. I cut through the upper part of the crop an opening of an inch or so in length, with a razor, and with a teaspoon handle I removed the contents, which had become very sour, cleaned the crop out thoroughly with warm water, then took a stitch in the crop with white cotton thread, then two stitches in the outer skin, and all healed up nicely. I opened this pullet's crop twice, and she commenced laying about two weeks after each operation. Keep the fowl in a warm coop by itself, feed on soft nourishing food for a week or so, and do not give any water for first three days. I put a piece of fresh lard size of a walnut in the crop before stitching.

P. J. KELLER.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 22nd, 1885.

Leg-Weakness.

This is an affection to which the cockerels of the larger varieties are subject between the ages of three and six months, or during that time in which the frame makes its greatest growth. It is caused by the birds outgrowing their strength, and is generally the outcome of a too free use of stimulating and flesh-forming food, and the scarcity of those agents that go to the formation of bone. The first symptoms are shaking of the limbs, followed by a staggering gait and a constant desire to sit or squat on the ground. When this stage is reached there is a rapid wasting of the flesh from the thighs, and the case soon becomes hopeless.

Prevention is easier than cure in this trouble. If a plentiful supply of green bones, broken fine, is given the chicks from the age of six weeks to five months, or bonemeal in their soft food, leg-weakness will generally be avoided. With the first symptoms stop giving soft or stimulating food, and feed grain entirely—good, sound wheat is best. If improvement is not soon noticeable, try the following prescription: Sulphate of iron, 1 grain; strychnine, 1-16th of a grain; phosphate of lime, 5 grains; sulphate of quinine, half a grain. Make into pills, and give morning, noon, and night.

Commence next month to cull the early broods.