

not only give you chicks which possess much of the qualities of the male used, but will increase the stamina of the flock—will make them stronger and more vigorous. Where it is more desirable to market the flesh of the fowls and chicks, a large breed of fowls should be looked for to increase the avoirdupois. In such a capacity we can recommend the Light Brahma and the Partridge Cochins, having experimented several times with both on numbers of different flocks, and the result was, invariably, increased size and hardness.

Where nearness to large markets permits the farmer to get the cream of the prices by putting the eggs before his customers nice and fresh, the production of eggs pays handsomely. If some of the laying breeds, such as the Leghorns and others, be beyond the reach or desire of the farmer, then let us say from experience, what will result in the best possible manner to the farmer's interests. Select some of your best and most vigorous hens and pullets, and have a well-bred, pure-blooded Gamecock to run with them, killing off all other male birds. The result from such a cross will be a class of birds which will lay splendidly; and especially are they noted, by those who have tried the experiment as winter layers; and *winter layers*, we all know, are the most profitable.—*D. C. Evans, in the Farm Journal.*

Easter Eggs.

In the Middle Ages, when the Church was law as well as gospel, and Lent was scrupulously kept the presentation of an egg on Easter morning signified the return of plenty and unrestricted appetite. Soon it became the custom to paint scriptural texts and devices on the shell. Next, the clergy blessed them at so much apiece.

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, writers speak of the wholesale distribution of eggs to the poor of Paris on Easter Monday, at the king's expense. In the reign of Louis XI. real eggs were found too costly and they were made of dough. From this time the custom of egg giving gradually decreased, till from the latter part of the sixteenth century it disappeared almost entirely for some one hundred and seventy-five years. At the beginning of Louis XVI.'s reign, egg offerings were commenced on an immense scale (and continue till this time) at the yearly *calvacade* at Longchamps; which originated in this way. Certain zealous ladies of mature age, in connection with numbers of young ladies, were in the habit of praying and singing on Good Friday at Longchamps nunnery, which service attracted visitors, who soon brought their friends, until finally all came, and ultimately it was changed into an annual fair.

As hard boiled eggs were the most readily and cheaply obtained in the country, they with bread and butter and wine, constituted the bill of fare. During the Revolution the nunnery was destroyed, but the yearly sale of eggs continued, an ever-increasing quantity being purchased, not only for immediate eating, but for home consumption also. During the Second Empire this practice was brought to a pitch of prosperity never before (nor since) equalled.

Easter eggs meanwhile were not forgotten, but they were changed from the real egg to the *shell*, which was filled with jewelry, thimbles, small scissors, etc., in fact anything that could be lodged inside the shell. When hens' eggs were not large enough, duck, goose, swan, and even ostrich eggs were pressed into the service.

Many artificial eggs of great delicacy and beauty were made; and while even a natural egg-shell was costly, varying from twenty francs to ten pounds sterling, according to the value of its contents, the artificial ones were still more expensive; being often made of rare stones, or precious metals, ornamented with quaint devices, decked with gems, and mounted on graceful frames that enhanced their use and value, they were often made the receptacle of a delicate compliment, or of love's choicest gifts.

Thus, as it is seen, has a religious token of slight significance, originally, wrought itself up till in the extravagant artificial shape it may cost a small fortune to possess or present one.

It is a token of more than ordinary friendship and good-will, since the acceptance of a *true* Easter egg by a lady from a gentleman is equivalent to a promise to marry him before the Feast of St. John.

Thus we learn that the egg has played no small part in the history of France, as it has also in other Catholic countries.—*Stewart Moore, in American Poultry Yard.*

List of Judges Appointed by the American Poultry Association.

W. P. Atchinson, Erie, Pa.—Buff Cochins, Leghorn class, Dominiques, Plymouth Rocks and Black Spanish.

Seward Murray, Illion, N. Y.—Light Brahmas, Buff and Partridge Cochins.

W. H. Todd, Vermilion, Ohio—Asiatic and Leghorn classes, French class, Dorkings, Plymouth Rocks, Gold-laced and Silver-laced Bantams, African Bantams, Black-breasted Red and Brown-breasted Red Game Bantams, Hamburgs and varieties, Black Spanish, White-crested Black Polish, Turkeys and Water Fowls.

A. P. Groves, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.—Partridge Cochins.

Jesse G. Darlington, Philadelphia, Pa.—Dominiques.