

## Agriculture and Colonization.

Q. How often should you feed little chickens ?

A. About once every three hours or so. Perhaps when they are inclined to eat, but not in too great quantity. Then, after four or five days give a less expensive ration in the shape of a mash of corn meal (which on no account feed raw as in that shape it leads to fatal results). Mix with shorts or any of the ground grains, first cooking it well. I think boiled food for poultry is better than the opposite.

*By Mr. Rutherford :*

Q. You would scald it, and cover it up ?

A. Yes, in order to get it as well cooked as possible. More chickens die from acute indigestion caused by improper food than from any other cause. Feeding whole grain too soon is frequently attended by disastrous results. Grain or cracked corn may be fed at the end of 10 days with good results.

*By Mr. Calvert :*

Q. Is whey from the factory good ?

A. Yes, in small quantities. I would mix it up with the food. I prefer milk, but if whey is given I would mix it up with their food but in very small quantity. By not giving whole grain until 14 days we found that the chickens made better development. I have some notes here of the development made by different breeds. A Barred Plymouth Rock Cockerel made the most satisfactory development. It was hatched on the 11th of March, and when shipped on the 26th of October following, weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces, representing a development of one pound a month or a little over. Frequently I receive letters from farmers asking the names of breeds that will make rapid flesh development, and I have always recommended Plymouth Rocks for the reasons that they lay well in winter and are rapid flesh formers. We have never had any difficulty in having chickens of that breed weigh four pounds each, or eight pounds a pair, at the end of four months. I would just ask you to consider what improvement there would be in the quality of poultry furnished to the markets of our cities, if farmers would only keep poultry which would make such flesh development.

### CROSS BREEDING FOR DEFINITE PURPOSES.

*By Mr. Douglas :*

Q. Plymouth Rocks crossed with Light Brahma would be a good flesh cultivator ?

A. No doubt. But with some poultry raisers that is a moot question because the Brahma lacks in breast meat. It is a bird of a large bony frame which is very hard to get flesh on while it is growing. In crossing aim at a result. For instance, cross a bird with plenty breast with a bird that lacks in that respect. A Dorking crossed with a bird that lacks breast meat would answer very well. A Dorking-Plymouth Rock cross is a good one. A Light Brahma cockerel hatched on the 3rd of May weighed on November 2nd following, when it was shipped, 6 pounds 12 ounces, a very satisfactory increase.

*By Mr. Richardson :*

Q. You mean these birds were drawn ?

A. No ; they were sent away alive for breeding purposes from the Central Farm. Then we have a Barred Plymouth Rock cockerel which weighed after