

the difference in size to the extra good mother.

Hatching Long Kept Eggs.—From time to time I have done a little in trying to find out how long eggs may be kept and still hatch an average percentage of chickens. I may say that I believe a great deal depends on the health and vigour of the fowls from which the eggs are taken. I had six eggs from a pen of Bantams, cock and hen—the last one laid on March 4th—put carefully apart in a cool place till April 17th, being six weeks and two days, when I sat them. On the twenty-second day, three chickens hatched, two dead in shell, one clear. I might have saved the two by dipping them as they were fully developed, but wanted to see the result without interfering with them in any way. This is the longest time I have kept eggs and still had a fair hatch. I am experimenting with preserved eggs, but so far with little success.

Fertile Eggs—I have taken particular note of this, and have at last come to the conclusion that the greatest enemy to fertile eggs is too fat fowls. I do not believe that the number of hens with the cock has nearly so much to do with this as some people think. I have had equally good results with one hen as a dozen to the cock, provided, of course, they are in as good breeding order. My great cure for this disease is small doses of sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salts), and I may honestly say I have never found it fail. A year or two ago a friend of mine was heart-broken, not having a percentage of three chickens. I called on him one day, and after hearing his lament, I recommended the salts, and in a remarkably short time he had a good percentage. In the heavier breeds I have always found it advisable not to breed the cock after the second year. To all poultry breeders I would say,

beware of superfluous fat in your fowls, and, if it does accumulate, don't forget
MAGNES. SULPH.

WHITE POULTRY.

HOW TO KEEP AND PREPARE THEM
FOR EXHIBITION.

(Continued.)

A GAIN, when the artichokes or sunflowers, etc., cannot be got, the next best substitute that we know of is to plant the runs with doughs of spruce fir. These soon turn brown, we know, but they hold their spines a long time, and really afford capital shade. When the birds have got their growth, then sheds with wire fronts, or covered in with the newly invented wire-woven roofing gauze can be used, and the birds, with good food, should do well; but while they are growing, until they obtain their matured plumage, we cannot too strongly advise that their runs should be airy and sheltered from the sun's rays by a *living* growth of vegetation.

Thus much for the chickens. Now let us turn to the moulting out of white poultry. We like the hens to sit in June or July. Sometimes we let them sit on dummy eggs for four or five weeks, and then turn them out in a good grass run. At another we give them half-a-dozen eggs to hatch if they like—not for the chickens they may rear so much as for the rest it will afford the mothers. Hens so treated moult out quickly and early; their feathers all come off together, and not in patches, and the new plumage grows quickly, the feathers coming strong

and firm. These birds should not however, have a cock running with them until they are taken to the breeding pen. Cocks should be put in small warm runs in July, with plenty of dust and road grit. They, too, will then moult out early and well—far better than if they had their liberty. Care only must be taken to see that they feed heartily, for occasionally they seem to, at first, pine for their freedom if they have been accustomed to it, and get below par when their moulting out becomes tedious, and the new plumage patchy. Green food, especially lettuces, we like to see given ungrudgingly, and sods of grass, cut two or three inches thick, are much appreciated, which, when done with, and allowed to dry, make excellent mould for potting flowers, or material for dust baths.

Many think that white poultry can be easily moulted, that their feathers are bound to come white, and that the process is consequently an easy one; but this is far from the truth of the case, we can assure our readers, for as much care and attention is wanted to get a white bird through its moult as ever is needed for a colored one, and perhaps more, for while slight stains or tinges, would not show probably in the latter, in the former they glare out conspicuously in contrast to the rest of the white plumage.

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