

Type to Avoid.—Avoid the long leg, the lack of symmetry, the long flat head and dull uninterested eye. These are positive indications that the bird is lacking in constitution and breed characteristics, all important factors in the laying pen or the fattening crate.

Time to Select.—Pullets intended for winter laying should be placed in their winter quarters in the early fall before the weather has shown any material change in temperature. The pullets will thus have sufficient time to become accustomed to their confined conditions before they commence laying. When the change from summer to winter quarters is made the pullets should receive very considerate attention for the first few days, as the change of condition from free range to confinement is likely to make them discontented, unless surroundings and food are of a most inviting nature.

ESSENTIALS TO SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION OF WINTER EGGS.—In summer on free range the flock is able to secure sufficient exercise and a right proportion of the different kinds of food. It is necessary therefore to imitate these conditions as much as possible during the winter months.

Shell-forming Material.—Lime for shell-forming material is necessary in egg production. Some idea of the extent of the need is obtained from the fact that an average flock of 150 hens will produce annually 137 lbs. of egg shell. The grains fed all supply a portion of this lime, but the supply is too small in proportion to the number of eggs a hen is capable of producing. By supplying shell-forming material separately eggs may be more readily secured as the hen is not required to extract the lime from the food, but allows the digestive system to extract from the grains the elements necessary to make the meat of the egg.

Oyster shell is the food most suitable in shell making. Old plaster may be used as a substitute. Egg shells may be saved, broken up fine and fed in a hopper or box. Dry bones may also be broken up and fed. The habit of egg eating by hens is often due to the lack of a supply of shell-forming material, and unless it has become chronic the feeding of oyster shell will remedy the habit at once.

Succulent Food.—Green food is also necessary under confinement of winter quarters; 64.7 per cent. of the egg is water and composed largely of the water found in succulent foods. This may be supplied in the form of mangels, turnips, sugar beets, cabbage, clover, alfalfa or lawn clippings. Sprouted grain is also an excellent green food. Ordinary green feed such as is harvested for other livestock answers very well, when the above mentioned green foods cannot be readily secured.

Meat Supply.—When the birds are on range they are usually able to secure for themselves in worms, bugs and grubs the necessary supply of animal food. Under winter conditions the supply is limited and it becomes necessary then to supply the meat ration in some other form. The necessary animal food may be supplied by meat scraps from the table, or beef heads, or liver may be fed either raw or boiled. Green bones also become a highly desirable food when a bone grinder is used to prepare it. Prepared meat rations are