

on the 30th May, it weighed, when killed on the 19th December, 7¼ lbs. The cross between the same black breasted red Game cock and black Minorca and white Leghorn hens resulted in plump birds, game shaped, and showing the markings and many characteristics of the male parent. One cockerel is so well marked as to be easily mistaken for a brown red. Several of the pullets of the white Leghorn cross with same male bird are very little different from the pure black breasted red Game. All the Game cross pullets ought to make excellent layers, and when they begin to lay, their record will be carefully noted. The cross between a Plymouth Rock male and Wyandotte and Houdan hens did not make as large birds as anticipated. The four Plymouth Rock Brahma crosses (males) of the year before (May 1888), turned out suitable market fowls, weighing, when killed 8 lbs. 7 ozs., 8 lbs. 3 ozs., 7 lbs. 15 ozs. and 7 lbs. 6 ozs., respectively. The females of this cross matured into goodly proportioned fowls, laying large eggs. In the experiments made so far (two seasons) no cross has rivalled the pure Plymouth Rock, the nearest approach being the Plymouth Rock Brahma cross of 8 lbs 7 ozs. and the Game Brahma cross of 7 lbs. 4 ozs. It is important that experiments in the way of crossing different varieties, calculated to make superior market fowls, should continue. The results cannot fail to be of interest to all who are desirous of having fowls of larger size and better quality of flesh placed on the market.

A DISEASE WHICH WAS GENERAL IN THE CITY AND VICINITY.

Fowls in the city and vicinity were attacked during the summer months by a disease which appears to have been general in the locality, and which was the cause of many losses. A dairy farmer in the neighborhood reported the

loss of forty fowls in a short period. Not far distant from him a farmer stated his loss at thirty-five, and many others were losers to an equal or less extent. Enquiries as to the nature of the disease and for treatment were frequent. Fifteen fatal cases occurred among the farm fowls. As soon as the first cases were noticed, and others in the neighborhood were reported, particular attention was given to the phases presented by the disease. The fowls affected did not show any outward difference from the others, until they were noticed slow in coming to feed, or refusing to eat, and then it was too late to save them. On handling the ailing ones they were found to be mere skeletons, the breast-bone sticking out with the sharpness of a knife. As quickly as noticed the sick fowl were separated from the others and given bread and milk with a few drops of Pain Killer in the drinking water. In some cases a condition pill was given, but despite every effort the invalids wilted away as in a rapid decline until death, generally attended by convulsions, followed. There was no discharge as in cholera, nor was the ailment caused by lice. The fowls had a fair run, and the premises and grounds were quite new. In two cases the fowls had become so weak from emaciation as to choke to death from inability to swallow the bread and milk they attempted to eat. One gentleman, well known in the city, besides writing for information, brought two of his sick fowls to the poultry house to show the condition they were in after being ill for some days. They were too far gone to benefit from the stimulating treatment given and died during the night. The whole of the farm poultry, although in the month of July, were at once given a general allowance of soft feed—seasoned with cayenne pepper or ground ginger—in the morning in lieu of grain. A small quantity of tincture of iron was put in the water for drink. While this

treatment did not cure any of the sick, it certainly seemed to prevent others from being attacked. It may be stated that at first cholera was suspected, but in no case were there any symptoms to prove a case, nor was there any cause in the case of the farm fowls for an outbreak, the premises being new and the runs used for the first time. Any information from any quarter near or at a distance (not heard from) with an experience of this disease, will be gladly received with a view to further investigation.

BE INNING OF WINTER LAYING.

Winter laying commenced about the 10th of December. One or two hens began to lay earlier, having got over their moult. The Plymouth Rock pullets, as already mentioned, laid through the fall, with a short stoppage, from time of first laying on 28th August. Other pullets laid as follows:—

Brahma, hatched 2nd May, laid first egg 22nd December, 1889, Game cross hatched 30th May, laid first egg 23rd December, 1889, buff Cochin hatched 21st May, laid first egg 26th December 1889, white Leghorn hatched 21st May, laid first egg 18th December, 1889, black Hamburg hatched 24th June, laid first egg 31st December 1889. Other pullets are expected to lay soon.

THE WILD GEESE.

The wild geese have grown to large size in captivity. They did not breed last season, but will probably do so next season, when they will be in their third year. In October last, the largest gander weighed 15½ lbs., and the next in size was within short weight of being as heavy. During the hot weather water tanks were provided for them, and added much to their good condition.

PACKING EGGS.

Several enquiries have been made as to the best manner for packing away