

PRACTICAL POULTRY TALKS BY PRACTICAL BREEDERS.

No. 5.

UNDER the above heading it is the purpose of the REVIEW to discuss one leading question in each issue of 1896, and we would ask you to lay your views on each question, as concisely as may be, before our readers. Kindly answer each question on a separate slip, numbering each slip to correspond with the number of the question. Do not fear to write because your spelling or grammar may not be quite up to date. We will gladly see that all errors of this kind are corrected before being printed.

QUESTION.

5. "Say if you separate cockerels from pullets. Give care of breeding stock. Say how you now dispose of old fowls to make room for young stock, etc."

ANSWERS.

By A. A. Whittleker, Morrisburg.

As soon as the sex can be distinguished I watch the growth of the cockerels and their general appearance, and soon can tell the ones that will make the best; so that at about two and a half or three months old I sell the culls to some one at whatever price I can get, say ten to fifteen cents each, and that is all the separating I do. Mine are golden Wyandottes and they don't show precociousness until nearly grown. I sell the old stock that I don't want to keep to farmers, who use them for breeding for a year or two, or to neighbors for table use. I only keep twenty-five or thirty and I have no trouble to get rid of old stock in that way.

By Joseph Kinsey, Doon, Ont.

When cold weather commences in the fall I separate the cockerels from the pullets, house them and feed well to get them to feather out and fatten, so they will be in good condition for winter. Pullets are not fed as heavily as cockerels, for they fatten more quickly. After hatching season is over breeding stock is let run at large. In June I market stock that it is not desirable to keep over, those which are too fat and old, as they will not lay in summer and they cease to be profitable to keep. I find it much better to raise young ones to take their place.

By A. Pearson, Brown's Corners.

I always separate my cockerels from my pullets, as it gives the pullets a far better chance to be healthy, and when they are good and healthy they are sure to lay very early and

grow large and strong. Of course Leghorn cockerels have to be separated very young, as they mature so early, but Wyandottes and all the other large breeds can run together a long time and not do any damage. My female breeding stock is allowed to run outside all summer and the cocks kept away from them. They are kept in clean roosting pens and have lots of cool water all the time. In the winter and breeding season they get lots of green bone and everything to make shell, and plenty of exercise. I dispose of my old fowl by dealing them off if they are healthy or else make a meal out of the ones I do not sell. It is not much trouble getting rid of hens as quite a few die when they get old.

The very few answers received this month has been a disappointment to us, but for June issue we have reached a subject of the utmost importance and one on which very many must have had experience. Let us have it.

QUESTION FOR JUNE.

If you have been troubled with insect pests, lice, etc., say so and give remedy.

MANAGEMENT OF WATERFOWL IN MANITOBA.

BY W. J. LUMSDEN, ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

IN choosing for my subject "The Management of Waterfowl" I was influenced by the fact that so few are bred in this province, where the facilities for raising them cannot be excelled. With the cheap feed and favorable climate of Manitoba we should be large exporters as well as supplying the home market in this line.

In the Eastern provinces minor items of this kind contribute in no small degree to swelling the bank account in the fall.

Perhaps a few hints on our system of raising waterfowl may be interesting. In the first place let us consider the raising of ducks. If ducks for the early market are desired, a fairly warm house is necessary, and they should be well bedded with fresh straw at least twice a week. Ducks will not do well in wet or dirty quarters. We feed boiled roots with bran or shorts and some kind of chop, also a little meat chopped fine, either cooked or raw, the whole mixed to a soft mass with milk or water. This should be fed in a wooden trough, while in another trough close by keep plenty of fresh water and a box of sand. Ducks require plenty of water for they are liable to choke if their feed is at all dry or sticky. They are very fond of roots and vegetables, of which they should have a liberal supply chopped fine.

Care must be taken not to keep the breeding ducks too