

which, if not all, at least a part might have been saved. I recollect also the anxiety experienced by me when a hen felt disposed to take, what I thought to be, a little longer recess than the price of the eggs intrusted to her seemed to justify, and very often gave her a broad hint that it was time for her to resume operations by chasing her in the direction of the nest. But years of experience has taught me that the old lady knew all about it quite as well as I. Don't interfere with a sitting hen any more than you can possibly help, of course its all very well to have a look at the nest now and then, in case an egg gets broken and smears the others, in which case remove the hen to another room or yard, previously having provided yourself with a basin of warm water, soap and sponge. Now wash the eggs and replace the hen as soon as possible if the weather is cold.

Another error into which I fell was to confine each hen to a small room, providing food, water, &c. In this case the hen never gets out of sight of her eggs or nest, and the result is she goes back too soon and foul nests are sure to be the result. This year I gave all my sitters free range in a large yard, and have not had a hen foul her nest this season, though they were provided with a supply of grain, barley, to which they could go at will.

I find it a good plan to just lay a hand on each hen as I pass them in feeding daily, by this means when the eggs commence to hatch you can examine the eggs or nest with much greater safety and pleasure. Do not be too anxious about the results and meddle with her unnecessarily, nor too careless, so that you will never look in when raising. Constant watchfulness and attention to her while she is allowed to do the hatching work herself, is about right. If you imagine she is not doing the business your way, you can't improve it for she won't be taught—*too bigoted.*

### POULTRY FOR MARKET—EARLY CHICKS.

BY P. T. H. ERMATINGER, MONTREAL.

Although I am unfortunate enough to have chosen the wicked "Pit Game" for my pet breed, it consequently does not follow that I have never seen nor kept other breeds in my life. Indeed, I have kept fowls (and good ones) since I was "knee-high-to-a-grasshopper."

I have never made a fortune out of raising chicks, simply because I did not go in with that intention—for I really do believe there are "millions in it" if one fairly and squarely makes it his sole business.

The first thing to be done is to select the best and most profitable fowls, that will mature fastest, and reach the grid-iron in time to catch the big prices.

Now which are the most profitable fowls to keep? Here is a delicate question. If I say Brahmas, my friend KENNEDY will go for me because I don't say Langshans, and if I say Langshans, MR. HALL will scalp me because I don't say Brahmas. What am I to do? Give you my humble opinion, and call it square? We want a chick that will develop quickly and have the flesh laid on the right place. Now the large Asiatic fowls ask too much time for growth. True they are sometimes used for broilers at two months from the nest, but the regular *gourmet* turns up his nose at their long drumsticks and bony carcasses and passes on until he finds something more plump and Part-ridge like.

I think that a cross between the Plymouth Rock and their ancestors, the Dominique fowl, would make a first-class table fowl and secure for the fancier early broilers. These fowls mature early, have full meaty breasts, and in every way are very hardy. Their legs are yellow and their meat rich. The Dominiques are not so large as the Plymouth Rock. So by making a cross on to the Dominique from the Ply-

mouth Rock, you have the good qualities of both breeds combined.

Of course, to secure broilers for June and July the chicks must be born in March and April, and must be pushed forward straight to the "hatchet." Chicks when liberated from their lime prisons should be left to rest under the hens for a day or two, for nature has provided them with sufficient food in their own bodies to dispense with food until the second or even the third day after birth. The hen understands all this business and will never take her chicks out on a foraging expedition till they have rested well. The best food for young chicks, in my opinion, is for the first week or so, hard boiled egg and soda cracker cut up fine, with invariably a supply of good fresh clean water, such as you would drink yourself (with a stick in it.) After a week's diet of this kind Indian meal and wheat middlings, mixed up with milk, can be gradually substituted. Meal alone, I think, is too fattening food and does not furnish material enough for bones and feathers.

Milk is indispensable for the development of young chicks and contains everything essential to promote the growth of muscles, bones and feathers, and every part of the animal. The very finest chicks I ever saw were milk-fed. It is not necessary that the milk should be fresh, sour and even sour buttermilk makes chicks grow like bad weeds. After the first week you also contribute good sound wheat to their meals, and you are sure to push your early chicks fast.

Next to food, warmth and neatness are the essentials for the rapid development of spring chickens. If hatched in March they need an apartment in the hen house, with a southern exposure. No artificial heat is necessary, if the room is only tight and well glazed. In short, keep the chickens comfortable in every sense of the word, for there is a power in comfort to make all animals thrive, while on the other hand, cold