

ens grow pretty fast, but not fast enough for that. The best prices for eggs are obtained during November, December, January and February, and if you want to catch the thirty or forty cents per dozen which is freely offered in any decent market at that season of the year, you must hatch your chickens early; a hundred pullets of the right kind laying at this season, if properly managed, will produce five dozen eggs each; or in round numbers five hundred dozen, which sold at the lower figure, thirty cents per dozen, means one hundred and fifty dollars.

Fifty dollars will feed them in the best possible manner, thus they will have paid you a net profit of one hundred dollars in four months, quite a different thing to what your account would have been had you hatched late, and carried your pullets over until spring before they commenced to lay.

But you don't believe this can be done even if the temperature be correct, you don't believe in well bred fowls, you have always kept a few mongrels and never made a dollar out of them and consequently don't believe that anybody else can make money out of hens.

Neither do I believe it can be done with your stock and your system of management; in fact I feel so sure it cannot, that although not addicted to gambling I would bet a little on the result.

If you intend to embark in the business of producing eggs, you must place yourself in the best possible position for operating, or you had better keep out of the business altogether; and you will be seriously handicapped to start with if you commence with mongrel stock. You don't quite see this perhaps, so I will explain:—In order to obtain the greatest number of eggs in the shortest possible time your hens must have every attention, and in order that all may be treated alike it is imperatively necessary that all your fowls are alike. If your hens are of a dozen dif-

ferent breeds or mixtures of breeds, there will be many of whom it could be truthfully said, that they had not "a fair field, devoid of favors," as although you treated all alike yet as your fowls are of a dozen different breeds, your treatment has had various effects; it has suited some splendidly, and they have layed well in consequence, while others have laid very few if any eggs; the conditions under which they have been compelled to live, having been quite unsuited to their natures'; as there has in all likelihood been many such, your appeal for eggs has met with but a feeble response in the aggregate. It is obvious that a flock of fowls of such mixed ancestry as the one we have been considering would not be the best for your purpose; you must have birds that are all alike, in nature and laying proclivities as well as appearance, you can then treat them all alike and get uniform returns from all for your trouble. Your layers need not necessarily be of one pure breed, indeed you will usually get better results from a first cross, provided it is a judicious one.

Leghorns crossed on Brahmas, Cochins, Plymouth Rocks or Dominiques, or vice versa, will produce layers that will rival either of these breeds in a pure state.

If you contemplate embarking in the egg producing business with mongrel stock, think twice before you do so, as although you may not lose anything by the venture, yet in my opinion you will make but little, if anything, for reasons already given.

But you say you cannot afford to buy a flock of thorough-breds. Such being the case postpone your start for another year, it will pay you to do so, as by that time you can wonderfully improve your stock. Procure a thorough-bred Light or Dark Brahma cock, and mate him with eight or ten of your best laying hens, and hatch all the chicks you can, the pullets from this mating will be good layers, and will all bear a very strong resemblance to the Brahmas, in

fact they will be half-bred Brahmas; I know a man who has just such a flock of hens as this, they were raised from mongrel hens, and such miserable little runts you seldom see, and they were of all colors. He mated a thorough-bred Light Brahma cock with them, and with few exceptions all the chicks exhibited very strongly the Light Brahma markings, being white with black tails and hackles, light leg and toe feathering, and many having fairly good pea-combs, although quite a number have single combs. The exceptions to these markings, showing plumage strongly resembling that of Dark Brahmas, but every one of them presented such unmistakable Brahma characteristics that it would not require an expert to tell what they were. These hens weigh from six to eight pounds each, make excellent mothers and are not too much inclined to sit. For crossing on mongrel stock, the Brahma is in my opinion superior to any other breed; you need have no fear of engaging in the production of eggs with these half bred Brahma pullets, as you will find them very good layers.

*(To be continued.)*

### CAPONIZING.

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A few words about caponizing.

There is in America an undeveloped field of industry for the poultry man and farmer to enter, which can be made to yield a large amount of money, if they could only be induced to practice the same, and that is the art of caponizing their fowls.

This industry or occupation is of course not new to your readers, but the fact that each one of them can practice it, just as easy as they can dress a fowl is, perhaps, an idea that never before entered their minds. Quite a number of articles and works have been written and published on the subject of caponizing but the universal attention of poultry raisers has never been