

however, to keep Asiatics properly, through the winter, is a feed of corn as late as the birds can see to pick it up at night. Grain must be crushed before the gastric juice can act upon it, therefore the process of digestion and assimilation occupies the system longer than if a feed of meal was given.—The early morning feed should be meal, mixed with either scalding water or a broth. When sour milk can be spared, it is well to heat it until the curd separates, then moisten meal with the scalding whey, adding the curd; add also always a trifle of salt, and cayenne pepper at least three times a week. At noon it is well to give all but Asiatics a feed of wheat.—*Fanciers' Journal*.

Preparing for Early Hatching.

Old poultry breeders know, full well, the great advantage of hatching early, and endeavor to do so accordingly. Young breeders, as well as those who breed for market, are not slow to find out this fact, and he who succeeds in hatching his birds out the earliest, and brings them through successfully, is the one who realizes most from his birds. If a breeder, who raises chickens for the market, can only get young chicks to weigh from 3 to 4 or 5 pounds per pair, by the time asparagus goes to market in the Spring, prices can be obtained which will not only pay handsomely, but will astonish a novice. From experience, we know that more than double the profit can be realized from chicks of those weights, marketed then, than from late hatched birds that have to be carried through the entire Summer, and marketed in the Fall. There is but little danger of the above being overdone, for it requires warm, comfortable quarters, constant care and good food, fed at regular intervals, to produce these results, and such a close attention to details, as this subject must have, has utterly dismayed many faint-hearted ones who essayed to breed "Springers," supposing it would be "great profits and little trouble." No great good is ever produced without great effort, nor great profits realized without it.

If you would avoid having frozen eggs, make it a point for yourself, or some member of the family to gather the egg regularly and early. It is a very good plan to gather the eggs when you feed the fowls in the evening, and then it is not likely to be forgotten, otherwise it may be left 'till so late that it has to be deferred until the morrow, when a batch of frozen eggs may be the result, for when fowls have free range they do not always lay in the hen house, but often choose a box or corner in some open shed where the eggs will be sure to be frozen, if left out over night. This advice is scarcely applicable to those who keep but few fowls, and those of the choicest breeds, and in confine-

ment; for the extra value of eggs from such birds is a sufficient inducement to the owner, to cause him to take them out of danger almost as soon as dropped, while some almost anticipate the arrival of each egg.

It is to the farmer, who has very many birds roaming at large, that we address ourselves, for we know well how the hens delight to steal into the barns, stables, sheds and mows to drop their eggs in secret, and many an egg have we come across, in such places in some out-of-the-way nook or corner of the out-buildings.—*Poultry Journal*.

Eggs in Winter.

The secret of obtaining newly laid eggs in winter, though not very profound, is hardly known to all who keep fowls. In many yards not an egg has been seen for weeks, nor are any perhaps even expected for many more. In others a fair supply is obtained, day after day, in spite of the still increasing cold. There are several circumstances bearing on the question of the supply of winter eggs; the most important are—1, the food of the fowls; 2, their breeds; 3, their age; 4, their locality and lodging.

1. The food of the fowls.—It cannot be too strongly impressed upon all poultry keepers that fowls do not create eggs: they only form them out of the materials existing in their food. This food also serves other purposes—namely, to keep up the warmth of the body, and to support the vital actions. If only sufficient food is given to supply these demands, it is evident that there can be none left for the production of eggs. The obvious inference from this is that it is necessary to feed your fowls very well if eggs are wanted in winter; and as the supply of nitrogenous food in the form of worms and insects is diminished, a little cooked refuse meat may be advantageously added during the very hard weather. A proportion of Indian corn, either whole or in the form of scalded meal, is a good addition to the winter food. It contains a larger amount of warmth-giving fat or oil than any other grain, and, by so keeping up the temperature of the animal, sets free the other foods to be employed in the secretion of the substances that compose the eggs.

2. The breed of the fowls.—Small birds offer a much greater amount of surface to the action of the cold in proportion to their bulk than such as are larger. These latter especially, when thickly clothed with fluffy feathers, as are the Cochins and Brahmas, are hardly amenable to frost; hence, all other circumstances being equal, they will be found the best layers in winter. I am not maintaining their universal superiority even as layers, but merely as producers of eggs in cold weather.

3. The age of the hens is a matter of great im-