

A PROSPECTIVE QUESTION ANSWERED.

While on this subject, a prospective question likely to be asked, in connection with its discussion, may as well be answered, viz. : If we are to allow no male bird with the laying stock how are we to breed our chickens? Easy enough, by picking out in early spring time, or better still, if circumstances will permit by keeping apart all winter and not stimulating them to lay—nine or eleven of your best layers and best shaped birds. Mate them with an unrelated, healthy, well-shaped two year-old cock, if the birds are pullets or yearling hens and a cockerel if they are two years old. When eggs enough have been saved to hatch out what chickens you wish, close up, kill, or dispose of the male bird and after keeping the hens he has been mated with, inclosed for a week longer let them run with the other laying hens, with which there is, of course, no male. And having saved eggs for hatching from birds selected for good qualities, superior progeny are likely to follow. The chickens from eggs saved from such mating, will certainly be better, in every way, than those bred in the usual haphazard manner. As to keeping the male bird with the laying stock, the following is again quoted from Experimental Farm Poultry Department report of 1889, viz. :—"The cock bird is a nuisance in the pen of layers. He not only monopolizes the most of the food, but teaches the hens to break eggs and so learn to eat them. Besides the stimulating diet is too fattening for him and will ruin him as a breeder."

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FOREGOING.

In noting, in the foregoing, the features of the different markets, the demand and supply peculiar to them and the requirements of the various seasons, the following conclusions may be arrived at, viz. :—

1. That our home winter market offers the inducement of high prices for new laid eggs.
2. That notwithstanding greater production in this district—prices were never better than they were last winter.
3. That there is no reason why new laid eggs should not be produced, in winter, in such quantity as to take the place (in a very great measure) of packed, or preserved eggs.
4. That with the modern and cheaper rations in vogue, winter prices could be much lower than they are and yet afford a profitable margin.
5. That eggs in the summer months which can be relied on as being new laid and of good flavour, will bring better prices than the ordinary article.
6. That so many summer eggs are bad, or ill-flavored because (a) they are not unfertilized ; (b) not collected imme-

diately after being laid ; (c) not brought to market soon after being laid.

RATIONS FED LAST WINTER (1894-95).—THE DIFFERENT BREEDS AND HOW THEY LAID.

The time is not far distant when the points touched upon in the foregoing pages will be patent to and practised by the majority of farmers. The aim of the farmer should be to lessen as much as possible the cost of production, so as to have the greater margin of profit. And it is with the object of aiding him so to do that the experimental winter work of some years past has been carried on, particular attention having been given to egg producing rations.

The rations during the winter of 1894-95, beginning with date of report, viz., the first day of January, were as follows :

Morning Ration—Warm mash composed of ground wheat, ground oats, ground barley or ground rye and bran. A little of all sometimes and again only three of the ground grains. Enough of this was fed to satisfy but not to gorge the hens.

Noon—A little grain of some kind, to keep the hens busy scratching.

Afternoon—A liberal ration of wheat or buckwheat, mostly the former.

Occasionally cut bone was given in lieu of the morning or afternoon ration, but it was frequently given, at one time or the other, and with excellent results. The value of cut green bone as an incentive to egg production cannot be overestimated.

Green Food—Green stuff in the shape of cabbages, turnips or mangels was liberally fed and much relished. Occasionally clover hay was steamed and mixed in the mash.

Grit—Broken oyster shells and mica and limestone grit were supplied in Nos. 1 and 2 houses and in pails or shallow dishes in No. 3. The fountains proved the better way, except in very cold weather, when their contents froze and were rather difficult to thaw out.

All grain fed was given in such a way as to make the hens work in order to get it. The straw on the floor of some pens was superior to the earth on some of the other floors, as a means of making the hens search for the grain.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE DIFFERENT BREEDS.

The fowls in the three poultry houses were arranged as follows at the beginning of the month of January, 1895 :—

	Hens.	Pullets.
Barred Plymouth Rocks	8	11
White Plymouth Rocks	11	..
Silver Laced Wyandottes	4	7
White Wyandottes	6	..