

year, remember that. It was very sensible of you to quit the soft feed instead of doctoring your (apparently) sick fowls. Your success shows that they were simply over-fed. We wish there was more such sound judgment shown with poultry. Accept our best wishes for your very best success, and don't forget to write us again. May you be as good at poultry keeping as you were at your "shooting match," and you will have phenomenal success. Although you have done well indeed so far you may increase much another year; beware of crowding as you go on.

For the Poultry Weekly

Early Laying Pullets.

ON page 698, P. W., Oct. 16, J. B., of Barrie, writes about his June hatched pullets laying in November. Also G. H. Safford, Troy, N. Y., in the P. W. some two months ago said he got his pullets to lay in September, and we often read in the various poultry journals of pullets laying when four or five months old. I should like to ask the above named gentlemen, or any others, if they get 90 per cent of their pullets to lay when from four to five months old. Now what I want to get at is this, I have been trying all the methods of feeding, etc., to get pullets to lay at the age above mentioned, but I have not been able to get more than from ten or fifteen per cent to lay before they were 5½ to 6 mos. old, and generally 6½ mos. old before all of them were laying. Probably I have not struck on the right method of forcing them and if the gentlemen referred to will tell us the how-to-do-it, I, as well as others of your readers, would be very much obliged. Of course the above persons have not claimed to have got all or nearly all of their pullets to lay in the time stated above but the articles referred to would lead a person to think they did, and if they can do so, why I can if I only know how.

I have always had better success with pullets hatched the last week in April or in May than with those hatched either earlier or later. If hatched earlier than last of April the weather is so cold and stormy as a rule the chicks get chilled and do not thrive well afterwards, and if they are not hatched until June or July, the cold weather comes on before they commence laying, thus retarding them two to four weeks for every week they are hatched after the first of June. I should like to say here that I always enjoy reading the articles from the pen of Mr. G. H. Safford, they make one feel that the

author knows what he is talking about.

J. L. MYERS.

Stratford, Dec. 30th, 1889.

We hope the gentlemen referred to will oblige our correspondent, it will be very interesting to many of our readers. Re-the pullets hatched previous to end of April not getting along so well, that must be owing to their not being provided with quarters suitably warm for the season and not protected from the too sudden changes which are likely to occur about that time. If kept well housed they will thrive rapidly for two months or so without going outside, and then when the weather permits they can be let out every day, in the warmest part of the day only, say from 1 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m., at which time they should be kept busy hunting for some special luxury such as a little hemp, canary, or millet seed. They will make wonderful growth, because if six or eight weeks old before they can go out very much, they will be strong enough to enjoy the outing, but if allowed out on a nipping cold day, they will surely as you remark, be stunted in growth. We will await our correspondents remarks re the "percentage of pullets" as asked for with much interest.

For the Poultry Weekly.

Suggestions.

THE old adage, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, works well in the henery.

See that the droppings are removed from under the roosts and from the floors at least once a week. Strict carelessness about the house is necessary. Don't let cleanliness and laziness prevent this or your fowls will surely contract disease or lice.

Empty your drinking vessels as you make your evening rounds, not on the floor as that would cause dampness. The water gets foul by standing over night, and the birds generally drink as soon as they leave the roost in the morning.

Scald your loppered milk and feed the curd and whey to your hens, then listen to them sing and note how they thank you in the egg line.

Steep clover hay in water over night, in the morning thicken with bran or middlings. This makes an excellent breakfast and ensures the fertility of the eggs.

If your hens mope about or appear drowsy