

Q. It would be rather expensive, would it not, to kill horses for the purpose of feeding them to fowls ?

A. Old horses that are healthy are often sold very cheaply.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. You said there were three factors in the winter production of eggs ?

A. The three important factors are feeding cut bone or meat and soft food in the shape of mash, vegetables or roots and plenty of exercise. Those are the great factors.

CHICKENS.

In the rearing of chickens we find that overfeeding is practised, in too many cases, and is generally attended with disastrous results. There were fewer rations given to our chickens last year than ever before with the result that there was a great deal less mortality. Those gentlemen who are conversant with the rearing of poultry well know that as a rule the mortality among chickens is very great, and in many cases is due to overfeeding. We hatched out 196 chickens last year, out of which number we lost five by crows and by ill-health only three, so that we raised 188 out of 196 chickens hatched. If these chickens had not been properly fed such a large percentage would not have attained their growth. I should add that the food was never allowed to turn sour and it was never fed in an improper state.

REARING OF CHICKENS.

Let us now see what development was made the result of having rations regularly fed; and not in excess. I mention these points because copies of my evidence will go abroad, and I am asked so frequently so many questions by farmers as to the proper rearing of chickens. Our first food to the newly hatched chickens is stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry, or dry bread crumbs. That is for the first day. A little at a time. Granulated oatmeal is added on the second or third day, or may be given on the first day.

By Mr. McGregor :

Q. Oatmeal dry ?

A. Oatmeal dry or mixed with bread crumbs, but oatmeal in some shape.

By Mr. Semple :

Q. What about egg for them ?

A. I believe that many chickens are lost from being over-fed on hard-boiled eggs. It is, however, beneficial to turkeys in limited quantity.

By Mr. Calvert :

Q. Young turkeys ?

A. Yes, young turkeys ; but in the case of chickens it is a mistake to give it to them. It is very liable when fed alone to cause acute indigestion which is followed by dysentery which generally kills the chickens. We have found the best feed to be stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry, enough for them to eat so heartily as to allow none to remain.