

table. I fully endorse Mr. STAFFORD'S opinion about fixing a definite type of bird, so that exhibitors would then be able to know what sort of birds to breed and send to shows. White faces in Minorcas ought certainly to be a disqualification, and I for one, if I was judging, would condemn the white-faced ones at once, however good they might be in other respects.

HENRY ABBOTT.

Hingham, Norfolk.

—In *Vinton's Gazette*.

### FEEDING.

C. J. ODELL.

(Continued.)

Fowls about a farm-yard can usually pick up a portion of their subsistence, and that probably the largest portion, and in such situations, of course, poultry-keeping decidedly pays best. I must, however, caution my readers against depending wholly upon such resources. The substance that may be used if no such resources existed are various, such as cabbages, turnips, carrots, parsnips, oats, wheat, barley, and other grains too numerous to enumerate. It will not answer to feed fowls wholly upon any one variety of food. Neither will it be found advisable to feed wholly upon any one class of food. I must speak of the latter point first.

Fowls require a mixture of green with hard food, fully as much as horses or cattle do. When the birds have the advantage of an extensive walk they will find this for themselves; when they have no such advantage you must provide green food for them, such as cabbages or other greens chopped small. My plan is to fasten heads of cabbage or lettuce to some fixture, by means of the roots, and let the fowl pick for themselves. This practice not merely prevents waste, but is, in consequence of the amusement it affords, decidedly conducive to health. When you find it difficult to obtain green food, you will find that turnips will answer equally

well. Slice and cut up into small pieces; this is troublesome. No man deserves to have a good stock of poultry if he declines taking trouble.

Oats are useful as forming a portion of fowls' feeding; but it will not answer for keeping them upon altogether. When damaged wheat can be bought at a low price, it may be used for feeding with much profit and advantage. Too much barley is objectionable, being too purgative; it is useful as an occasional feed, when fowls are overfed.

The sweepings of corn markets, consisting of all kinds of grain, can be purchased usually on cheap terms, and are well suited for poultry.

(To be Continued.)

### LANGSHANS AND WYANDOTTES

W. J. WEAVER.

I noticed a letter from Mr. J. Stewart Kennedy, which under the head of "Friendly Comments," contained many disparaging remarks on Wyandottes, and all owing to the poor performance of a single pullet.

Perhaps an impartial opinion may be of value to your readers:—

I have bred both varieties in large numbers, and under circumstances which enabled me to note the merits of each breed. My Langshans were hatched out of eggs procured from Mrs. Sargent, of Kittery Maine, and my Wyandottes are composed of Towle, Clark & Hull's Strains. The following remarks refer only to the best specimens of both varieties.

A pure Wyandotte pullet of April hatch, if well cared for, will commence laying in the following October, and will deposit one egg per day, until the end of November, then she drops to an average of 15 eggs per month until the first of March, when the everyday performance will be resumed and continued until she becomes broody in April. If you wish to hatch, she will

bring out a larger percentage of healthy chicks than any incubator of human contrivance. She is very tame, and not quarrelsome, but if attacked by a hawk or other enemy, she is the bravest of the brave. If you do not wish to set a Wyandotte it is only necessary to remove her for 24 hours; then she will break off clucking, and resume laying within a week. You can safely reckon on an egg per day until about the end of September, when she will again become broody, and may be broken off easily, but will not lay again till after moulting. The flesh of Wyandottes is equal to that of Langshans or Plymouth Rocks, and second only to the famous table fowls, White Dorkings.

A Langshan pullet hatched in April, will commence laying in November, and in comfortable quarters will continue to deposit an egg every second day until about the middle of March following, when she suddenly changes to an every day layer and keeps that way until she becomes broody in April or May. If you set her she will do very nicely, (if not disturbed,) but if annoyed, look out for a smash. After the chicks are hatched your wisest plan will be to take them from her, and give them to a Wyandotte to care for. Langshan hens are timid, and will not face a hawk like Wyandottes, but will abandon the poor little chicks at the first sign of danger. Langshans will not pull feathers out of other fowls, Wyandottes are very mischievous. Langshans are very easy to manage, and will remain within fences four feet in height, the same may be said of the Dots, but if neglected the latter will go over a six-foot fence in order to forage for themselves. Langshans will stand cold weather better than any other single combed variety. Wyandottes can endure ten degrees below zero, without injury, provided that they are kept out of draught. There is no more difficulty in breeding Wyandottes to the Standard than Langshans.