

single-comb white Leghorn as being best suited to my purpose and market, and so far my labour in this direction has given me quite satisfactory results and with the knowledge gained, I see a good prospect for still further improvement. I consider the improvement in the laying qualities in the last few years due more to the selection of the breeding stock than to any improvement in methods of care or feeding, as the latter have not changed materially during the time.

The improvement in laying qualities has been somewhat hindered by the attempt at the same time to improve the general appearance of the eggs by getting them all of a fair size, uniform in shape and color, thus increasing their market value. A hen that persists in laying a very small or ill-shaped egg is never used for breeding, no matter how good a layer she may be. My hens are always kept in confinement in flocks of about fifty in a house 12 x 20 feet, with a park 2 x 8 rods. Formerly when such flocks averaged 150 eggs per hen yearly, I considered it a large yield; now I have several flocks that average 200 or more per year. I am quite sure that I have individual hens that lay an average of 250 eggs each per year, and that this is the point for which I have started with the whole number kept—600. Whether I reach it or not is a question to be answered later.

In selecting my breeding flocks I find it necessary to exercise great care to avoid mistakes. The best time of year for this work is when the hens generally are not laying well. Spring and early summer is not a good time because almost any hen will lay at that time; but late in summer during the moulting period, and in winter, is my time to decide which shall be selected for breeding the following spring. While I pay considerable attention to the external characteristics, the all-important thing is to know that the hen to be selected is laying the greater part of the year and this can be determined only by close observation, and requires the outlay of a good deal of time and patience. The hens as fast as selected are placed in flocks by themselves, and a record is kept of the number of eggs laid, to show how they compare in that respect with the general flocks. I aim that in each of the breeding flocks there shall be, as nearly as possible, the same number in order that one shall have no advantage over the other in the amount of room occupied, and they are always fed and cared for exactly alike.

(To be Continued.)

NO SHOW REPORTS IF NOT ADVERTISED.

LAST year the REVIEW refused to report any winter shows which had not previously used our business columns. We see no good reason for change in this and will adopt a similar policy this season.

THE VALUE OF GREEN CUT BONE AS AN EGG-PRODUCING FOOD

AS SHOWN BY A CAREFUL TEST MADE BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, AT COLUMBUS, OHIO.

THE experiment was started with four divisions and two pens in each division, one of old hens and one of pullets, ten to each pen; first division receiving green ground bone, crushed oyster shell and gravel; second division receiving green bone and gravel; third division receiving crushed oyster shell and gravel; fourth division receiving gravel only.

Eggs were worth two cents each on the average during the trial.

Table showing results each four weeks from Nov. 1, 1894, to Jan. 24, 1895.

Bone, Shell and Gravel. Division I.		Bone and Gravel. Division II.		Shell and Gravel. Division III.		Gravel. Division IV.	
10 Pullets.	10 Hens.	10 Pullets.	10 Hens.	10 Pullets.	10 Hens.	10 Pullets.	10 Hens.
21	9	32	7	15	0	14	2
53	47	30	35	20	0	5	10
66	9	53	38	44	4	33	1
140	64	115	80	79	4	52	13
Total, 204		195		83		65	

First division received 14 pounds raw ground bone, two pounds oyster shells and all the gravel they wanted. Second division received 14 pounds raw ground bone and all the gravel they wanted. Third division received six pounds oyster shells and gravel. Fourth division received nothing but gravel. Counting bone at three cents per pound, and shells at two cents, the hens with bone more than doubled in value of eggs either those of shell or nothing. It might not be out of place to mention that these hens have not been out of their 7 x 8 ft. pens for about a month, before this time they had had the run of a yard 6 x 6 ft., giving all exactly the same chance to exercise. There was enough difference in those fed shell to more than pay for the shell, but leave a narrow margin when fed with bone. While those fed bone more than doubled on those fed nothing, or we could have afforded to pay 20 cents per pound for the raw ground bone. But this is not all; the hens receiving bone have a much better plumage, and are standing the winter much better.