

tain number of one of the sitting breeds to hatch out his chickens. All depends upon intelligent management. And he will require to reserve a certain number of his two-year old hens for breeding purposes. His male bird should be a vigorous yearling cockerel. He should make it a strict rule to allow no male bird among the laying stock. The reason for so doing has been given in report for 1889, p. 167, as follows:—"Take away the male birds from the laying hens. 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." The separation of the male bird from the breeding stock during the winter, is also insisted upon by a great many of the leading breeders. The experience of five years at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, when the winter season is long, leads to the same conclusion, But the farmer with one breed and one or two cock birds need have little trouble in keeping the birds apart, if he thinks it necessary so to do in the case of his breeding stock.

#### DIFFERENT BREEDS.

#### THEIR APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS—EGGS, THEIR SIZE AND COLOR—MARKET CHICKENS.

It will be noticed that the foregoing remarks apply particularly to egg production, but should eggs and poultry be sold by weight throughout the Dominion, a probability of the near future, rapidly maturing chickens, as well as large eggs will be more profitable for the home market. The following information as to the colour and size of eggs laid by the fowls of the different breeds named, as well as to the weight put on per month by the chickens hatched and reared at the Experimental Farm may be useful. Some of the breeds are represented by cuts.

#### WHITE LEGHORNS.

An active prolific layer of white eggs. Some strains lay much larger eggs than others. The hens of a good strain will lay eggs  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oz. each, or 1 lb. 10 oz. to 1 lb. 11 oz. per doz. Pullets' eggs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. each, or 1 lb. 8 ozs. per doz. Chickens hardy and grow quickly. Require to be kept active in close confinement and regularly supplied with lime, grit, &c. There is no Standard weight for the Leghorn family.

#### BLACK MINORCAS.

The females lay large white egg, weighing as follows: Hen  $2\frac{2}{3}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oz. each, or 1 lb. 11 oz. per doz. Pullets egg, 2 oz. each, or 1 lb 7 oz. per doz. The hens lay from 130 to 150 eggs each according to room and range. The chickens are hardy and make vigorous growth. The plumage is jet black. The Standard weight of the cockerel must

be  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; pullet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.; cock 8 lbs.; hen  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Must be kept busy in winter quarters and regularly supplied with egg shell making material.

#### ANDALUSIANS.

Another member of the Spanish or Mediteranean class but of blue colour in feather. Indeed they are sometime called the blue Spanish. They are prolific layers of large white eggs. Chickens are hardy and grow vigorously, of the same type as the black Minorcas, and require the same conditions of treatment in winter quarters. Hens' eggs weigh  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oz. each, or 1 lb, 11 oz. per doz. No weight qualification is demanded by the Standard.

#### RED CAPS.

A prolific layer of eggs, of medium size, but not quite so white in shell as those laid by the Leghorn family. Some strains lay larger eggs than others. Dr. Niven, of London, Ont., claims for his Red Cap hens a yield of 150 eggs in a year. If properly cared for, they lay well in winter. Chickens are hardy and grow rapidly. They are an English breed and have gained many friends.

#### HOUDANS.

A breed of French origin, but having the five toes of the Dorking. The plumage is mottled black and white and there is a heavy crest on the head. The females lay a large white egg. Hens' eggs  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oz. each 1 lb. 11 oz. to 1 lb. 13 oz. per doz. The flesh is white and very superior quality and the body of the fowl is plump and heavy. The chickens are hardy and grow rapidly, the cockerels showing a development of 1 lb. per month. They are great foragers and require range. They do not seem to lay as many eggs during the close confinement of winter. It is the intention, another year, to give a number of pullets of the same age a trial as winter layers. The Standard demands the following weights:—Cock, 7 lbs.; hen, 6 lbs.; cockerel, 6 lbs.; pullet, 5 lbs. It will be noticed that the weights are not as great as those called for in the case of the black Minorcas.

#### LAYERS OF EGGS OF DARK COLOUR.

#### LIGHT BRAHMAS.

Hens are layers of large coloured eggs, in number about 100 to 110 per year. When in the winter quarters eggs are not quite so large as when hens are running at large. Hens' eggs from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  oz. each; per dozen 1 lb.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 1 lb. 13 oz. Chickens hardy and grow well at development of 14 to 16 oz. per month for cockerels. Layers require to be kept busy in winter quarters and must not be over fed or will get too fat. They are a very popular breed, being quiet and easily kept in bounds by a low fence. The weights demanded by the Standard are: cocks, 12 lbs.;