

youngsters are fairly on their feet the diet should be cheap, but wholesome and in this much of the house and kitchen waste may be used. Feed a little but often, keep the chicks growing. A grass run and insect life will cause robust health and rapid development. The mother hens in our department were kept with the chickens for four or five weeks or until they were fairly feathered. They were then removed to the runs and if in good condition were either laying, or about to do so.

WEIGHT DEVELOPMENT.

The care of the chicks, from their hatching, told in rapid flesh development and robust health. Watch was kept for symptoms of lice. To avoid possible lodgment of these pests the coops were frequently sprayed or sprinkled with coal oil, and on several occasions the mother hen was wiped under wings, in breast and fluff with a cloth dampened, not wet, with coal oil. Plymouth Rocks, both barred and white; silver laced and white Wyandottes with colored Dorkings made the most satisfactory weight development as shown by the following:—

Four barred Plymouth Rock cockerels hatched on 21st May, weighed on 22nd August following—three months—3 pounds 5½ ounces. ; 3 pounds 5½ ; 3 pounds 4½ ; 2 pounds 12½. We have thus the gratifying result of two of the first mentioned birds making a combined weight of 6 pounds 11 ounces in three months.

A white Wyandotte cockerel hatched on the 30th April weighed on the 24th September following—or four months and twenty-five days—5 pounds 15 ounces.

A white Plymouth Rock cockerel hatched on the 6th of June weighed on the 7th October following, 5 pounds 2 ounces.

Silver laced Wyandotte cockerel hatched on 12th May, weighed when sold on 16th October 5 pounds 4 ounces.

Colored Dorking cockerel, hatched 28th April, weighed on 6th November following 7 pounds.

CARE OF THE HENS DURING MOULT.

The method of caring for and feeding the hens during their moult has been described in a preceding page. Suffice to say that by the end of October the laying stock were over their moult and in a satisfactory condition. The yearling hens were first to have their new feathers. At the end of the first week in July the male birds were removed from the breeding pens and placed by themselves in pens with runs. They will be so kept until wanted next spring for breeding purposes, of course been kept in doors during winter. Dur

ing the moulting season a preparation of deodorized blood meal was used in lieu of cut green bone. The object in using the meal was, first to note whether it was effective in the moult as were cut green bones the preceding season and secondly because it was more convenient to handle, and obtain, during the hot months, than the bone. The conclusion arrived at, after close observation, was, that while satisfactory it was not quite so beneficial as the cut green bone. Further experiment will be made, if circumstances permit, another season.

COMMENCEMENT OF WINTER LAYING.

At the end of October rations of cut bone, three times per week, with a mash on two mornings of the week were resumed. Cabbage during November was fed in liberal quantity. The rations numbered two per diem with cabbage at noon. The morning ration was mash twice per week; cut bone or grain other mornings cabbage at noon; whole grain at afternoon meal. Grit, lime, and drink water were supplied in abundance. The hens first to lay at end of October were Wyandottes, barred Plymouth Rocks, Andalusians, Minorcas.

WHEN THE PULLETS LAID.

The first pullets to lay were white Plymouth Rocks and silver laced Wyandottes on the 25th November, followed by barred Plymouth Rocks and Andalusians: pullets the day after; Langshan on the 28th of the same month and a white Leghorn pullet on 22nd December. These pullets were all hatched at different dates in May.

EGG RECORD FOR THE YEAR.

The following is the egg record for the year 1896, by months, viz.:—

January.....	1,469
February.....	1,411
March.....	1,569
April....	1,934
May.....	1,699
June.....	897
July.....	682
August.....	395
September.....	143
October.....	150
November.....	568
December.....	1,466

Total..... 12,383