

of different kinds ; but we consider that a fowl's gizzard requires that corn should form a portion of its food, and consequently give one meal a day of corn to two of meal, sometimes varied by one meal of meal to two of corn.

When the important chicken season approaches, every egg should be saved. brought in when laid, marked with the date and the hen that laid it, and put by with care. If eggs are laid and saved very early, especial care must be taken that frost does not get at them. If they can be set before they are a week old, so much the better ; do not, at any rate, keep them more than a fortnight. There is sometimes a vexatious difficulty in getting a broody hen, just when a valued batch of eggs is ready ; for this a few Cochin hens are of great value, as, from laying in the winter, they often get broody at a time when their services in rearing chickens are most valuable. Their habit of turning off their chickens while still very young is objectionable ; but early in the season we cannot be choosers, and are therefore very glad to accept the services of Cochin mothers. Early in the season hens must be set in a warm place—i. e., one safe from severe frost ; rather later they often do best in a nest of their own choosing out of doors. Seven or nine eggs are enough to give while the nights are very cold ; later the number may be increased to eleven, thirteen, or fifteen : we have generally found a better proportion of chickens in giving eleven than a larger number of eggs. Interfere as little as possible with the sitting hen ; only take care that she has food, water, and dust to roll in when she comes off, and that she gets back to her own nest. The hen in sitting close, does the best that can be done for the eggs, and help, even when necessary, seldom turns out well. We do not, at any rate, advise a beginner to meddle with the hen or her work.

When the chicks begin to pop out from under the mother, place before her a cup of large oatmeal, dry : some barley meal, not too much moistened ; or barley crushed small. When the hatching is well over, remove the hen and her brood to a clean, warm nest, that the vermin likely to infest the one where she has set may not annoy the little chickens, for to them they would be quite dangerous. The next day the hen and her brood may be put down, either in a room, henhouse, or out of doors, according to the weather.

The best advice we can give about the chickens is : attend to them and feed them *very* often, beginning with chopped egg and breadcrumbs, crushed corn, oatmeal, &c., and give barley-meal instead of egg after the first week or two. Let them be kept safe from wet, damp, and cold easterly wind.—*Field*.

HOW TO MAKE HENS LAY IN WINTER.

Some writers on domestic poultry seem to think that there is no limit to fowls laying eggs, if they are managed and fed in a certain manner. This is fallacious, as a hen can be made to produce but about 100 to 150 eggs a year, if fed ever so well, and kept ever so warm in winter. Fowls are like the soil, they must have rest, and if we keep them laying all winter, they will be about barren in the spring, when it is the season for eggs, and when they are most used. It is a good plan to keep fowls warm in winter, and to feed them with fresh meat, when it can be done cheaply ; but it is not advisable to force them to lay too much.

We have been led to make these remarks, on seeing an extract from Bement's *Poulterer's Companion*, as annexed :—

TO HAVE EGGS IN WINTER.

The question is often asked, "Why cannot hens be made to lay as well in winter as in summer?" They can, to a certain extent ; but they require as a condition, that they be well provided with warm and comfortable lodging, clean apartments, plenty of food, pure water, gravel, lime, fine sand, and ashes to roll and bathe in.

There seem naturally to be two seasons of the year when hens lay ; early in the spring, and afterwards in the summer : indicating that if fowls were left to themselves, they would, like wild birds, produce two broods a year.

Early spring-hatched birds, if kept in a warm place and fed plentifully and attended to, will generally commence laying about Christmas, or even somewhat earlier. In cold and damp this is not to be expected, and much may, in different seasons, depend on the state of the weather and the condition of the bird.

It is a well known fact, that from November to February (the very time when we want eggs the most) they are to many a bill of expense, without any profit. To promote fecundity and great laying in the hen, it is necessary that they be well fed on grain, boiled potatoes given to them warm, and occasionally animal food. In the summer they get their supply of