

have been placed, or some other provision made to prevent the young goslings from getting into the water, and getting the soft down, with which they are covered, wet, thereby becoming chilled. Sharp sand, saturated with water, should be provided in another shallow dish, where they can help themselves at any time. While small they should be fed four or five times a day, and when ten days old a little food may be put into the building when they are shut up for the night. Do not overfeed. Grass is the natural food of goslings, and where the supply is abundant less grain food is required. If, however, the supply of grass or green food is scanty, they should be fed more frequently and a larger quantity, as goslings to be profitable must be kept growing from the time they are hatched until sold. One point should be remembered—the water dish should never be allowed to become empty for any length of time, either while the goslings are small or at any time during their life.

(To be continued).

### CALL DUCKS.

BY H. S. BARCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

**W**HAT are they good for? Well, what are any ducks good for? They are good to look at, for they are small, and neat and trim. They are good to eat, just as good as the large ducks, only there is not so much meat on one of them—two may be required. They are good to show, weigh less than the big birds, and so make a saving on express charges, and win just as much in prize money. They are good—well, they are good for almost anything that any duck is good for.

Many breeders live where space is a great consideration. They do not feel that they can keep large fowls, because of lack of room. They do not think they can keep large ducks for the same reason. So Bantams in fowls and Bantams in ducks are demanded, and the Call ducks are the Bantams among ducks.

We have two varieties of Call ducks, the white and the gray. The first is pure white in plumage, a lovely white, too. The second has the coloring and marking of the wild Mallard, the same coloring which makes the Rouen one of the most beautiful of domesticated fowls.

Except in coloring there is nothing to choose

between these two varieties. As a breeder of Rouens I naturally think the gray the more beautiful variety. But I know there are others who fancy a white plumage, and I am not going to condemn their choice.

Call ducks can fly. But one can easily regulate that by cutting off the first joint of one wing when they are hatched. Almost no risk attaches to the operation, the bird is not disfigured, and flight thereafter is forever restrained. If one does not wish to do this, he can clip one wing when the birds are partially grown. This operation will have to be repeated at each moult.

I do not breed Call ducks, but I greatly admire them. I feel that there is not a sufficient interest in the duck fancy, and therefore I advocate their breeding. I would like to disabuse the minds of the public of the false idea that ducks can be successfully bred only when they have access to streams and ponds. While water is a desirable adjunct to water-fowl breeding, yet it is not indispensable. I have reared ducks and successfully when the only water was what was furnished in the drinking fountains. I have reared them with no green food and in the most contracted quarters, and the birds laid well, kept in good health and beautiful plumage; their eggs were fertile and the ducklings strong and vigorous. And if I could do this, another could repeat the result. I shared the common idea that water was indispensable, but experience shattered that idea. I know now, that where one can raise chickens he can also raise ducks, and that he can raise the latter with one-half of the trouble and care that must be bestowed on the former. I was utterly astonished at the easy success I had with my chicks. The pleasure that I derived from them I would like to see others enjoying. This world is none too bright, and we all ought to be glad of the opportunity of adding to it a little light. Duck raising will prove an innocent pleasure to many a man if he can be induced to take it up, not as a business but as a fancy. As a business it is exacting of time and strength, but the care of a few ducks is a light and agreeable recreation. And for such a recreation, the Call ducks are admirably adapted. They have the necessary beauty, and because of their small size they require but a comparatively small amount of space. One is not tempted to make a business of them as he would be if he had Pekins, for example. If one is going into the business on a large scale, the large breeds of ducks are to be selected, but if one wishes to breed ducks simply for a recreation and can allow them but limited space, try the Call ducks.