

care for, they not only stood the trying ordeal well, but made good growth. Had they not been generously and frequently fed they would have been "dwarfed," or if they had been left to shift for themselves, as the majority of early chicks are, they would have quickly succumbed. Where effort of any kind has been made to secure a brood, or broods of chickens, it will pay well to see to their future growth.

The progress of the chickens, although satisfactory, was not equal to that of the year previous. Three reasons may be assigned for this, the absence of the large quantities of sour milk supplied the year before, limited quarters and ground used the year before. Some of the weights, as compared with those of the previous season, are given as follows:—

Plymouth Rocks.—Again led the other breeds in making weight. A cockerel five months and two weeks, after being hatched, attained a weight of 6 lbs. 2 ozs. as compared with 5 lbs. 2 ozs. of a Houdan, hatched a week later but weighed on the same day. At the same age, as the one above, a Plymouth Rock cockerel, the season previous weighed 8 lbs. 4 ozs.

Brahmas.—Were hatched from imported eggs at the end of May. Rather late to give them a fair chance as they had to stand the brunt of mid-summer heat before attaining any size. They showed an average development of 12 ozs. per month as compared with 15 ozs. per month of the season previous.

Houdans.—Hatched at the end of April weighed, on 1st of October, 5 lbs. 2 ozs. averaging a development of 1 lb. per month.

Wyandottes.—At first made slow and almost discouraging progress. This was no doubt owing of their being crowded. The pullets, however, picked up in the fall, turned out to be

very fine ones and were laying by end of December.

Langshans.—This breed was tried for the first time. Two settings of eggs were purchased in Ottawa and 22 chickens were hatched. Of this number 18 grew up to maturity. They proved hardy chickens, grew well and the pullets began to lay by middle of December. In their growth they displayed the characteristics of the Asiatic family as to large frame and slowness to put on flesh, until maturity.

Black Minorcas.—Two sittings of eggs were purchased, from which 18 chickens were hatched. Their progress was very satisfactory, the chickens proving hardy and vigorous growers.

Crosses.—Chickens of a cross between a B. B. R. Game cock and white Plymouth Rock hens were hatched on the 9th August. Their progress was not satisfactory, probably owing to their late hatching. Many of them succumbed to the cold of the first winter month.

A good deal of space has been given to the care and management of chickens, for the reason that a frequent cause of complaint is the great mortality among the young stock. In the majority of cases, want of care and proper food have undoubtedly been the cause of death. In the case of many farmers, inbreeding has resulted in weak chicks, and weaklings as a rule seldom last long. Perhaps it is as well they do not, for they would never, in the event of their maturing, make stock fit to breed from. It may be added to the general instructions given above, that as the chickens grow large, they should be removed from the smaller ones. If they are not, they will not allow the little chicks to have the proper quantity of food they require to make rapid progress. In chicken life the weak have to go to the wall. Where chickens are raised in large numbers and are placed in small coops, the latter must be frequently cleaned, or sickness will surely result.

WHEN THE PULLETS LAID.

The first pullet to lay was a Plymouth Rock, on the 24th November, hatched 19th April; the second a white Leg-

horn, on the 28th November, hatched 26th April; the third, a black Minorca, on the 1st December, hatched 7th May; fourth, a Langshan, on the 12th December, hatched on the 16th May.

COMMENCEMENT OF WINTER LAYING.

The fowls were allowed full liberty to run in the fields, in rear of the poultry house, as soon as the grain was harvested. As the result of this freedom (which, owing to the fine open fall, they enjoyed until the 25th November) and nutritious feeding during moulting, they went into winter quarters in excellent health, and were in full lay for the winter season by the 10th December. The white Leghorns, black Minorcas, Andalusians and Plymouth Rocks, were the first to lay, a few days after going into winter quarters, followed soon after by the black Hamburgs, mixed breeds, Brahmas, buff Cochins, Houdans, Red Caps and Wyandottes, in the order named. Six days after being closed in, the winter commenced in earnest, the thermometer on the 1st December going down to zero, and the next day showing 14 degrees below that figure. The weather continued unusually cold during the month of December, the temperature in the poultry house several times going to 10 and 15 below freezing. Notwithstanding, the Leghorns, Andalusians and Minorcas laid steadily through the month, responding to the stimulating food with satisfactory results.

EGGS LAID BY DIFFERENT BREEDS.

Owing to the fowls running at large, promiscuously, for so many weeks in the fall, it is impossible to give a table of the eggs laid during the whole year; but the following figures will show what has been done by a certain number of the different breeds, since going into winter quarters. It is to be remembered that the laying and breeding stock were kept together, and some old hens, although past their prime as layers were kept for their superior points as breeders. Thus in a pen of 20 Plymouth Rocks, several may be old hens for breeders, others may be late hatched pullets. It is only fair in such a case to give the number of actual layers. When there is room, the aim will be to keep a certain number of fowls of the same age for layers.