

eggs. He raises each year between 500 and 600 ducks on the same acre of land.

Mr. Dearing writes to "A Few Hens" as follows: We have also a large house, barn, and wagon house. I lost some chickens; I doubt it was over 15 or 20 per cent. I had more trouble with brooder lamps than anything else. I have one house 75 feet long, heated with hot water pipes. I have six other brooder houses. I also winter 200 hens. When my chicks can live without artificial heat, I sell off the hens and use their quarters for chicks. My chicks are always plump and healthy. But let me say, I don't pretend that I have enough room, but it is all I have.

I should think he would be kept pretty busy if he makes it pay; his loss in chicks is very small.

S. J. ANDRES.

GOOSE HINTS.

A small partially open shed 6 x 8 feet or larger, is desirable as a shelter. This can be provided with dry litter (planer shavings answer very well) which will furnish the geese with a comfortable place in case of severe or inclement weather. In any ordinary weather, geese will prefer to stay out of doors, and even on a snow bank, to remaining in a building; but if accustomed to it, they will utilize it when the weather becomes severe, and it may save them from having their feet frost bitten, which usually results in lameness.

Food given, with attention to a proper supply of shells and grit, will largely influence egg-production.

Boxes or large barrels make good nests and should be supplied this month, as geese are quite apt to continue laying in the place which they select for depositing their first eggs.

Where more than one colony is kept they may be located a little distance apart, and each colony should be fed on its own grounds and taught to recognize that spot as its home.

After February 1st some beef scraps two or three times a week may be mixed with the morning feed and a little gluten meal and ground oats will also improve the quality of the mash.

A piece of rotten wood, or an old stump, gives geese a great deal of pleasure and amusement. They will bite off and eat every portion that is sufficiently decayed to be separated from the rest.

S. J. ANDRES.

COLOR OF WHITE ROCK CHICKS.

The color of White Plymouth chicks when hatched has caused many amateur breeders much dismay and ugly feelings towards the parties from whom they have purchased eggs. Eagerly I watched for the appearance of my first White Plymouth Rock chicks and words fail me to express my annoyance when they were excluded from the shell a dirty bluish, monsey white. I supposed they would be "white as snow". Acting as I was I in an editorial capacity at that time, I was very much surprised to find them coming out in that dirty color, and was loath to have them seen. At the same time, I received a letter from a lady telling me of the same result she had from some eggs she bought at a high figure, asking if it was the correct thing. My answer was rather a severe one on the dealer. I received a letter taking me to task for being so harsh, therefore I wrote her counselling her to wait and see if they would not come to the right color and let me hear from her again. Shortly after the question solved itself, to my great satisfaction, as they grew they were healthy and strong and began putting out white feathers and some birds that came so were exhibited and won prizes and I expect they are to be shown this year and win more prizes. A friend who has bred them for several years says that the "bluer the chicks the bluer the blood."

He knows it from experience. So I tell the readers of the JOURNAL that try the White Plymouth Rocks this: to watch and wait to see the new feathers begin to come out before they condemn the party they buy eggs from. Keep them growing, give them good care and if they are from blue blood you will be satisfied with the result. I am very fond of them because there are no black pin feathers to mar the appearance of the carcass when dressed for market, which is often the case with the barred fowl. The Plymouth Rock of good vigorous stock and well bred is essentially the fowl for the farmer, whether barred or white in color.

S. J. ANDRES.