

obtained by careful feeding, etc., for five or six days, and then on the following days forget to feed or water, etc. Where poultry is kept in large numbers, success depends almost entirely upon efficiency.

The general farmer has nearly all the conditions for success and if given reasonable attention poultry-keeping should be one of the revenue producers of the farm.

BREEDS OF POULTRY.

The present high prices of eggs and meat have done much to popularize poultry on the farm, and consequently we are frequently asked as to "What is the best breed of poultry." It is impossible to answer this question, as some breeds are special purpose breeds and others general purpose breeds. There is undoubtedly more difference in strains of the same breed than there is between breeds.

It is not the purpose of the writers to discuss all breeds of poultry in this bulletin, but simply to mention the general characteristics of some of the more popular ones. We shall endeavor to classify these breeds more or less on utility lines rather than according to the usual classification as adopted in various poultry publications. It may be taken as a rule that all breeds that lay brown or tinted shelled eggs will set, hatch, and rear their young, and all breeds which lay white-shelled eggs, with the exception of Dorkings, are non-sitters, and the eggs from these breeds have to be hatched artificially or by hens of other varieties. It will, therefore, be seen that the general purpose breeds lay tinted eggs and are good sitters and mothers.

GENERAL PURPOSE BREEDS.

Plymouth Rocks. There are six varieties of this breed—three of which are common—Barred, White, and Buff. The Partridge, Columbian, and Silver Pencilled are not so common. The Barred Plymouth Rock is undoubtedly the most popular variety of fowl among farmers. The best bred-to-lay strains are good winter layers, fair summer layers, make first-class roasters, and fair to good broilers. It is one of the hardiest breeds. The standard weights are: Cock birds, 9½ lbs.; cockerels, 8 lbs.; hens, 7½ lbs.; and pullets, 6½ lbs. Bred-to-lay strains usually run slightly below the standard weights in all sections except cock birds.

Wyandottes. There are several varieties in this breed among which might be mentioned: White, Buff, Silver Laced, Golden Laced, Black Columbian, Partridge and Silver Pencilled. The most popular variety from a commercial standpoint is the White. This breed has practically the same characteristics as the Plymouth Rocks, but is more blocky in type and usually longer in the feather. The feathers are not carried so close to the body as the Rocks. They have rose combs, which by some is supposed to be an advantage in cold climates. Wyandottes make good broilers and good roasters. Some strains are good layers and they make good mothers. The standard weight of these birds is one pound less than those of the Plymouth Rocks.

Rhode Island Reds. There are two varieties of this breed, single comb and rose comb. As compared with the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes they are longer in appearance and not so massive. They were originated by the farmers of the State of Rhode Island, and are very popular in that State. They have also grown in popularity in this country to such an extent that they now rival the Plymouth