

The great value of Embden geese as feather producers places them in our opinion ahead of the Toulouse as a profitable breed. Their pure white feathers are always in demand at the highest price and as flesh producers they are fully equal to the Toulouse.

Although geese are profitable, they are naturally more objectionable than ducks and are not a fowl that can be so generally cultivated. Ducks do not require water to swim in, but geese should be furnished with that luxury whenever it is possible.

"A BANTAM DEPARTMENT"

in the REVIEW should receive hearty support from every fancier of these beautiful and useful pets. The Bantams are not only ornamental but they are valuable for eggs and meat and often fill a place that larger fowls could not fill. For city residents who can devote only a little space to fowls they fill the bill exactly. The different varieties of Cochins Bantams will undoubtedly become very popular.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT

OF THE POULTRY MANAGER OF THE
CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL
FARM, OTTAWA.

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IT is desirable, when practicable, to keep the breeding stock, male and female, apart, in compartments away from those containing the layers, and treated in such a manner that, while robust health is secured, the hens are not stimulated to lay until mated at the proper season. Chickens from hens which have been laying actively all winter, are not likely to be possessed of that vitality so necessary to vigorous

growth. Again, the shells of the eggs from winter layers are apt to be so thin by springtime as to be unfit to put under early sitters. When the winter laying stock have to be used as breeders, they should be given a rest and run outside, if the weather permits, before the eggs to be used for hatching are laid. As the poultry building did not afford space for separate pens of breeders and layers, the hens were given the necessary rest, and in all cases the breeders were mated with a male bird of a different strain. It may be mentioned that it is, I believe, intended to provide such addition to the present poultry house as to allow of the laying and breeding stock being kept in different compartments. The male birds were not placed with the hens during the winter season, and should under no circumstances be permitted in their company. Apart from the fact that impregnated eggs lose their finer flavour, the male birds will not be in the desired condition when mated in early spring, besides the risk that no breeder would care to run of having fertilized eggs, from his best birds, sold promiscuously at the price of eggs for eating.

THE BENEFIT OF NEW BLOOD.

The benefit of having, at the first establishment of the poultry department, procured eggs from different strains with the view of future breeding, was particularly instanced in the case of the buff Cochins, which, after laying during the winter months, were only eleven months old when mated, after a short rest and run, to a cockerel of the same breed and age, but of a different strain. The result was patent in a large percentage of the eggs producing hardy chickens of large size.

SITTING HENS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

The first two hens to become broody were Wyandottes. One was set as early as the 2nd March, but egg shells being thin broke frequently, and although the

remaining eggs were carefully washed in lukewarm water and reset, only one chicken was hatched. The other Wyandotte was given eight Plymouth Rock eggs on the 17th of the same month (March) and the result was fairly satisfactory in the shape of four fine chickens, the remarkable progress of which is noted elsewhere. As other hens became broody they were given eggs as soon as possible. Every effort was made to rid the broody hens of any vermin that might be on their bodies before putting them on eggs. To effect this the nest, which was made of straw, in boxes specially arranged, was well dusted with carbolic powder. China eggs were placed in the nests and the sitter put on them for 24 or 36 hours. The china eggs were then taken away and the real eggs substituted for them. All lice meanwhile were most probably driven from the hen and she could then sit in ease for the remaining period of incubation. The nest boxes were made without bottoms so as to be placed on the floor of building in early spring, or on the ground in the warmer weather. At another season it is intended to set a number of hens on the dry floor and others in nests on the damp ground in order to thoroughly test both methods, each of which have their enthusiastic advocates. In the early season it is beyond question that the dry floor is preferable to the cold ground. As the weather becomes warmer, the cooler earth may be best. In order to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, the eggs must be thoroughly tested and the unfertile ones removed. Unless the eggs are so tested, no definite result can possibly be arrived at, for some nests will be sure to contain a greater number of fertile eggs than others. The conditions must be the same in both cases. We have no statement from the advocates of either of the methods mentioned to show that any conclusive trials were even attempted.