

ed the most, but during the last half of the year the Leghorns more than made up the difference. This is from a man who breeds several varieties of chickens and not from one who breeds Leghorns, or any other one variety, exclusively.

The profit in poultry in this western country is in the eggs more than in marketing poultry. Chickens sold in the market bring from \$1.40 to \$3.00 per dozen, or from four to six cents per pound, and usually they have eaten that much worth of grain.

Let us compare the profits from the Leghorn hen with the larger breeds. Suppose the larger hen lays 100 eggs per year worth one cent each; we have \$1.00 to her credit. At the end of the year we will sell the hen; she will weigh say eight pounds, at five cents per pound, makes forty cents, or a total of \$1.40. The Leghorn hen will lay 160 eggs during the year, at one cent each, makes \$1.60; we will sell her at the end of the year; she weighs four pounds, and at five cents per pound, brings us twenty cents, a total of \$1.80 being forty cents in favor of the Leghorn hen, not counting the difference in expenses for feed, which would average ten cents more, making a difference of fifty cents in favor of the Leghorn hen. I presume the average farmer keeps fifty fowls. Multiplying this by the fifty cents profit on one fowl, and we have \$25.00 more profit from a flock of Leghorns than from a flock of the same number of the larger breeds, which \$25.00 would be quite an addition to the pin money of the good wife. As to the surplus males, a Leghorn will grow faster and be ready to sell as a broiler earlier than any other chicken that I know of. While the Leghorn males put on the market in the fall do not bring as much as the males of the larger breeds, neither do they cost over half as much to feed. And they mature more quickly and are ready for market so much sooner, when prices are usually better, then in this way they equal the prices received for the larger ones. A farmer who raises Leghorns can begin to market them when twelve weeks old, at from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per dozen, as they are plump, well feathered, and their flesh has a firm, gamey flavor. The males of the large breeds at that age are boney and coarse, and they are usually kept until fall and then sold at about twenty-five cents each, but by that time they have nearly eaten their worth in corn, for they do not get out and rustle for bugs, worms, etc., like the Leghorns. Then there is their great beauty. What is more attractive and handsome than a flock of Leghorns of either variety? The male with his fine,

upright carriage, proud as a peacock, as wary and active as a weasel, always on the alert for a bug or a hawk. Always a gentleman to his mates, and ready to give battle to any strange bird that enters his domain. The female with her bright, saucy ways, and as sprightly as a cricket. They are always the admiration of their owners, whether farmers or fanciers. And lastly, their hardiness from the shell up to maturity, in connection with their great egg producing powers and the early maturity, make them the best all-round breed for the farmer or the back yard town fancier.

## FAILURE TO RAISE CHICKS.

*By Mr. Ira Draper.*

The questions I am about to mention are ever running through my mind when trying to decide just where the cause of "failure to raise chicks" as a rule is put. One does not need great skill to make a success of raising poultry, simply keeping strict watch of those little points. If we put our minds upon our work, and study their wants by their actions, we can raise a far greater number than if we just go ahead indifferent to their actions.

Do you wish to know the cause of your failure? Study the following:

Did you feed the hens the right kind of food, so the eggs were well filled, with nice smooth shells? Had they plenty of room, nice clean houses, and above all, good water to drink? If so, we will have to pass along, for certainly the hens are not to blame if the eggs did not hatch. Do we trust the children to gather the eggs? If so, perchance they failed to remember that they were cautioned to be very careful in handling them not to shake them, nor let them strike one against another. Where do we keep the eggs until we wish to put them into an incubator, or until some nice motherly hen becomes broody? How easy it is for us to put them away in a place so that only one from ten eggs will hatch, and that one a poor weakly little chick that will hardly survive a week.

Where did we place the hen while setting? Did the other hens bother her daily? Did we keep proper lining in the nest, so that the eggs were kept in their proper places and not have to lie one upon another, neither roll from under the hen in spite of all her efforts to keep them together? Does the wind blow upon her or the eggs, so that it will chill the eggs or the little chicks, or even worse, cause the old hen to take the "roup" and die before time for the chicks to appear? Does the hen take care of her little brood in the way she should, or is it our own carelessness in the furnishing the proper food, and do we see that the