

Apr. 29	11	White Minorca	6
" 29.	13	Light Brahma	7
" 30.	13	Barred Plymouth Rock	7
" 30.	13	Andalusian	9
" 30.	13	White Wyandotte	13
May 1.	13	Langshan	8
" 7.	13	White Minorca	7
" 12.	13	" Leghorn	7
" 16.	11	" Plymouth Rock	9
" 27.	13	S. L. Wyandotte	8
June 6.	11	Black Minorca	8
" 13.	11	White Plymouth Rock	7
" 19.	11	Golden Poland	5
" 8.	13	Silver L. Wyandotte	8
" 9.	13	White Leghorn	5
			248
			143

In two or three of the early hatches several eggs were broken by the hen in the nest, owing to the shells being somewhat thin.

#### SITTERS.

For early sitters, when opportunity offered, Wyandottes or one of the cross-bred hens were chosen, as they are lighter and not so clumsy as those of the heavier breeds. A comfortable nest was made of straw, and well dusted with carbolic disinfectant powder. Three or four china eggs were placed in the nest, and on these the hen was allowed to sit for two or three days, receiving meanwhile a dusting of the powder named. The powder in the nest and in feathers of the sitter probably rid her of any lice. At end of the two or three days the valuable eggs were given to her. Food, water, grit and dust bath were convenient to the sitters at all times. The eggs were examined when the sitters were feeding, or at other convenient periods to see that none were broken. The shells of early eggs—particularly those from hens in limited runs—are apt to be thin, and should one be broken and allowed to contaminate the others, no satisfactory results need be anticipated from that hatch. In the event of an egg being broken it is necessary to at once remove it and the dirty straw, and to wash gently the others in moderately warm water, and replace them with care. If the breast feathers of the sitter are very much soiled, it is better to clean them, or the newly washed eggs will be again soiled. All this may be avoided by having eggs with solid thick shells, careful sitters and properly arranged nests. It is best, if circumstances will permit, to set two or four hens together, and at the end of five or six days test—by means of egg tester—all the eggs, removing the clear or unfertile

ones, that is those without any germ, and the addled eggs, or those in which the germs have started, and ceased from some cause to progress. The fertile eggs may then be given to the one or two hens, and the spare hen or hens reset. Experience will soon teach the difference in the unfertile eggs. Of course when an incubator is used, full instructions as to testing the eggs will accompany it. Egg testers may be had from any of the incubator manufacturers, or may be made by a local tinsmith, if pattern is furnished.

#### PROGRESS OF THE CHICKS.

For the first few weeks of their existence the chicks of both land and water fowl require care, the young turkey chicks requiring the greatest care until they are partially feathered, or "shoot the red." Many thousands of young chickens of fowls and turkeys and an equal number of ducklings and goslings are lost every year from carelessness, or want of knowledge how to care for them. The young chicks of the fowls in the poultry house were allowed to remain in the nest, after hatching out, for twenty-four hours, or until thoroughly "nest ripe." If a chicken has been crushed in the nest it should be removed and so may be the broken egg shells, if you are expert. But it is best for the beginner to leave the nest alone, or, more damage may result by disturbing the mother hen, who is sometimes inclined to be fussy on the occasion. In one case last spring the hen mother was seen to pick and kill two or three of the newly hatched chicks. She was of course removed and her family given to another brooding hen which fortunately happened to be on hand. In another case the fussy sitter was discovered crushing the chicks as soon as they begin to "peep," in their efforts to break through the shell. She had also to be removed. All those who hatch out a number of chickens every year have varied experiences of a similar nature. On removing the family from the nest, the mother hen should be put to one side and allowed to feed and drink. She is voracious after a protracted fast of 36 hours, and if not fed will gobble up the more dainty food of the chicks. This is particularly noticeable in the turkey mother. The first feed of the chicks should be stale bread crumbs or stale bread soaked in milk squeezed dry and fed in small quantity. Weather permitting mother and brood should be removed to a coop outside, on grass, and in the sunshine if possible. If kept indoors the young chicks must run on dry earth, or sand, or both. If they do not they will surely wilt away. After a day or two granulated catmeal and boiled rice may be given with good effect. Grain should not be fed for 12 or 14 days. The food should not be sloppy nor should any be allowed to remain about the coops until sour. After the