

MONTHLY MORSELS

BY F. A. MORTIMER.

SETTING hen never grows fat.

**A** The compound of two thirds wheat bran to one third meal, wet with skim milk and fed in the morning warm, has a good egg producing effect. This is far better than meal, the bran does not tend to fat, and the milk is even better than meat in the production of eggs. Fowls may eat too much meat for health, but of milk they may drink all they wish.

The term thoroughbred is a slightly shortened form of thoroughly bred, bred with thoroughness, carefully bred, bred for some definite purpose. Thoroughbred fowls, indeed, are simply improved fowls and therefore better fowls than those not thoroughbred. Those who imagine a hen is a hen and nothing more should bear this in mind.

If you have no love for poultry do not go into the business, for you will not succeed. And don't undertake it as a business, unless you are prepared to encounter difficulties and are willing to work, for you will find that like any other business, it requires work and attention to be successful.

It is usual to run three Geese with a Gander. It is not considered too many. Embden Geese are average breeders, but some breeders claim that they are not so prolific as the Toulouse.

A great many farmers who have large flocks, are in the habit of holding on to the extra fowls until Christmas, as the prices are then good. They will find it a great advantage to coop them up for ten days before selling. Turkeys fatten very rapidly when cooped, but after they reach a certain stage, they begin to decline, and fall off in weight. This is due to the fact that they begin to worry and fret from the confinement. To fatten them, therefore, the work should be done quickly. It is much better to feed them a little at a time, five or six times a day, than to feed them full meals two or three times, the object being to induce them to eat as much as possible. This can be done by giving them a mixture of ground oats and corn meal, warmed with hot water, early in the morning. Then mashed potatoes or turnips, thickened with bran or shipstuff. Cooked clover hay, mixed with corn meal should follow, and milk, to which a little rice or beans has been added, should con-

stitute one feeding. At night, give them a full meal, as much as they will eat, of wheat and corn. Keep plenty of gravel, charcoal, and clean water in the coop, and keep it clean and warm. A turkey fattened in this manner, will be all that can be desired in ten days, and the flesh will be tender and the carcass plump, bringing a good price for quality and increasing in value from the extra weight. Coop each turkey alone.

Hens may be cooped in lots of three or four, and may be fed the same way, only they may be allowed two weeks instead of ten days. Never put cocks and hens together when being fatted. When about to kill them, omit the night meal, and feed nothing except to give a little milk to drink. During the time they are cooped the meals should be fed warm, and a pinch of red pepper and salt should be given at least once a day. Pick them while the bodies are warm, throwing the carcass in cold water as soon as picked. For family use, scald the fowls, which is the easiest and cleanest method.

Labor is really the secret of success and those who neglect carrying it out in the poultry business will surely meet with failure. A man who does not wish to work about his fowls, who neglects them when they should be fed and watered, who allows their droppings to accumulate under their perches until sickening will surely fail.

It is not always a good plan to help chicks out of the shell, many novices do this from a mistaken sense of kindness, but if a chick is unable to get out of the shell it has either developed at the wrong end of the egg or lacks vitality in which case it will be short lived if assisted. In the former case a little assistance will sometimes result in saving a strong chick, you may tell if this is so by noticing at which end of the egg the chipping is commenced, if at the small end opposite the air cell, the head is turned the wrong way and it has not room to work.

It is better to spend your time improving one or two breeds than to be hankering after other unless you have abundant means and plenty of room.

Please don't doctor the fowls. The idea that they must be constantly fed egg foods, red pepper and stimulants, has led to many errors in the keeping of poultry. If fowls are not fed exclusively on corn or other grain, they will need no medicine, keep them in a condition that they are always