

largely by the care and attention given to the growing pullets during the summer months. Pullets for winter laying should have attained full growth before winter sets in because after the cold weather comes there is little opportunity for them to complete their growth unless in the hands of a skillful feeder. Eggs from immature pullets will not secure for the poultry keeper satisfactory results.

(NOTE.—Trap nest experiments that have come under the writer's personal observation have proved that where healthy, strong, well-developed pullets and male birds have been used as breeders the results in incubation have proved equally as good as those from older birds, and in some cases even better).

*Pullets as Layers.*—That April and May hatched pullets are more prolific layers, has been fully demonstrated by experiments, which have shown, as before stated, that ten pullets lay as many eggs as seventeen year-olds or as twenty-four two-year-olds.

*Advantage of Pullets.*—By preparing pullets for winter egg-production the poultry keeper not only secures a much larger return during the first year but also secures it in the winter season when the highest prices are obtainable. It is readily seen therefore that eggs are produced during the first year at the least possible cost. The profits from hens are largely offset by the extra cost incurred in their keep (which may be reckoned at \$1 per year), and the extra number required to secure the same results.

*Type to Select.*—Select only the active, vigorous pullets of the low-set, deep-breasted type, with broad well-rounded head, and bright intelligent eye, and as nearly as possible to the requirements of the Standard of Perfection for the breed represented. Some idea of the desirable type may be learned from Fig. 53 and 56, and the type to avoid by Fig. 57.

*Type to Avoid.*—Avoid the long leg, the lack of symmetry, the long flat head and dull uninterested eye. These are positive indications that the bird is lacking in constitution and breed characteristics, all important factors in the laying pen or the fattening crate.

*Time to Select.*—Pullets intended for winter laying should be placed in their winter quarters in the early fall before the weather has shown any material change in temperature. The pullets will thus have sufficient time to become accustomed to their confined conditions before they commence laying. When the change from summer to winter quarters is made the pullets should receive very considerate attention for the first few days, as the change of condition from free range to confinement is likely to make them discontented, unless surroundings and food are of a most inviting nature.

**ESSENTIALS TO SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION OF WINTER EGGS.**—In summer on free range the flock is able to secure sufficient exercise and a right proportion of the different kinds of food. It is necessary therefore to imitate these conditions as much as possible during the winter months.