

shovel off a few square feet in each yard so as to let them get to mother earth. And yet in the past five years, summer or winter, their has scarcely a day occurred in which his hens have not laid some eggs. For a few days the egg product has been very slight, but it has very rarely ceased entirely. The writer, therefore, even at the risk of appearing ungallant, is obliged to dissent from the quoted statements.

The secret of continued egg production, even in winter, is probably due to a number of considerations.

First.—Although the advice to keep but one breed is admirable from the point of view of a fancier, it is not so from the point of view of one who desires eggs at all seasons of the year. Different breeds lay, to some extent at least, in different parts of the year, and he or she who depends upon a single breed is more likely to strike a barren period than the one who depends upon several and widely differing breeds.

Second.—Different ages of fowls is another point to be considered. Don't kill off all the old hens, for they with the very early pullets, are the main reliance for winter laying. By having broods early, medium and late, eggs will be found and produced at nearly all seasons of the year, the late pullets frequently proving very valuable egg producers in the late summer months after their first winter.

Third.—Exercise in the open air, comfortable, well-ventilated houses, and plenty of food in cold weather contribute to health and vitality, and help to keep up heat for the bodies and force for egg production. Dry grains, corn, barley, wheat with animal food in some form, and vegetable food, like cabbage and onions, make a diet that will enable the fowls to lay when the thermometer is ten or more degrees below zero, as my experience abundantly proves.

As a fancier, I have never forced my hens to lay through the winter. Eggs are worth a great deal more to me during the breeding season than at any other time, but despite this fact, despite indeed the resorting to foods which are not usually regarded as conducive to the free production of eggs, my hens have laid winter after winter and I have had eggs to use and sell when many of my neighbors who kept hens had none. But I keep several breeds, give my hens opportunity to exercise, keep them in comfortable houses where they have abundance of fresh air, and have pullets of different ages and some old hens that have proved excellent breeders. My hens are fed all they will eat and are usually in good condition to kill. To these facts I attribute the continued, almost uninterrupted supply of eggs.

"RE INCUBATORS."

TO THE POULTRY FANCIERS OF CANADA.

Editor Review:—

IN your last issue I noticed an article under this heading. By the wording I thought it meant what it said, but to my surprise, I find it is all about the Gerred Incubator, and for what reason no one can find out by reading the article. Those of us who are behind the scene may be able to guess what the writer is trying to get at. Mr. Dilworth had one of our machines which he says he failed, but blames himself somewhat. The next trial he was, so he says, fairly successful. He gave us a testimonial, that if carefully attended to it would prove satisfactory, admitting that he had left undone something he should have done. This same machine was sold to Mr. Lewis of Owen Sound, an old fancier. Who sold it for us? Why Mr. Dilworth. This machine hatched so well for Mr. Lewis that he asked if we would take it back and he would pay the difference for a larger one, which we did. This one also gave good results. The same machine that Mr. Dilworth had I ran myself last spring, (it is over eight years old) and many can testify what I hatched with it. Perhaps Mr. Dilworth does not possess that fair amount of intelligence that is necessary to run a machine successfully. Again he says they have not been generally satisfactory. I do not know how he got his information, I find I have enough to do to look after my own business. Since my connection with the Gerred Incubator Co., which is over eight years, I have yet to see the machine that will not do as we represent it. Surely if they were not giving general satisfaction we would know it by this time. In regard to Mr. Gray, of Todmorden, I hope he will see fit to answer this himself. I may say he purchased his first machine (which was a Gerred) from a party who had given up the poultry business. Mr. Gray sold that machine and purchased a smaller one from us last year, he has sold that one since, and has given us another order for one this year. Would any intelligent man or woman buy a second machine if they did not give satisfaction? Reader judge for yourself.

Again he says that I have continually brought before his notice the advisability of inducing the Poultry Committee of our Industrial Exhibition to offer better prizes for Incubators, such as gold medals, worth \$50. I never advocated gold medals for Incubators yet. What I did advocate was that the Incubator that hatched 75 per cent of fertile eggs should be awarded a gold medal and a testimonial signed by the Poultry Committee of the Industrial Exhibition. Now why did