

being laid the better, but they may be kept several weeks. Usually, however, the vitality is somewhat affected by long keeping, and the goslings are not so strong and active as when hatched from fresh laid eggs.

Hens are generally used to hatch the first eggs, and for this purpose quite large hens, as Brahmas or Cochins, are generally preferred. Five to seven eggs, according to the size of the hen, are enough, as they require considerable heat, and should be well covered. Ducks are sometimes employed to hatch goose eggs, and will cover seven to nine eggs. Turkeys will hatch goose eggs nicely, but are rarely used for that purpose. Geese are generally allowed to sit on a part of the second or third litters laid. A goose is usually given eleven eggs for a sitting, although a very large one might cover thirteen. A goose covers the eggs with the downy feathers with which she has lined the nest, whenever she leaves it to feed or bathe. The ganders should be left with the geese during incubation. They will remain near the nest of their favorite and courageously defend her from any intrusion. Children should never be allowed to approach them at such a time, as they are capable of inflicting serious injury. Eggs can be successfully hatched in incubators, but most of the breeders in this State set the eggs under hens or geese.

Some breeders wash the eggs if covered with mud, while others do not. If the nests of the geese are properly provided with straw, the eggs will never be sufficiently soiled to require washing. A basement, or a fairly close building, where a reasonably mild and uniform temperature can be maintained, makes an excellent place for setting hens on goose eggs. After the eggs have been incubated for about seven to ten days they can be tested, and the infertile ones taken out. The fertile ones can then be all placed under a part of the hens, if several have been set at one time, and fresh eggs placed under the others. The infertile eggs will be found to be as good for use in cooking as fresh eggs. The shells and lining membranes of goose eggs are thicker and tougher than those of hens' eggs, and care has to be exercised that they do not become too dry. Sprinkling the floor will help to keep the air of the place moist, and many breeders sprinkle the eggs and nest during the last two weeks of incubation, and still others dip the eggs into water

instead of sprinkling them. Some use lukewarm water, others use cold water. Eggs under a goose, however, seldom need attention, as more or less moisture is brought to the nest when the goose bathes, as she will at intervals, if allowed the opportunity. It is well to place food and water near the nest of the sitting goose at hatching time, so that she will be less likely to leave her nest before all the goslings are hatched. The fertile eggs usually hatch at the end of 28 or 30 days, but a longer time is occasionally required. Eggs have been hatched on the fortieth day of incubation.

#### GOSLINGS, CARE AND FEEDING.

The very early goslings are more valuable than those later hatched, because they mature earlier, and are the first to be ready for market. If hatched before the grass starts in the spring their care is rather a difficult matter. They require to be kept indoors, and on an earth floor, if possible, and should be provided with some kind of green food, as chopped lettuce or cabbage. Oats may be sown in shallow boxes of earth, and their tender blades make a good substitute for grass. As a rule, however, goose breeders calculate to have the first goslings hatched about the time grass begins to grow in the spring and the weather becomes sufficiently mild to allow the young goslings to be put out of doors. When hatched they do not require feeding until they are 24 or 36 hours old. The goose will take excellent care of her young brood, and need not be disturbed until time to feed them. Some hens, however, become restless on the nest, and are liable to kill the young goslings by treading upon them. In such cases it is well to give the goslings to a more quiet hen, or perhaps remove them to a wool-lined basket or box by the kitchen fire, where they can remain during the day, to be returned to the hen at night.

A good feed for young goslings is scalded, finely cracked Indian corn, with a little sweet Indian meal or bran mixed with it. It should not be wet and sticky, but just enough water should be added to make the dough have a crumbly consistency. Northern flint corn, finely cracked, is preferred by some feeders. At the end of 24 or 36 hours they may be removed from the nest and fed. Water should be provided in a shallow dish, in which a few pebbles or bits of coal