

sitters. The experience with sitting hens from year to year, is a varied and not altogether a happy one. During the early part of the season the Langshan cock, a very fine bird, sickened and notwithstanding treatment died. Later in the season the Andalusian cock also died. The latter was replaced by a younger bird. In both cases the want of fertility of the Langshan and Andalusian eggs may be attributed to the lack of condition, on the part of the male birds, prior to apparent symptoms of sickness. In the case of the Andalusian death was comparatively sudden. The Dorking cock was an old, but very fine bird. Some of his progeny are of more than ordinary worth. It will be seen from the above that the eggs which gave the best hatching results were from the barred Plymouth Rocks, silver Wyandottes and white Leghorns, notwithstanding that the hens of these breeds were the earliest and steadiest layers. The chickens hatched were strong and vigorous.

GROWTH OF THE CHICKENS.

The progress of the chicks was most satisfactory. After remaining in their nests until thoroughly ripe, with the mother hen they were placed in coops arranged in a field of short grass and clover. Their first food was stale bread, soaked in milk and squeezed dry. A little at a time was fed. Granulated oatmeal, or rolled oats was added on the second or third day. The food was placed on clean boards and none was allowed to remain to sour. Care was taken that the chickens were not overfed, which bad practice leads to much disaster. Grain was not fed until the twelfth or fourteenth day. Milk, at times, and pure water always, furnished all the drink required. As soon as the chicks were firmly on their legs, a mash made of cornmeal, shorts, oatmeal, etc., with a small quantity of blood meal added and the whole mixed with boiling water, or milk, or both was fed in moderate quantity and much relished. As in previous years the most rapid flesh development was made by barred Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Java and Brahma cockerels. Without any forcing, other than regular feeding of wholesome food, in proper quantity and constant supply of pure water, there has never been any difficulty in having chickens of the breed named weigh four pounds each, or eight pounds per pair, at end of four months. In all cases such results were not

attained, but would doubtless have been secured had the chicks been penned and fattened.

For instance a barred Plymouth Rock cockerel was caught and sent away to a purchaser on the 26th October. It was hatched on the 11th March and when shipped weighed seven pounds five ounces.

A light Brahma cockerel, hatched on 3rd May, weighed on 2nd November when it was shipped, six pounds twelve ounces.

A barred Plymouth Rock cockerel, killed on the 17th of November, weighed after being bled and plucked six pounds four ounces. A pair of such chickens would have made weight of twelve pounds eight ounces and would have been quickly bought by any leading dealer in Montreal, at 10 cents per pound, or \$1.20 per pair. The farmer should aim to breed such chickens and he can easily do so, by keeping one of the breeds which make flesh development as mentioned above. A superior quality of poultry is in great demand in our leading cities, for home consumption, and export to the British market.

BEGINNING OF WINTER LAYING.

The fowls went into winter quarters in the second week of November. Winter laying may be said to have commenced about the 20th of the month. The first hens to resume laying were Plymouth Rocks, white Leghorns and Andalusians.

WHEN THE PULLETS BEGAN TO LAY.

The Plymouth Rock pullets hatched on the 11th March, three in number, matured early. The first egg laid by one of their number, was on 20th September. The others laid soon after and continued to do so, up to time of writing, 26th November. The moral is obvious. The early pullets begin to lay when the price of new laid eggs is becoming high. It is therefore an object to have early hatched pullets. The white Leghorn pullets, hatched at end of May, began to lay in the beginning of November.

WILD AND TAME GESE.

In the spring a tame gander was mated with one of the wild geese and a wild gander with a tame goose. The object was to obtain progeny from the cross. The limited quarters were evidently not suitable, for no results followed. The wild goose laid her usual quota of six eggs but hatched no offspring. The wild