

ers; 3. feeding old ducks. The first method for the sake of convenience and to explain more fully the composition of the rations, is subdivided into four parts as follows:

1. From time of hatching to five days old, provide the following mixture. Biscuit or bread crumbs and corn meal, equal parts by measure; hard boiled egg, 15 per cent of the total bulk of biscuit and meal; sand, 5 per cent of the total of biscuit and meal. Mix with water or milk and feed four times a day.

2. From five to twenty days old, the following mixture is given: wheat bran, two parts by measure; corn meal, one part; rolled oats, 50 per cent of this bulk; beef scraps, 5 per cent; sand, 5 per cent; green food, 10 per cent. Mix with water to a dry crumbly state, and feed four times a day.

3. From twenty to forty-two days old the following mixture: wheat bran, two parts by measure; corn meal, one part; beef scraps, 5 per cent of this bulk; sand, 5 per cent; green food, 10 per cent. Mix with water to a dry crumbly state and feed four times a day.

4. From forty-two to seventy days old, the following mixture: corn meal, two parts by measure; wheat bran, one part; beef scraps, 10 per cent of this bulk; coarse sand or grit, 5 per cent; green food, 10 per cent. Mix with water to a dry crumbly state and feed four times a day. The hours for feeding are 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. In another article, I will give rules for feeding ducks for marketing at ten weeks of age.

DUCKS.

(Accidentally omitted from our last.)

Ducks can be raised successfully almost anywhere. It is not necessary that they have access to running water or a pond, only so they have drinking water. They do better in small runs as ducks are weak in their legs and will not stand becoming fatigued. The most popular ducks are the Rouen, Aylesbury, Pekin and Cayuga. The Pekin takes the lead as a market "broiler" duck. They may be kept under perfect control, grow the largest and mature the quickest. One drake should be kept with 4 or 5 females. The pens are best bedded with straw or shavings which may be removed when it becomes foul and unclean. Ducks will make their nests in the bed-

ding and lay either in the night or early in the morning and should be kept in until sure that all the eggs are laid. Duck eggs are very successfully hatched in Incubators. Thousands of eggs are hatched annually by means of incubators on the large American duck farms. Hard-boiled eggs and stale bread crumbs make an excellent first food for ducklings. Cooked vegetables, corn meal, beef scraps, biscuit crumbs which may be bought from the bakers, green food, bread and milk, clover later and cut rye. As they grow older, feed more corn meal and beef scraps. Always feed a little sand.

A duck of the improved breeds will lay from 120 to 160 eggs per year and usually begins in February. If kept in the house until about eight o'clock in the morning they will lay in the house as they lay early in the morning but if turned out too soon they sometimes deposit their eggs in other places and even in ponds. One drake to six ducks is sufficient and if young females are used it is best to have a two year old drake, though sometimes the eggs hatch well from parents of the same age on both sides, and less than a year old.

The keeping of ducks for eggs is the profitable part of duck raising, when rightly conducted and the keeper is within easy access to a city market. During the early spring months duck eggs bring higher prices than hen eggs, and it is at this season that ducks are the most prolific. To obtain the best results from eggs the laying ducks should be hatched the latter part of the breeding season in June and July. The spring hatched will grow larger and will make better breeding stock but with proper care these late broods will lay as soon, in fact as the early hatched and will not require to be fed during March, April and May. The proper food for such ducks to induce early and prolific laying is well illustrated by a successful breeder who generally winters about 500. He feeds them on equal parts of boiled turnips, wheat, bran and corn meal with a little, say, about ten per cent, beef scraps. This is mixed together perfectly while the turnips are hot and constitutes the entire feed during the winter and spring. About the first of January, or a little later, when they begin to lay, the proportion of bran and meat scraps should be increased. This mess is fed morning and evening and at noon they have a light meal of dry food composed of equal parts of cracked corn oats and wheat.