

winter. They will carry it out to them by the half bushel—perhaps throw it into filth. To give all the wheat they can eat to growing chickens in the summer and fall when they have unlimited range through fields and meadows is an excellent plan, but is ruinous to laying stock in winter. It is not a complete egg food. You must in your winter feeding try as nearly as possible to imitate the food obtained by the hen on a free range in summer. You must feed a substitute for the green grass, for the worms and grasshoppers, for the small stones and all the other little things obtained on a free range. The nearer your food approaches what the hens obtain on a free range the healthier they will be, and the more eggs they will lay in winter. Turnips, potatoes, cabbage, beets and cut clover hay will do for grass, fine gravel for the small stones, oyster shells or dried egg shells for lime, and cut green bones or meat of some sort for the insects. Wheat, oats, corn, barley and buckwheat, fed at different times, not one all the time, will give plenty of change. Never feed one kind of grain continually. A very good way to feed is to take two parts oats to one part barley ground together, mix with about equal bulk of cut clover and steam it. Feed this in the morning at daybreak. Feed just what they will eat up readily. Never allow them to gorge themselves, or they will mope about all day when they should be lively for best results. Cooked turnips or potatoes may be substituted for the clover, or a head of cabbage hung up for them to pick at. Raw pulped turnips will also be relished for a change. At noon scatter a little wheat, barley or buckwheat in six inches of straw for them to scratch after, and at night give a good feed of wheat, so that they go to roost with their crops well filled. Oyster shells where they can get at them at all times will help them, though I do not consider them absolutely necessary. Plenty of fine gravel must always be before them. Fed carefully in this way, kept in comfortable quarters, clean and healthy with a little meat in some shape added, your fowls will lay plenty of

EGGS IN WINTER,

when they are worth most money at a cost much less than it costs the farmer who feeds wheat to his half frozen hens all winter without any eggs. Right here we must not forget that the best method of feeding in the world will not make scrubby August hatched pullets lay in winter. Your hens must have moulted before December and your pullets must be well grown by that time if you are to obtain the very best results. Then again your fowls should be kept in small flocks of from twenty to twenty-five birds, with plenty of room, you cannot have too much, say ten square feet of floor space to each bird.

Now every one of these conditions is necessary if you are to be as successful as it is possible to be, and no one should be contented with any less success in anything he undertakes. Neglect the little things in the care of your poultry, and just as surely as in any other half-managed undertaking, failure will follow. Poultry in winter needs constant though not laborious attention. There is just as little profit in feeding half frozen fowls as half frozen pigs and cattle. With proper housing, feeding and the right fowls, you will have a constant supply of eggs that will bring you in a nice income during the winter months, and cost you very little besides extra trouble, that is really no trouble at all. By March you should begin to think about

RAISING OF CHICKENS.

Take your cock and with him put eight or ten of your best hens in a pen, to which, as the snow leaves, fence off a nice grass run. Every farmer should have a pen in which to do his breeding. From this pen, after they have been mated ten days, save your eggs for hatching. Never set your hens, if you can at all avoid it, in the hen-house. They are almost certain to bring vermin. Take a shallow box large enough to make a good-sized nest, fill it with earth or sand to about three inches of the top, smooth nicely, sloping towards the centre. Put a couple inches of hay chaff on the earth, and in the nest put some china eggs. Place the nest where no other hens can molest the hatcher. On this nest set your hen at night. Have food, water, and a dust-bath within reach of her. If she goes on and off all right, you may put eggs under her, first dusting her carefully with insect powder, putting some in the nest, or if you choose, powdered sulphur or a little tobacco. Repeat this a few days before the chickens come out. Always set two or more hens at the same time, and at the end of a week or ten days test out all infertile eggs.

A CHEAP EGG-TESTER

may be made by cutting a hole in the centre of the lid of a biscuit box large enough to admit the small end of an egg well into it. Place the egg in the hole and hold it up in front of a good strong light at night, and if the eggs have been set from seven to ten days all that are infertile will be clear, just like a fresh egg, while all fertile ones will be dark. Take out all clear eggs, and put the rest from the three or four hens you set at the same time under just what hens are needed to cover them, and reset the others with fresh eggs. Thus you will save much time, as you will avoid having hens set to no purpose. Boil the infertile eggs and feed them to the chickens. Never feed young chickens inside of twenty-four to thirty-six hours after they are hatched. For the first week feed every two to four hours. For the first feed give