

8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

demand in the market, and will keep prices up as long as possible until the supplies get more plentiful. We do not guarantee prices for more than one week at a time at this season of the year. We are open for a few shipments weekly from any of your farmers that have strictly new laid eggs to dispose of, and, as I said before, will pay the highest market prices going in the city.

Yours truly,

HENRY GATEHOUSE.

I have no letter from Messrs. Westgate and Lewis, of McGill College Avenue, Montreal, but I met Mr. Westgate not many weeks ago at the Macdonald College, where he was addressing the students attending the poultry course, and he told them that the prices paid by their firm were much the same as those I have just quoted. He also made the statement that for the superior quality of poultry from 10 to 15 cents and sometimes 20 cents per pound, according to season, were paid. The earlier birds getting the best prices. He said, what I know to be unfortunately too true, that far too much poultry of inferior quality and type were sent to them. Much of the poultry received by their firm from the country were improperly killed, carelessly plucked and badly packed. Poultry came to them with their crops filled, or, partially filled with food which decomposed and ruined the carcass of the bird. Poultry, before being killed, should be fasted for 24 or 36 hours, and should not be drawn. The better quality of poultry and strictly fresh eggs would always command good prices when it reached the proper markets.

PROPER FOOD AND TREATMENT FOR YOUNG CHICKENS.

So much for eggs and poultry. We now consider the best way of treating the chickens. Whether hatched by hens or incubators, experience of many years has proved that the farmer who uses either means will get best results by having his chickens out in the first two weeks of May. In one of my reports it has been shown where the wives of farmers have used incubators and brooders with great success. In the case of the hen-hatched chickens the latter were permitted to remain in their nest for twenty-four or thirty-six hours, when with the mother hen they were placed in a slatted coop on the grass outside. The coop was so arranged that it could be securely closed at night, while ventilation was secured. Through the slats the chicks could run on the grass outside, while the hen remained inside. On the floor of coop was dry earth to the depth of two inches. On taking the mother hen from her nest she was given food and water. She had been probably thirty-six hours on the nest, bringing out her chickens and deserved the attention. Apart from this she would be more likely to brood the chickens contentedly, after being fed, than if hungry or thirsty. How important it is to have early chicks carefully brooded is well known to all experienced breeders.

First day.—Little or no food is required. Towards end of the day a few stale bread crumbs may be fed.

Second day.—Stale bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry may be given in small quantity. Feed a little at a time and leave none on the platform. A little hard-boiled egg finely cut up may be added with benefit. Continue this for a day or two and add granulated oatmeal; finely crushed wheat may be given at this time.

Continue the stale bread soaked in milk and granulated oatmeal for ten days, when finely crushed corn may be added to the foregoing with advantage. After 14 days give whole wheat in small quantity at first.

As the chicks grow older they should be given a mash composed of stale bread, shorts, cornmeal, ground meat, &c. Finely cut bone or meat will be found a great incentive to growth at this stage.

On the chickens becoming eight weeks of age their rations may be dropped to three per day. Care should be taken that they are generously fed at last ration. For