

Third.—A soft mash fed at night is scarcely substantial enough to carry the hens through the long winter nights.

One to one and a half gallons of soft mash once per day is plenty for 100 hens.

ANIMAL FOOD.

Animal food can be fed in the form of **skim milk** or **butter-milk**, which is the cheapest form in which it can be obtained. Where neither of these can be secured, some meat food should be fed. In winter cut **green bone** can usually be secured at a reasonable price. **Butchering offal** will also furnish it for a short time. **Jack rabbits, horse meat** or almost any kind of meat will answer the purpose. The chief objection to any of these raw meats or the green bone is that they will not keep unless the weather is cold. Care must also be taken in their feeding, as liver trouble is bound to follow their excessive use. Raw meat can be suspended from the ceiling by wire or cord to such a height that the hens have to jump to peck it. This guards against too heavy feeding and also gives more exercise. One half ounce of cut green bone per hen twice or three times a week is feeding heavily enough. This is best fed raw and given in a trough.

MINERAL FOOD.

The mineral food is furnished to some extent in the grains and other food, but, while laying, hens require a good deal more **lime** than is contained in any of the foods they get. The most convenient form in which to feed this is the **oyster shell**. Some **grit** or **coarse sand** should also be within reach. Since fowl have no teeth, we must furnish them with grit of some kind so they can grind their food and make proper use of it. Oyster shell cannot take the place of grit, nor can grit take the place of oyster shell. Both should be fed. While laying, hens will eat an enormous amount of oyster shell, the lime of which goes to form the egg shells.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In feeding for eggs, it is necessary to give as much variety as possible. Frequent changes are always good. Plenty of exercise is important. The use of **condiments** and **condition powders** should be avoided as much as possible. If a tonic is needed, give the flock a dose of **Epsom Salts** once a week for a month or so. Use it at the rate of one pound to every hundred hens. Dissolve in hot water and mix with a bran mash. The **charcoal** in the dry mash is very good as an absorber of gases in the digestive tract and in this way also acts as a tonic.

Care, discretion and good judgment must be used in feeding hens. A good deal depends on looking after the details properly. The use of good food and a well balanced ration, fed in the right way to a flock of hens, cannot fail to increase egg production. The skillful poultry man is he who can feed so that the flock is neither overfed nor underfed. The ability to follow the happy medium is an art, and is something that can be learned only by experience.