

Poultry.

Amount of Food Required Daily.

In an experiment in England for the purpose of determining the daily amount of food consumed by different breeds of fowls, the following was the result:

Dorkings.....	6 ounces, 391 grains.
Games.....	4 " 275 "
Buff Cochins.....	17 " 296 "
Langshans.....	7 " 31 "
Dominicks.....	4 " 336 "
Brown Leghorns.....	4 " 398 "
Hamburgs.....	4 " 120 "
Polish.....	4 " 28 "
Guinea Fowls.....	4 " 182 "

It will be seen that the Buff Cochins eat much more than any of the other breeds, and to show the increase of weight in proportion to food consumed, it may be stated that each gained daily as follows for twenty days:

Dorkings.....	138 grains, and laid 130 eggs per year.
Games.....	92 " 100 " "
Buff Cochins.....	77 " 115 " "
Langshans.....	123 " 115 " "
Dominicks.....	92 " 110 " "
B. Leghorns.....	107 " 190 " "
Hamburgs.....	92 " 239 " "
Polish.....	46 " 98 " "
Guineas.....	75 " "

It will be noticed that the Hamburgs gave the largest number of eggs and the Brown Leghorns next, but the Dorkings and Langshans made the largest daily gain in growth, while the Cochins, though consuming enormously of food, did not show its effects either in eggs or the first twenty days growth. Taking the three highest for weight at six months, the following was the result:

Dorkings weighed 10 pounds, 1 ounce, and 685 grains.

Buff Cochins weighed 9 pounds, 13½ ounces.

Langshans weighed 10 pounds, 5 ounces, and 437 grains.

The greatest gain was made by the Langshans, but for the food allowed the Dorkings are entitled to the honor. We give the above as the result of experiments in England. In this country the conditions would be reversed perhaps. Hamburgs seldom lay as many as 239 eggs, but in England the climate seems best adapted to both Dorkings and Hamburgs. In estimating the results the kind of food should be considered, which was not given. We use corn largely in this country, and hence experiments here would be conducted differently. Chicks when hatched usually weigh about one and one-half ounces, those from the large breeds having an advantage. We intend to conduct similar experiments for the benefit of our readers.—[Farm and Garden.

Lice and Red Mites.

First let me tell you all that if you would use the "ounce of prevention" when you set your hens, and would always coop the broods in a clean coop, your chicks would not be troubled with big lice, or little lice, or lice of any kind. When you set a hen, put a handful of tobacco leaves, or some fine cut tobacco, or a dose of sulphur, or snuff, or carbolic powder, insect powder, anything (except kerosene or grease of any kind) that hen-lice don't like, in the nest, and rub the old hen's feathers full of sulphur. If you will do this the chicks will come from the nest entirely free from lice. Then put them in a clean coop, and see that they have some place to wallow in the dust, as soon as big enough, and they will stay free from lice. But if you were not wise in season,

and your chicks and turkeys are now suffering for your sins of omission, you must do the next best thing—get rid of the lice. For the big lice that "stick so," you must take a big pin, and catch them. You will not often find more than three or four on a chick, and those stick to the head. After you have removed the torments rub the head with a mixture of sweet oil and carbolic acid, which will prevent any more nits hatching, and also prove "kind o' soothin'" to the wounds made by lice; for be it known that these big head lice actually bore their way right into the flesh. I have seen them half buried in the chick's head, and when they are that bad they must be removed at once, else the chick will quit living. For common chicken lice on young chicks and turkeys, there is nothing so good and safe as carbolic powder, or insect powder, and the best way to apply it is to dust it well into the feathers of mother hen just at night, so that it will have all night in which to do its work. The chicks will get their share as they nestle beneath the hen. If the first application does not do the work effectually, repeat until not a louse is left to tell the tale. Usually two applications are sufficient. The coops occupied by chicks or turkeys infested with lice, should be thoroughly whitewashed, and moved to a fresh spot of ground.

After chicks and turkeys are three months old, kerosene may be used for lice, and no ill results follow—provided the oil is used in a sensible manner. Do not wet the chickens all over, but rub a little of the oil on top of the head, under the wings, and into the feathers on the under part of the body. Don't mix any sulphur with the coal oil; the oil alone is sure death to lice. But let me tell you that if chickens are kept free from lice until they are three months old, and after that age furnished with a wallow of dust and ashes, and their coops occasionally treated to whitewash or coal oil, they will not be troubled with lice enough to hurt.

About those red mites, or spider lice—well, I do think they are just the meanest "critters" that ever vexed fowls and their owners. When they once get in a fowl-house, nothing but a "stern unrelenting warfare" will clean them out. They don't stay on the fowls during the day, but hide on the under side of the perches, and in cracks and crevices about the roosts and nests; at night they come forth from their "retreats," and just swarm on the fowls. To begin the war of extermination, catch all your fowls, and rub coal oil into the feathers on the under part of the body, and under the wings. You needn't be so particular as with chicks, for a little kerosene more or less won't hurt old fowls. After you get through with the hens, stop a minute and think how uncomfortable you feel with a million hen lice crawling up your arms; then carry everything that is loose out of the hen house, and whitewash the house thoroughly. If there is an earth floor in the house, or a floor covered with earth, scrape off the top, and put it somewhere where the fowls cannot get at it; then spread on fresh earth and scatter lime freely. This part of the work done, shut up the house as close as possible, carry in an old iron kettle half full of live coals, pour on a pound of sulphur, shut the door, and turn your attention to the "movables" out of

doors. Wet the perches thoroughly with coal oil and set fire to them. If you can get new perches just as well as not, better let the old ones burn all up, but if you must use the old ones again, put the fire out with an old broom and a pail of water, and the lice will be out too. Whitewash the nest boxes, and pour coal oil into all cracks where the lime does not reach. After you get through with this, and have "changed your clothes," the house will be smoked enough, and you can open it to air. The next day, and about every day for a week after this house-cleaning, examine the under side of the perches after the fowls have left the roost; if you find a single mite, wet the roost thoroughly with coal oil, for if but a half dozen of the little bloodthirsty wretches escape destruction, they will "bring forth after their kind" with astonishing rapidity; and next thing you will know, the house will be "just swarming" with red mites again.

While I am talking about lice, I may as well tell the poultry keepers who do not even suspect the presence of red mites in their fowl houses, that it wouldn't do a bit of harm if they were to examine the under side of the perches for the "dark red patches," which are simply millions of red mites.—[Fanny Field, in Prairie Farmer.

Two ounces is probably the average weight of eggs, but some often reach three ounces. Those from pullets are not only lacking in size, but also in weight, proportionately. Some of the small breeds lay eggs larger in size than do the larger breeds, such as the Black Spanish, but if large eggs are desired they can only be procured from fully matured birds, no matter what the breed may be. No amount of food will compensate for youth or imperfect growth. The hens over a year old lay the largest eggs.

Poultry can be forced artificially the same as plants. This has been shown the past season by comparing the progress made by chicks raised in brooders with those under hens. Pullets hatched the 15th of January began to lay May 1st, although they were not quite four months old. This shows that by subjecting the chicks to artificial heat, and forcing them in growth, the reproductive functions are also stimulated, but such pullets will cease to lay when they reach maturity much sooner than will those that develop slowly. What is gained in the beginning is but a hastening of nature, and the period of life and usefulness will be correspondingly shortened.

The importance of plenty stable room with an abundance of ventilation during the hot months cannot be over-rated. The health of the stock demands it. Horses accustomed to hard work are not usually subject to colds, so that there is no danger to be apprehended in maintaining a constant and abundant circulation of fresh air, even when the nights turn moderately cool. The practice also tends to make the horses hardy.

The one judge system is gaining ground at our exhibitions. It is contended that under this system, the whole responsibility being placed on one judge, he would refuse to act unless he was competent and able to shoulder the responsibilities, whereas, under the present system, when an incompetent judge acts, he throws the responsibility of his bad judgment upon his fellow judges.