

The Poultry Yard.

FEEDING FOR GROWTH.

To push young chicks along and keep them in health, there is nothing better than boiled eggs mashed up, shells and all, with two or three times their bulk of stale bread crumbs, or cracker crumbs, thoroughly mixed. Mix not more than enough for one feed of this at a time and give them only what they will eat readily and quickly. Feed stale bread soaked in milk, either whole, skimmed, or buttermilk after the milk has been squeezed out by hand. Only one feed of this should be prepared at a time, as it will sour if left to stand any length of time. Millet seed scattered in the litter about the brood house or the short grass, plump wheat screenings, oats and corn ground together, with an equal quantity of bran, and made into Johnny cakes,—are good for the youngsters.

After they get to be three weeks old cracked corn and whole wheat may form a larger part of their diet, increasing it as they grow older. Better results are attained by a judicious alternation of all, day by day, or feed by feed; it keeps the appetite sharp and they are always on the lookout for the new surprise at meal time. Don't forget the pure clean water, they need that whatever the feed. If the soil does not supply grit in proper shape and size it should be furnished them; a dish of charcoal where they can help themselves, or a handful in the soft feed four or five times a week, will prevent most of the ordinary bowel troubles. No tonic or stimulant should be needed at this age, but if a brood gets suddenly chilled, a dose of some good condition powder will help to put them on their feet again.—[B. Holmes, Jr.

HOW I SUCCEEDED.

Before I had attained any degree of success in the poultry business, I started with a flock of 50 hens and at the close of the year I made them pay \$1 a head or 50 on the flock. I figured, as many others do, that if 50 will pay 50, 200 will pay 200, but somehow hens don't figure that way. They figure that just in proportion to the increase of the flock the profits will decrease in the same ratio, especially with beginners. I started with 175 the next year, and before the winter was over I began to discover the truth of the above maxim, which if more generally known would save many heart-breaking sobs of the overzealous beginner. The following year I told my folks that I would sell all but 25 hens and make a study of them and if I could not make them pay I would go out of the business. At the close of the year I made them pay 2 a head and I was satisfied. The following year I increased the flock to 50. At the close of the year I made them pay 2 a head and was satisfied. The next year I increased the flock to 65 and woke up the morning of the new year and found I had made 3 a head on common, mixed hens with eggs at the ordinary market prices at the stores. When I got up to a flock of 200 hens I had to be satisfied with 2 a head profit with eggs at common market prices. During last winter there were rolled out of my flock of 130 hens 70 to 80 eggs daily.—[L. S. Richards, Mass.

Watch the Turkeys—Never let a turkey steal her nest. If she does, ten to one it will not be found until she hatches, and probably not a chick will she raise; for turkeys are the wanderers of the barnyard habitats, and the weaklings will be lost in the wet grass or hawks or crows will pick them off. Young turks cannot stand dampness, therefore keep them dry and warm, letting them out only when the weather is sunny. Grease their heads to prevent lice.—[L. L. Trott, Me.

Little Ducks have to be taught to know a chicken mother. They don't understand her language; have to learn it just as you would a foreign tongue. If you put them out in a coop when hatched, have a small yard in, so that they cannot stray away from the hen and get chilled.—[Follow an older flock until they fall over exhausted. The flock that did the best for me was kept with the hen in a large box in the

kitchen window for several days. The first food was moistened bread which they ate from my hand. They didn't seem to know enough to pick it up from the floor of the coop, and paid no attention to the old hen's vociferous calls to come to dinner. While this method is rather tedious, one is paid for the trouble by the rapid growth of the youngsters, besides it takes away that natural timidity with which Pekins are almost always endowed.—[Mrs Leonard Johnson, Delaware Co, Pa.

Buff Beauties—Those who especially admire the buff breeds prefer this variety of Leghorns because to its deep, rich plumage it adds the practical qual-



PAIR OF BUFF LEGHORNS.

ities of other Leghorns, being a prolific layer, early maturing, with yellow legs and skin and very vigorous. The color is probably obtained from an infusion of blood from the R I Reds. The cock has rich buff colored hackle and saddle, so deep as to nearly approach a brown. The standard gives for the tail a deep, rich buff or copperish bronze. The rest of the plumage is light. White or black feathers disqualify.

Poultry Queries—C. H. S. complains that his ducks lose the use of their legs. If they have a wet place to sleep in it will cause this trouble. Give plenty of oyster shells, feed less shorts and more corn meal.—W. R. B. has fowls with symptoms of cholera, yellowish droppings. His hens are getting some sour or moldy food or impure water. Remove the cause and if possible, change to new ground.—J. S. G. has hens dying from some mysterious disease which causes the crops to burst open.

It is possible they are getting some poisonous food. Better change the location.—C. H. E. asks cause of unnatural growth of wing and tail feathers. The trouble is brought on by close confinement and cover feeding and lack of green food. In very young chickens the trouble is caused by weakness of the stock, often caused by inbreeding.—B. L.: I do not know of any home-made egg stimulant which amounts to anything, as healthy fowls need no stimulant except plenty of meat and a variety of grain and green food.

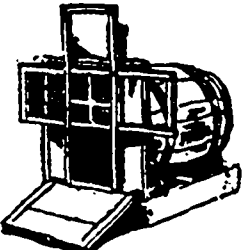
A Market Egg Box—Where one markets his eggs to private customers or at the stores even, the egg box shown herewith will be found very serviceable. It is a box about half the length of a 30-doz egg carrier, with a



handle and fitted drawers, each drawer being fitted with pasteboard egg fillers. A drawer of eggs can thus be taken from the box and carried into the customer's house, the box itself being left in the wagon. The bottom of each drawer may well be covered with coarse bran, and the pasteboard fillers placed on these, thus providing a soft resting place for each egg.

The Best Food for Turkeys when just hatched is stale wheat bread moistened with milk and hard-boiled eggs crumbled fine. Season the feed lightly with black pepper. When three weeks old, commence with corn meal cooked or scalded. A little bone meal and meat will be a great help. The cause of turkeys dying when they begin to feather may be lice or lack of stimulating food. This is a critical period with young turkeys. They should be kept dry with plenty of food.—[R. G. Burinton.

A Barrel Coop Up to Date—A useful modification of the old-fashioned barrel



coop is suggested by a Maine correspondent. The barrel or box rests on a pair of runners or sled to which the front and a set of doors are attached, thus keeping the bottom of the coop perfectly dry. The revolving doors turn on a half-inch bolt. One door has fine wire bars, another has two bars which keep the hen inside; another has glass for stormy weather and the fourth allows both hens and chicks to go in and out.

Geese will destroy a fair-sized garden should they have free passage there for an hour.

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