

the nest boxes, which should be easily removed, and when placed back and filled with straw should receive a dusting of the powder, the building can be sprayed with kerosene emulsion with a little carbolic acid in it.

#### THE EGG YIELD.

A hen when she yields five eggs per week is at her best though many will lay every day for two weeks at a time. To show you what I have accomplished in a very cold building with the thermometer three times down to zero, I will just state the egg yield for last Jan. ('96) from five white Wyandotte pullets. They began laying on New Year's Day and laid altogether 75 eggs an average of 15 eggs each in 30 days, these were sold for only 18c per doz. which gave for the 6½ doz. \$1.17, and deducting 45c. for feed (9c. each) leaves a net profit per hen of 14c for the month, this was under very trying conditions. Farmers should only select a few of their best hens to breed from, not mating more than 10 with a male and for ordinary purposes they should be mated up by the middle of March, and the male bird separated from flock after the middle of May, and either killed or given an enc' sure to himself; he can be kept two years without loss, but it is better for market poultry to avoid in-breeding.

#### INCUBATION.

Of course for very early chickens the incubator is the only resort, so I keep three on hand (one for duck eggs) and mate up flocks in middle of Feb., last spring I managed to secure one hatch of 75% of fertile eggs, but it is generally below 60%, this was in a home-made hot water incubator, perhaps by the novice, more loss is sustained in the rearing than in hatching, this machine was filled night and morning with a pail or more of boiling water, first of all drawing out nearly one pail to heat up again. The eggs are half-turned twice a day with a rack, and the thermometer kept at 103°, I have also one imported machine and a brooder, also an excellent home-made brooder heated with lamp, this machine is to keep the chickens warm, and should be run up to 90° or 100° before placing chicks in it.

#### FEEDING CHICKS.

See that all chicks get fine sharp grit from the first and don't feed till 24 hours from shell, then giving bread soaked in milk and squeezed dry and oatmeal or rolled oats fed dry, it is best to bake a cake, composed of cornmeal and middlings with a little soda and a pinch of salt in it, crumble this up and feed dry not soaked, green feed should be supplied in the shape of finely cut clover, lettuce or cabbage and occasionally some meat, after the first week cracked

grain can be fed and the feeding hours can be reduced from five to three after the fourth week, you must keep them warm and give plenty of exercise, and free from any dampness, or else leg weakness will set in, this is also attributed to too much forcing, a Wyandotte is said to stand this forcing process better than the Plymouth Rock and to make a better broiler. They are finished off at from eight to twelve weeks by a weeks feed of cracked corn and cornmeal. The roasters or large chickens as the Plymouth Rock and Brahmas are grown to about 8 lbs. the pair. Mr. Gilbert has made quite a record for himself by making a Plymouth Rock cockerel at four months old weigh exactly 6 lbs., you will here see the extraordinary gain on an average of 1½ lbs. per month, at present I myself have not put on much more than 1 lb. per month, I got a Plymouth Rock cockerel to gain after being five months old 3 lbs. 10 oz. in 3½ months, making the bird's total weight at nine months old about 9 lbs. The great aim in poultry raising must be greater and cheaper production. Cut clover hay is largely used now as a ration, it being prepared by cutting into ½ inch lengths and either steamed or scalded, this can be mixed up in the morning mash. I consider whole corn almost essential in growing cockerels to heavy weights, but should not be fed exclusively.

#### DUCKS.

Let us just look at what can be accomplished in duck raising; the Pekin is the favorite on this continent, though in England the duck raisers stick to the Aylesbury. You know my brothers across the water are very conservative, but as far as I am concerned they are welcome to them, there is not a great deal of difference after all is said and done, but give me the Pekin; I want no other.

Don't set the first dozen of eggs laid by ducks as they are invariably infertile; after that you will have very little trouble. Mine laid early in February last year.

The duck, unlike the chicken, takes very often 48 hours to get out of shell when hatching; a chick at that time would not be worth raising. Feed, when 24 hours old, very similar to chicks. They should always have water before them so as to wet their whole bill. They can be weaned from the hen after a week, and should be kept in a small enclosure; should have grit and be fed chiefly on middlings and cornmeal, scalded and boiled potatoes or turnips, giving at least three feeds per day. The noon feed can consist largely of green stuff; some give only cut corn fodder when available, but green clover and lettuce are especially beneficial. It is a good plan to feed something in the way of