

POULTRY FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT

Conducted by A. G. GILBERT, Manager Poultry Department, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

NOTE—Mr. Gilbert is nothing if not practical and experimental. He will from his rich store of information on the subject of "Practical Poultry" give Review readers each month the result of his experience for the past thirty years. He will be glad to answer questions or afford information on any particular subject.

It will be learned with satisfaction that the New Brunswick Government has promised to give a grant to the Poultry Association of St. John city, in recognition of the good work done in developing the poultry interests of the province. Mr. W. A. Jack, the well-known poultry breeder and writer of St. John, says in a report to the local government, that the aforementioned poultry association is fast taking into its fold every important poultry breeder in the province. And so the good work progresses.

Speaking of Mr. W. A. Jack's report, which is to be embodied in that of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the province of New Brunswick, I can say that it is an admirable one. Practical and of literary excellence. I am sure he will be only too happy to send advance sheets for publication by you. Your numerous readers cannot fail to be interested in it. By the way, the publication of a report on poultry in the Commissioner's blue book marks a new and important phase of poultry development in the Maritime Provinces.

White Plymouth Rocks Exclusively.

I will sell eggs from my pen of prize winners at \$2 per 13. At the Lambton Poultry Show, December, 1899, my birds won two firsts, one second and a special prize in competition with forty-two white Rocks; all single entries. Ten cockerels and a few more pullets for sale.

ALBERT EDWARDS,
Petrolia, Ont.

RATIONS.

IN WHAT QUANTITY SHOULD THEY BE FED. ARE DIFFERENT QUANTITIES REQUIRED IN WARM AND COLD HOUSES? A QUESTION RAISED BY CORRESPONDENTS.

AN esteemed correspondent in the Maritime Provinces writes as follows: "I cannot imagine how you get your fowls to lay in winter on the rations given in your reports, unless it is the bone and meal which supply the requisite essentials. I could not keep fifteen laying fowls on one pound of mash or cut green bones, fed on alternate mornings, with no noon ration except the green stuff and grit and your poor ration of grain. On the quantity of mash named my fowls would be nearly starving, especially the Minorcas." Another valued correspondent says much about the same thing with the additional remark, "that it may be owing to the fact that your poultry houses are artificially heated and warmer than smaller ones, that your fowls lay in winter."

As the matter is one of very great importance in the winter production of eggs, I should like to get the views and experiences of your many veteran and skilled readers. Will they help in a good cause?

First let me explain the composition of, and quantities in which our rations of the past three months were fed and the number of hens they were divided amongst.

The fowls numbered one hundred yearling hens and ninety-

nine pullets. Thirteen pounds of mash were fed four mornings, or afternoons every week, as nearly as possible in proportion of one pound to fifteen fowls. Other mornings, cut bone in same proportion. Afternoons or mornings when mash was not fed, whole grain—generally wheat—in quantity of 6 1-2 or 7 lbs. to 100 fowls. When cut bone mash was fed in the morning, immediately afterward, a few handfuls of oats were scattered in the litter on the floors of the pens, to incite the hens to exercise. Vegetables in the shape of mangles or turnips were always in supply, as were mica grit and ground oyster shells and pure water. Frequently during the week lawn clippings (collected and cured during previous summer months) were steamed and fed in liberal quantity about 11 a.m., and were eaten with evident relish.

No noon ration was given, for none was considered necessary. If the hens became hungry about noon time, they had the vegetables to turn to.

If they had been gorged at the morning meal, again fed at noon and in the afternoon, would the laying stock be inclined, at any time, for the exercise so necessary? Or would they be as likely to eat the grit and oyster shell, so desirable and conducive to good health?

It may be said that lime—in certain quantity—was supplied in the cut bone, and anyway, both lime and grit, or finely ground oyster shells could have been mixed into and fed with the mash.

But would it have been as natural a way as allowing the fowls to supply themselves?

THE EFFECT OF THE FOREGOING RATIONS.

On the forementioned rations the following pens of yearling hens and pullets laid the number of eggs as stated during January and February. It should be stated that the temperature of the