

ample; the one great object to be kept in view by the breeder is to endeavour to counteract the bad qualities in the one by the good ones in the other. Let it, however, be borne in mind, that however excellent in other points, no bad-coloured or really faulty-combed cock or ill-shaped hen should be retained as breeding stock, as they will invariably produce chickens of a very indifferent order.

Then again, as to the crossing of a breed, the cockerels in the progeny will more or less resemble the father, whilst the pullets follow the mother, and a knowledge of this fact is of much importance to those who wish to breed back to the original strain. In the larger breeds it is frequently desirable to increase the size, or to render more prominent some portion of the body; in such cases a cross with a hen of a foreign breed should be employed. If, on the contrary, it is the plumage which is sought to be modified, then it is the male bird which should be thrown in. The same rule should also be adopted in breeding the cross out again or in retaining any new characteristic.

The number of hens to be mated with a cock ought, in our opinion, to vary with circumstances. If the fowls are kept in a confined space, from four to six are deemed sufficient, but our experience tells us that with a good run a dozen hens with a strong healthy cock are not too many. Last season we had even more, and scarcely a rotten egg out of the many dozens we hatched. These remarks apply, of course, to the larger breeds. In the smaller breeds, such as Hamburgs, one cock is sufficient for a much larger proportion of hens than in the breeds of Cochins or Brahmans.

To secure eggs for winter use—keep your fowls in a comfortable house—facing the south, and carefully attend to their wants.

## A CHAT ABOUT EGGS.

For eggs there is always a good demand. No article brought into market by the farmer finds a readier sale than does his basket of fresh-laid eggs; nor is there any article of farm produce which yields him greater profit for his outlay. The cost of producing eggs is, to a farmer, very insignificant; few, if any, feed grain to poultry; they are allowed the free run of the barn-yard, and that is thought sufficient, and in many instances so it is; they pick up what would otherwise go to waste, consequently all the eggs laid are to their owner just so much profit, to say nothing of the chickens that are reared. To keep only such fowls, therefore, as lay a large number of eggs, and require only a moderate share of care and attention, ought to be, in poultry-keeping, a principal consideration with the farmer.

The average price of eggs in the Toronto market during the year, may be set down as 20 cents per dozen, and the average price of good beefsteak at 12½ cents per pound, and as six Brahma eggs will weigh 16 oz., and six Cochin eggs the same, it is very clear that one gets twice the weight of eggs for the same money that he would of steak. It is no wonder then that for fresh-laid eggs there is always a ready sale. Would it not be well then for farmers to pay a little more attention to egg-raising than they usually do?

In England and on the Continent, much attention is being paid to the improvement in the breeds of fowls, and especially to the means of increasing the number of eggs which each hen lays in the year. The houses are warmed by artificial heat, (which we object to in Canada) the most egg-producing and egg-suggesting food is given, and it is expected that the time is at hand when the yield from a single fowl, which by the old methods of feeding and care rarely reached to more than a hundred eggs in the year, will be double that number.