

of giving a goose too many eggs. They require a great deal of heat.

Care of Young.—Leave in the nest for thirty to thirty-six hours, then feed some bread and milk and let out on a green sod. Young goslings require care for about two weeks; after that they will fish for themselves. Do not let them get wet or do not let the old goose run too much. I usually coop her up, feeding well till the young are able to run; then I put them into a field and they live on grass until near feathering time. They must have fresh water every day.

Fattening.—When full-grown, I shut them up for about ten days, stuffing on boiled grain and corn, and they will be fat enough for anybody.

Profit.—The profits are two-fold: feathers and roasters. First, I pick ganders four times a year,

he were simply attracted by color, for he must, in the first place, examine the animal to see whether it is built upon lines enabling it to perform the work he desires it to do. The same is equally true in the case of cows, and this principle ought to be laid down for the guidance of all poultry-keepers. Fortunately, we can divide our different breeds of poultry into distinct classes, according to their economic qualities, and this is at once an important guide in the selection of breeds.

Our first point in the choice of stock for producing table poultry is that the bird shall be built in such a manner as to carry a large quantity of flesh in the right place, that it shall have good quality, be by nature a quick grower, fattening easily, and is sufficiently hardy. A further most important matter in the selection of table poultry for export is as to color of skin and flesh, if we cater to that high-class market over the Atlantic, willing to pay fancy prices for the properly-finished bird of the right class.

For some reason our market prefers yellow-fleshed fowls, whereas our English neighbors always look upon those birds carrying the whitest flesh as being the best for table purposes, and there can be no doubt that the breeder of poultry for export who desires to attain the best results must keep this point in view.

It will be well just to mention a few of the different breeds, showing the color of their skin and conformation, and in this I quote from my own experience, as an industry for farmers and poultry-keepers. The most suitable breeds for this purpose are: Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Brahmas, Cochins, Cornish Indian Games, and Dorkings, or crosses of these, the Barred Rocks being the best all-round bird. The Dorking is an excellent bird, but not very hardy in this climate, with white flesh and legs. In Britain there has been a strong prejudice in favor of white-legged fowls for table purposes. Happily, this prejudice is dying out, for it has been abundantly proved that our poultry is equal, if not superior, to any other country for table properties, and, of course, most of them are yellow-legged fowl. The color of the pedal limbs is not influenced by, nor does it influence, that of the flesh and skin on the body.

Another important matter is as to the shape of the bird, and the true ideal in the selection of table poultry is that the fowl shall be (1) good length in body, (2) broad in breast, (3) deep in body, (4) with short cream or white colored legs, medium bone, short heavy bill, denoting strong constitution, and small oval, such as comb, and giving the bird a massive and compact appearance. The length of body gives the bird a large amount of breast meat, and the width across the shoulder and depth determines the number of slices on the breast, which is the choicest part of a fowl.

As far as possible, the main points to be avoided are: Heavy-boned; narrow-breasted, with no depth; long-necked; long-legged, as the legs are composed of sinews and veins, which are tough and less valuable for food; absence of feathers on the legs and hock, which are so common on the Cochins and Brahma breeds, as a large percentage of feathers require to be maintained, and this can only be done at the expense of the feeder; a small comb is desired, as the birds are sold by weight, with their heads on. The selecting of poultry to feed for the table is just as important as breeds of cattle for beef. You might as well try to feed a narrow, long-legged, raw-boned steer, and expect a fine specimen for export, as to feed a narrow, long-legged, heavy-boned, long-necked cockerel, and expect to get a fleshy, plump bird. Another important item in connection with this class of poultry is that they lay a good-sized brown egg, for which there has been increasing demand by our transatlantic neighbors, who regard large brown eggs as being much superior to white ones.

In feeding hens for eggs to hatch, you should not forget to see that they get plenty of lean meat and bone, as this will ensure good, strong, healthy, quick-growing chicks. Select for setting the good-sized eggs; keep the young chicks growing from the time they are out of the shell till they are ready to coop. If you have them confined, see that they are supplied with plenty of meat scraps. They need meat-food to ensure rapid and vigorous growth.

Fig. 1.—Represents a cockerel weighing 11 lbs. Note the shape: Short legs; deep, wide breast; short neck; fair length; very plump.

Fig. 2.—Cockerel weighing 9½ lbs.; same age; same weight when put in to feed.

Bird No. 1 gained 1½ lbs. more in same time, and much more fleshy. No. 2 too long in the legs; too large in bone; narrow, with no depth; long neck; but good length; very hard feeder.

Fig. 3.—Pullet weighing 9½ lbs.; correct shape for the breeder and feeder of table poultry.

Fig. 4.—Pullet same age, weighing 6 lbs.; very poor shape, from a feeder and breeder's standpoint. Brant Co., Ont. J. W. CLARK.

Operating Incubators.

BY M. MAW, MAW'S POULTRY FARM, WINNIPEG.

Many unreliable makes of incubators are being operated in this country. These machines give endless trouble and very poor returns, many hatches being small in number, the few chickens that do hatch being unhealthy and in some instances crippled. A very interesting official report on this subject has been given by Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Poultry Manager of the Dominion Experimental Farm,

Ottawa. It is printed in pamphlet form, and has been widely circulated, giving the Experimental Farm's experience with the various makes of incubators. In it he gives details of machines they operated with no success, also results with up-to-date machines that are now run with a degree of certainty that was unknown a few years ago. These reports are very interesting and instructive, and parties interested would do well to write the department for a copy. The large and increasing demand for incubators has resulted in a great improvement. Men with years of experience have devoted time and money, their aim being to produce a perfect machine. For years the great trouble has been how to regulate the moisture. Many machines have succeeded in regulating the heat, but cannot control the moisture, resulting, at hatching time, in a great many fully-developed chicks being

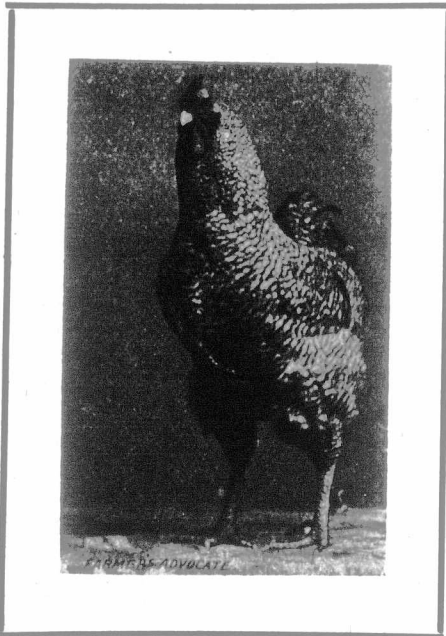


FIG. 1—CORRECT TYPE FOR FATTENING.

and geese three times and young ones once. Pluck every six weeks, beginning with the males the last week in April. You can easily tell when to pluck them by watching when they begin to pick themselves, or try one to see if the feathers are ripe. If the ends are bloody, they will not keep. With the four pickings of mature geese and the goslings once, we generally average two pounds of feathers to a goose, at 60 cents a pound, which will pay for the cost of keeping her, and you have the goslings clear profit. This will be about ten goslings, each weighing 15 pounds, at 8 cents a pound, or for twenty young ones, \$24.00 from each trio. Counting a trio worth \$4.50, this means a gain of 533½ per cent., or over 200 per cent. above the gain on hens in their luxurious houses.

Advantages Over Other Poultry.—They are free from disease. The same breeders do for fully twenty-five years—a goose is in her prime from the fifth to the twenty-fifth year. They never die like

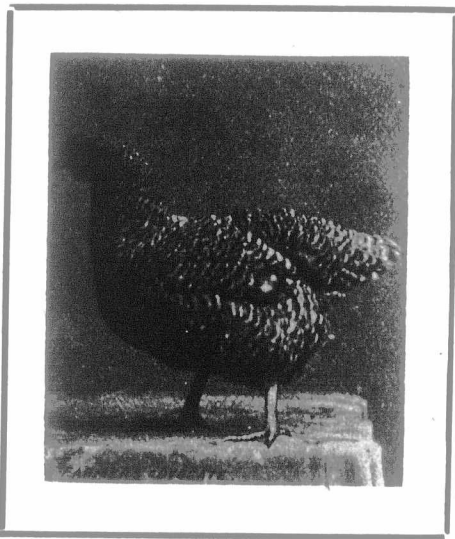


FIG. 3—CORRECT SHAPE FOR BREEDER AND FEEDER.

turkeys or chicks. They protect their young vigorously. They always come home early, and they can be easily confined by clipping one wing. Geese are profitable on a large scale in Virginia, where they are grown for the feathers. And in Germany goose-farming is a profitable business. There they form the national luxury for feasts on all festive days. It is looking after the small investments that makes the farmer rich, and nothing on the farm will help wipe out a mortgage quicker than "Old Mother Goose." Grenville Co., Ont.

Poultry Breeds for Fattening.

In making choice of any animal for domestic purposes, a most important, and, in fact, a necessary point, is to consider the structure of the animal in relation to the work which it is to perform. It would be suicidal on the part of a horse-buyer if

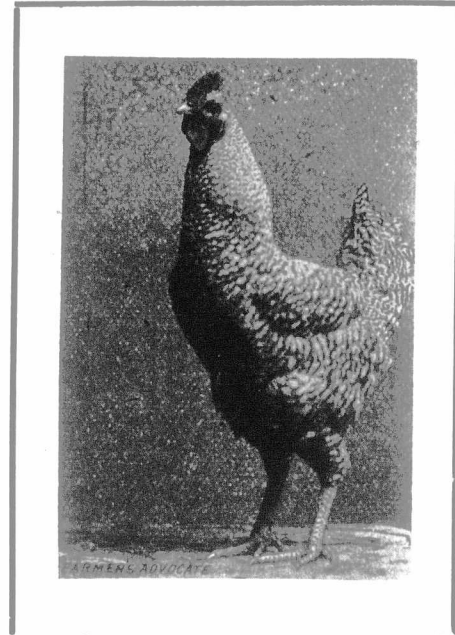


FIG. 2—A VERY HARD FEEDER.

suffocated in the shell. For years the poultry press discussed this trouble. Many reasons were given and new systems advocated, still the chickens died. At last a gentleman, named Cyphers, published a book on "Artificial Incubation," which solved the problem, doing away with moisture pans and cold-air ventilation, substituting a system that diffused the heat from an upper chamber, gently settling on the eggs, causing no drafts, leaving the moisture in the eggs, and carrying off, through a shallow underchamber, all the impure air. He studied nature and he imitated the hen. Most of you have known hens to hide a nest of eggs in some out-of-the-way place and return home with a full hatch of chickens. Instinct taught that hen to make a nest. She chose a place with no under-drafts, and although she had a fever heat of 103 degrees, she neither absorbed nor added to the moisture in the egg. As a great many have not got an up-to-date machine and are having trouble, a few

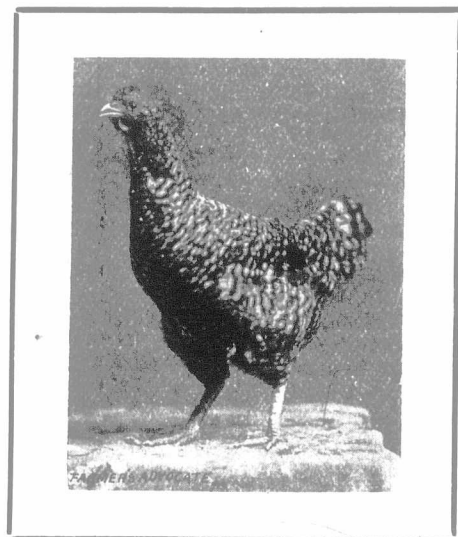


FIG. 4—A POOR SHAPED FEEDER.

hints would not be out of place, by one who has experienced many of the troubles and disappointments, and if I do not touch on your trouble, write me what it is, naming the machine, and I will cheerfully give you my ideas on the subject.

In starting the machine, carefully read and study the directions. Place it in as good a location as possible, on a perfect level, and let it run for several days before placing the eggs. This is done to get all the parts evenly warmed up. If during this time you have not got the regulator working true, it would be well to put in a few eggs not intended for hatching, and work the machine on them till you have mastered every detail. In selecting the eggs, try and get those that have no deformity in the shell, avoiding all extra large eggs, as they are probably double yoked, and very small eggs, as they are often deficient in germ, and will either not hatch or produce a very delicate chick. Remove all