

for sake of comparison. Mr. Willitts gives a statement of the laying of Light Brahmas for the five coldest months of the year (he says), including April, and shows an average of $16\frac{1}{2}$ eggs per hen per month, which he considers a noble response, and no doubt it is for *Light Brahmas*, but I fail to see where the *improved egg production* comes in. Now I do not think April should be classed as one of the coldest months of winter, as during that month nearly every hen, whether Asiatic or other kind, is doing its best laying.

When writing my letter which appeared in the September Review, I could not find my egg-record-book to enable me to give actual production of my White Leghorns, and therefore made the statement that I had found them excellent winter layers. I have not since found my record-book (probably lost during late removal), but I find from other memoranda that about the middle of February I was getting an average of 5 eggs per head a week, or say 22 eggs per month, which was increased in March to 25 eggs per head per month, and continued on with a very slight increase until after the 1st of May; giving an average of 25 per head per month, or nearly so, for two and a half of the five of Mr. W's coldest winter months, and showing an average of 50 per cent over his improved laying Light Brahmas. I very much regret that I have not got the record for the earlier months, but although the average would not be so much in excess, I am quite sure it was far over Mr. W's average. As, however, I have not the record I will supplement the foregoing with a short statement of what White Leghorns are doing during the present winter here. Within the last few days I have interviewed three breeders of White Leghorns, and for convenience will call them A. B. and C. Mr. A. has 22 White Leghorn hens and pullets, of which 4 hens are in heavy moult, leaving 18 layers, and his average for two months ending December 20th was a trifle over 20 eggs per head per month. His poultry house is an old shed, and he has great difficulty in keeping their combs from freezing in cold weather, but he takes great care and pains with them. Mr. B. has 25 White Leghorn hens and pullets, and three of his hens were in heavy moult, leaving 22 layers, and his average was 23 per head per month for six weeks ending December 31st. Mr. C. could not give me, with any certainty, a lengthened average, but stated that his White Leghorn pullets were laying 5 eggs each per week. Both B and C have good warm quarters for their poultry, and keep them well attended to. All three are warm fanciers, and keep their poultry for profit. B has kept a great many breeds, but has abandoned all, having found nothing to equal White Leghorns as winter and

summer layers. Mr. C. has also had experience with several breeds.

Now, Mr. Editor, my first communication was written to say a few good words for White Leghorns as *winter layers*, and to draw the attention of your readers to them for that purpose. I said I had found them excellent winter layers. They are favorites of mine; I believe in them as being the best layers for both winter and summer, and I think your readers will agree with me that I have given good and sufficient reasons for my belief.

I think Mr. Willitts must have got his knowledge of White Leghorns from some of the farmers, the pitiful condition of whose poultry he describes in some of his contributions to the Review.

I need not say any more on this subject, having trespassed on your space and the patience of your readers long enough.

W. SANDERSON.

Stratford Jan. 3rd, 1885.

Season Notes.

From all parts of the country correspondents report the hens laying well. This shows that they have been and are receiving good care and are well noused. Let no diminution of care take place, but keep them at it till the early hatching season. Hens of the hatching varieties now laying will become broody in good time to get out chickens for the fall shows. As the weather becomes colder increase the supply of food to the laying stock.

Make up the breeding pens now. Let quality be the consideration, not numbers. Mate to overcome the defects found most prominent in last season's breeding, taking care not to sacrifice any gain made in other points. The breeding stock must be healthy to produce strong and thrifty chickens.

If your fowls are pale or colorless in face and comb, and thin in flesh, look for vermin as the cause. The dust-bath will not always keep them free from lice. Look for them among the fluff, near the vent. If there are any on the fowls this is where they will be found. Sometimes there will be hundreds here while not one can be found on the rest of the body. Give a thorough dusting with sulphur, holding the fowl by the legs and rubbing well in to the skin on the fluff, breast and body. Two or three applications at intervals of four or five days will clear them out. Keep down the mites by saturating the roosts and nest-boxes with coal oil.

See to it that your breeding birds do not become fat. Keep in exercise and fair flesh and good hatching results may be expected. Don't think of setting any eggs before March. There is nothing gained in this latitude by having chicks out be-