

The following meals are recommended:

Fine oatmeal siftings.

Finely ground oats and barley mixed in equal quantities.

Finely ground oats (coarse hulls removed), or

Two parts of oats, one of wheat and one of barley, grinding them up as finely as possible and sift out the hulls.

Ten pounds of meal used with seventeen pounds of milk, sweet or sour, skim milk or buttermilk, will mix to the consistency of thin porridge and should be prepared twelve hours before feeding. It is then in a state to be easily assimilated by the birds and the acidulation of the milk keeps the birds in good health and makes whiter flesh.

The food should *not* be left in the feeding trough for more than half an hour.

Grit should be served once a week at least.

It is during the second week that the greatest gains are made and it seldom pays to fatten after the fourth week. It may be said, therefore, that "time is of the essence of the contract."

Starving before Killing.

Trade requirements demand that both drawn and undrawn birds shall be starved for a period of at least thirty-six hours before killing. During this period up to within eight hours of killing the birds should have plenty of fresh water to drink.

Killing.

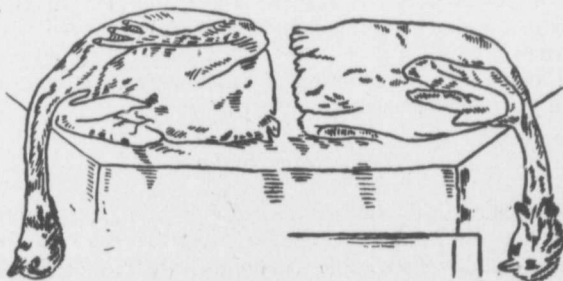
Wholesale dealers prefer the birds killed by the arteries in the mouth being cut and the brain pierced by sticking through the roof of the mouth.

Plucking.

The muscles of the bird contract as the flesh cools, which explains why plucking is more difficult if done when the bird is cold. Some people object to plucking while the bird is warm. There may be an occasional twitching of the muscles but if the operator has properly killed the bird there is *no* sense of feeling.

Scalding for plucking.—This should be discontinued; the method is obsolete and less money is obtained for the product.

Dry plucking.—This is the correct method and when done carefully the flesh is attractive. The dealer will stipulate whether he desires a row of feathers left round the neck.



Properly shaped chickens, breast up and breast down.