

per pair. The best Rouens that I have ever seen were shown at our Provincial Exhibitions and winter poultry shows; Americans are far behind us in breeding this variety of water fowl.

As to mating for best results, I should advise: if your drake is light in color, mate him with ducks a little darker than required by the *Standard*, but all should be deep in color. From such mating I have always obtained good results, rather than by breeding from a drake too dark and indistinct, as from this you will get drakes resembling sire, and ducks too dark, and splashed instead of pencilled. Five ducks is enough for one drake; you will get stronger youngsters and more of them by such mating.

If they have a large range with plenty of grass once a day will be often enough to feed them. I feed corn meal and wheat bran equal parts, scalded and mixed into nearly stiff dough, with ground bone added twice each week. Keep drinking water by them constantly if there is no pond or stream accessible.

If it is necessary for you to confine your ducks they should be supplied with grass daily, unless they have a grassy yard; they should also be supplied with shade, under which put their drinking vessel. Feed each morning corn meal and bran scalded, with ground bone and salt added twice a week; at night feed whole grain in troughs, pour water on sufficient to cover, and allow them to fish it out.

Set your first eggs about the end of March, and then not more than nine under a hen, as more are apt to get chilled. Do not set them under ducks as they as a rule make poor mothers. Let the hen be set two or three days on false eggs, then remove them and put the duck eggs under her. After two weeks sprinkle the eggs with luke-warm water every few days until hatching time. When the ducklings are coming out the hen should be fed on the nest. Let the ducklings remain in the nest for twenty-four hours after hatching, then take them from the nest and place them in a coop tight on all sides except the south, which part should have strips nailed close enough together to prevent their getting out. Keep them confined for a week, during which time feed on corn meal and bran mixed with sour milk or water; they are very fond of this food and devour it eagerly. After they have been given their liberty they should be kept out of the wet grass and dews until four or five weeks old. They should have pure water to drink constantly by them, but not enough to swim in, as it is injurious to allow them in water until six or eight weeks old.

Ducks should not be housed like chickens as they do better to have their liberty, with just

enough shelter to protect them from storms of snow and sleet.

The saying is sometimes applied that "They eat more than they are worth;" but this is unjust, as ducks eat less in proportion to their growth than chickens. Experiment has proved that with the same quantity of food ducklings in ninety days from the shell may be made to weigh nine or ten pounds to the pair, while chickens in the same length of time rarely exceed five or six.

DUCKLING.

### Games for the Pit.

I believe I promised you an article on the system that I have found after forty years' experience to be the best for raising Games for the pit. There is a great difference between that and raising them for poultry, for which I believe they are at the head of the tree. In my opinion, the less they are fed for the first two months, if they have a good run, the better birds they will make when they are ten months old. I believe in a little bit of egg for the first week; after that screenings and oats and buckwheat run through a coffee mill with now and then a few peas mixed with it, plenty of pure water and grass, not forgetting the grasshoppers. By the time they are three months old, if they are healthy chicks, you can give them enough of anything that is handy. Oats is the best for making bone and muscle. If you want to make them grow fast and be larger than with dry feed, boiled oatmeal once a day will very soon show an improved appearance in any chickens. In the fall, if you can get it, give them corn once a day as soon as it is hard enough to shell. When you give them soft feed it is good to put a spoonful of bone meal and salt in it, say once a week. Be sure to have them well supplied with water. As regards dubbing them, I do that as soon as the nights get a little cool in September with a pair of scissors. I believe that it is best for games to roost on the trees until November, as their feathers will be closer and harder. This is merely the Heathwood system. *In my opinion a game that needs stimulants will never make the hardy strong bird that will make him successful in the pit.—Neil Thompson, in Fanciers' Journal*

**CURE FOR GAPES.**—My plan for curing gapes is a very simple one, but has proved very effectual with me; it is as follows:—When the first symptoms are noticed, which are sneezing and choking, caused by the worms tickling the windpipe, I give the chick a piece of camphor about the size of a grain of wheat, twice a day, night and morning. This will generally cure if the disease is not too far advanced before treatment is commenced.

Orangeville, Sept. 3rd.

J. M. CARSON.