

used as sitters. It will be seen that of the total number of sitters, three only were not thoroughbreds. Apart from their fair laying qualities, the buff Cochins, in two successive seasons, have proved invaluable as early and reliable sitters. Had their services not been required for hatching out chickens they would have been broken up and made to lay again. For an early sitter, when it can be had, a light hen is to be preferred, for at that time egg shells are apt to be thinner than at a latter date.

BREAKING UP A HEN.

By breaking up a sitter, it is meant to get her rid of the incubating fever and laying again as quickly as possible. The best way to accomplish this is to put the broody hen into a coop, or compartment without a nest, where she cannot sit, feed her generously, and in a few days she will cease to be broody, and if the good feeding is kept on will soon be laying again. The practice of ducking the broody hens in water, tying them to a stake, swinging them by their legs, is simply cruel and unnecessary. Some hens, Wyandottes, for instance, are much more easily broken up than others. A broody member of the Spanish family should not be used as a sitter. Occasionally an exception may be found, but, as a general rule, although very fussy, they are not reliable.

EXPERIMENT I.—HATCHING RESULTS FROM EGGS SET ON DRY BOARDS AND ON DAMP GROUND.

In conformity with the intention expressed in last years report, an experiment was tried by setting a number of hens on eggs placed in nests on dry boards of the attic floor of the central portion of the poultry building, and others placed in nests, directly on the

damp earthen floor of the cellar. The eggs in all the nests were tested on the 7th day of incubation. The following will show that the eggs were fertile to a very satisfactory extent, and that there was very little difference in the result:—

UPSTAIRS ON BOARD FLOOR OF ATTIC.

Date when set.	Number of Eggs set.	Kind of Sitters.	Result of Test.	Number of Chickens hatched
April 5..	22	2 Buff hens.....	7 unfertile, 2 added, 1 broken	12
do 22..	13	1 Buff hen.....	1 unfertile egg, 2 did not hatch out, 2 broken by hen	8
do 23..	11	1 P. Rock hen.....	1 egg did not hatch.....	10
do 25..	13	1 Buff hen.....	1 chicken died in hatching.....	12
May 1..	15	1 Brahma hen.....	2 eggs broken, 3 unfertile.....	10
do 7..	13	1 Buff hen.....	2 eggs broken, 1 did not hatch out.....	10
do 16..	11	1 Wyandotte hen.....	3 eggs unfertile.....	8
	98			70

IN NESTS ON DAMP FLOOR OF CELLAR.

Date when set	Number of eggs set	Kind of Sitters.	Result of Test.	Number of Chickens hatched
April 28.	13	Buff hen.....	3 eggs unfertile.....	10
May 3.	11	Russian hen.....	3 eggs unfertile.....	8
do 7.	13	Buff hen.....	2 unfertile eggs, 1 chick killed by hen.....	10
do 7.	11	P. Rock hen.....	1 added, 1 chick dead in shell.....	9
do 7.	11	Brahma hen.....	1 chick died in hatching, 2 unfertile eggs.....	8
do 12.	11	Wyandotte hen.....	4 unfertile eggs.....	7
do 30.	13	Brahma hen.....	1 chick died in shell, 1 unfertile egg.....	11
June 13.	13	P. Rock hen.....	1 chick killed by hen in nest, 3 added eggs.....	9
	96			72

Both of the above methods have their earnest advocates. The contention, on one side, is that the eggs to hatch out well should be placed on damp ground, or, on some substance calculated to retain moisture, and the