

Judging from these facts, eggs must be economical in their production and in their eating, and especially fitted for the laboring man in replacing meat.—(*Home and Farm.*) E. L. S.

GEESE AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

Among a majority of our fanciers, the care and management of geese is an unknown art. It is thought to be a very troublesome and expensive business, with no corresponding return for the outlay.

It is a prevailing opinion that the droppings of geese poison and kill the grass; and a very erroneous one it is, as a little observation will prove. The village green—the pasture ground of numerous flocks of geese year after year,—when has it, in the memory of our oldest reader, been plowed up and re-seeded? And still every spring the grass comes up fresh and thick, and after every rain it will freshen up, when, over the fence, some farmer's field of timothy will appear all withered from the drought; while the latter, probably, does not carry one-quarter the stock that is yearly pastured on the commons.

Geese are close feeders, and bite the grass off short to the ground, which gives the pasturage a dead appearance: but remove the geese, and the grass immediately starts up fine and thick, and a most beautiful lawn-like sward is soon apparent.

It will not, however, do to let them run upon grain fields. The close cropping will soon destroy the life of the plants.

In keeping geese, do not allow more than four or five geese to one gander. A house, or pen in the poultry house, or some outbuilding, for this number, should be about eight or ten feet square. Nests should be provided, not less than two feet square, and an abundance of straw in them. Old barrels laid on the side, and blocked to prevent rolling, answers a very good purpose, but do not look as well as a good box prepared specially for them. There should be a box provided for every goose, for they rarely share each other's nest. The eggs should be gathered daily, and kept in a moderately warm room; set on end, either in bran or sawdust. It used to be customary among the farmers' wives, to put the eggs carefully away, packed in cotton batting, until wanted for sitting.

The eggs should be set in March, or early in April; the earlier the better: the young should be well along by the time hot weather commences, as they do not thrive if hatched late in the season.

The time of incubation is from thirty to thirty-five days. The eggs usually do best if set under the goose, although many breeders have very good success with hens. Food and water *must* be kept

within reach of the goose, else she will eat her eggs. Do not disturb her while hatching, but leave the goslings in the nest until twenty-four hours old.

Keep the young out of the water until fully a month old; and during this time feed on small grains of cracked corn. Many breeders feed scalded oat-meal, or Indian-meal the first three or four days, but it does not seem to be essential. They must have a good grass plot or meadow for a run, for the greater part of their food is of grass and vegetable growth. Keep them out of severe rains until they are fledged; and do not allow them to swim until two weeks old; but keep plenty of fresh water (rain or pond water is best) by them to drink. It is best to feed morning and night: many do not feed them at all during the grass season, but if heavy weight and good size are wanted, they must have grain every day.

It is not necessary to keep the gander away from the sitting geese. He frequently will endeavor to share her labors, and when the young are hatched, he proves a most vigilant protector and defender of them against all invaders.

As to varieties, we have a good number to choose from. The Embden or Bremen, the Toulouse, the White and Gray China, and the Wild or Canadian Goose, being the best and most popular kinds.—The Bremen Goose is pure white throughout, with yellow legs and bill, and of very large size; its feathers are consequently of greater value than other varieties. The Toulouse is gray, and rivals the Embden in size. At the English poultry exhibitions the former have been shown weighing fifty-eight pounds four ounces per pair, while the Embden exceeded this, weighing fifty-nine pounds two ounces. These are, probably the heaviest weights on record. The China Goose, both gray and white, are reputed better layers than either of the preceding varieties, but do not attain much over half the weight.

The Wild Goose is a poor layer, and seems to be more profitable when crossed with some other variety. For table qualities, the latter is said by connoisseurs to be unsurpassed; but their poor laying qualities and small size, render them far less profitable than other kinds.

The Embden—which derived their name from the first pair having been procured from the city of that name—were first introduced into the United States about 1820 by Col. Sam'l Jacques, of Boston, Mass. They are as hardy and as easily reared as the other varieties, while their great size and beautiful, swan-like appearance, make them a very favorite variety.—*Bulletin.*

The most effective way for a boy to learn a bee sees—by just putting his finger into the hive.