



GOOSE BREEDING.

Editor's Note—We are indebted to Mr. A. A. Brigham, Ph.D., director of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, for advance proofs of this most valuable and comprehensive article on "Goose Culture," and also for procuring for us duplicates of some of the engravings to be used in connection with the Report. The copies of Review containing this series of articles should be carefully preserved for future guidance. The first part appeared in November Review.

(Continued.)

It is better to have two pails, each half full of water than one filled to the top. Goslings can then only get water for drinking, which is all that is desired. Care should be taken that the scalded food is always sweet, and does not stand that is desired. Care should be taken that the scalded food is along enough to become sour and unwholesome. It should be scalded just long enough before wanted for feeding to become entirely cooled. The corn meal and the beef scraps should be of the very best quality, and mixed in the proportion of one part of scraps to four parts of meal, by measure, and a little salt should be added, just enough to season it, care being taken not to use too much. A wooden "feed trough" about four feet long, and some eighteen inches wide and deep, with flaring sides, is most convenient for mixing. A common iron spade is used as a mixer. Enough boiling water should be used to swell the grain and leave it moist and crumbly, but not wet when cold. Feed in the morning what dough the goslings will eat up in an hour after feeding.

At noon feed whole corn in the same way, but, at night a considerable larger quantity of dough can be given them, as they will eat more sometimes during the night, when the weather is cooler, than during the whole day. A little powdered charcoal should be mixed with the dough about twice a week. Pieces of board, with a strip nailed on the edge, make good troughs in which to feed them. If at any time more dough should be given them than they eat up, it should be removed from the pen before giving them a fresh supply.

White flint corn or white corn meal is prized by some, who believe that it produces a whiter flesh or fat, which gives the bird a more desirable appearance. In Europe finely ground oats or barley mixed with milk is used for fattening, and thought to have the same effect on the color of the fat formed. No green food is given after the first day or two. They should have a constant supply of gravel, crushed oyster shells, and broken charcoal. The latter is especially desirable on the score of health, and it is also thought to assist in obtaining a white fat, so desirable for the market. Decayed stumps, or pieces of partially rotted wood, are greedily eaten by geese when fattening, and a moderate supply seems to do them good. It requires usually from seventeen to twenty days' steady feeding to fatten goslings. If fed much longer than that their appetites are likely to fail, and they are also inclined to moult, which of course seriously interferes with fattening, and would also make the bird hard to pick and unsatisfactory when dressed. Any goslings which are

not fat when taken from the fattening pen are usually allowed to run outside for a week or two, where they have plenty of green food and only a moderate amount of grain, and are afterward put through the fattening process a second time. Some fatteners, about two hours before killing the birds, allow them to eat what they will readily consume of sweet, fresh, green food, like green oats, or sweet corn. They claim that this fills the birds up, and they present a more plump appearance and sell better in the market. Goslings should be slaughtered when taken from the fattening pen, or soon afterward. They should never be shipped or carted away from the place alive. If this is done and they are then dressed, the fat will have a dark appearance, as though the birds were not in a good, healthy condition, and they will hardly be saleable. If fat at the time of shipping or carting, they should be pastured upon grass until the dark fat has been absorbed, when they should be again fattened for killing.

No shelter from rain is required in the fattening pen during the summer or fall weather, and geese are almost never fattened for market during the winter. Geese intended for market are now usually fattened and killed not later than the middle of November, at which time the dealers put large quantities in cold storage for the winter and spring trade. One large dealer writes that when real cold weather arrives the flesh and muscles of both sexes rapidly harden and become tough, so that, when kept into the winter and then killed, they do not give satisfaction to the consumer. Goslings hatched in July and kept until January or Febru-