

Three Years.

1. Fowler & Van Natta. Hereford & S. H. cross. 1.81
2. J. N. Cline, 15-16 Short-Horn..... 1.69

Two Years.

1. Moffatt & Bro. Pure Short-Horn..... 2.20
2. B. S. Eldridge, $\frac{7}{8}$ Short-Horn..... 2.10

One Year.

1. S S Brown's Sons. 15-16 Short-Horn..... 3.00
2. Overton Lea, Sussex and Short-Horn cross..... 2.66

Under One Year.

1. B. Waddel. Pure Short-Horn 3 59
2. J. A. Fuukhouser Hereford & S. Horn cross. 3.10

The three heaviest animals shown weighed 2765, 2850 and 3185 pounds apiece; but interest in this matter has long since greatly abated with the improved education of the public.

Turning to the other departments of the exhibition, we find a very good show of Sheep and Swine—all the important exhibitors being named in the list of prize-winners on p. 873. A considerable number of the Dorset-Horned variety, of which so much has been said of late, were displayed by Messrs. E. & A. Stanford of Steyning, Eng., and excited much interest, though not, we believe, coming into competition for any award. Mr John Rutherford, Roseville, Ont., took the prize for heaviest sheep, 347 lbs., (Shropshire-Lincoln cross) and for greatest gain per day, 1.17 lb. The heaviest pig (960 lbs.) was a Duroc, shown by Thos. Bennett, Roseville, Ill.; greatest gain per day, 1.68 lb., a cross between Chester White and Poland-China belonging to S. H. Todd, Wakeman, O.

The Horse show was exceedingly attractive, especially noteworthy being Mr. Dunham's magnificent Percherons, and the splendid Shires and Clydesdales contributed by the Galbraith Brothers and by George B. Brown & Co., (who also—the Messrs. Brown—showed a number of beautiful Cleveland Bays.) A better opportunity to compare the heavy horses of France and Britain could hardly be offered; and the throngs that continually surrounded their stalls gave evidence of a very general popular appreciation of their attractions. We gave last week all the important horse awards then settled on. The Clydesdale committee came in subsequently, reporting prizes to the following breeders: Galbraith Bros., Janesville, Wis.; Holloway Bros., Alexis, Ill.; John C. Huston, Blandinsville, R. B. Ogilvie, Madison, Wis.; Henry Bros., Indianapolis.

Country Gentleman.

THE POULTRY-YARD.

WINTER LAYERS.

The question of how to secure eggs during the winter season, when they are scarce and dear, is one that is of interest to every poultry keeper no matter what his object may be. The ordinary poultry keeper who never looks beyond supplying his own table, the farmer who wishes to obtain the best prices of the year for his eggs, and the exhibitor who desires to have plenty of early chickens, are all equally interested in this matter. With many this is the test of success or failure. The keeper of fowls who can manage to obtain a supply of eggs in the winter season rightly regards himself in that respect as a good manager, and better than his neighbors who fail to do so. It is, therefore, a point well worthy of our consideration, and as there are many things which contribute to the desirable result, we must look at the matter all round.

There can be no question that the breed of fowls kept has a very great influence on the result. These are generally the breeds which have the most abundant feathering, and hence as a rule the Asiatic varieties are more disposed to be good winter layers than those which have a smaller coating of feathers. The reason for this is not far to seek. The cause of fowls not laying so well in winter is that the cold eliminates heat very rapidly, and the elements which at other seasons of the year go to the formation of eggs, are required to provide for this constant and great expenditure of heat. In the case of varieties that are well feathered the lesser exposure of the body makes the expenditure of heat a much slower process, and therefore they are able to lay much better than do thinner clothed varieties. Of course I am referring to birds kept under natural conditions, and more or less exposed to the variations of temperature as they take place. Where no special attention is given during the winter season to the fowls, as is frequently the case upon farms, if good winter layers are required they must be selected from the heavier breeds, such as Brahmas, Langshans, Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes. I have known very good layers produced from crosses between one of the heavier and one of the non-sitting varieties. In this country there is always a very great preference shown for eggs with tinted shells and some who have studied this question endeavor to secure the benefit of this preference. I have seen a cross made between Partridge Cochins and Minorcas, the result of which was most satisfactory. A Partridge Cochin cock was used to Minorca hens, and as there was no antagonistic plumage to alter the Partridge feathers the chickens came out similar to the father, while the fecundity of the mother had a great effect upon the chickens. Such birds have been found to produce first rate layers during the winter season, the eggs from which have the favorite tint. (1) In the same way Light Brahmas can be used with White Leghorns; Black Minorcas with Langshans, Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes. Such combinations would have the effect of producing first rate layers, and layers at the most profitable season of the year. Therefore, in striving to secure winter layers it is necessary to think of the breed in the first instance.

The second consideration is necessarily that of the housing, for upon this very much will depend. It is quite reasonable to conceive that the fowls might be all that could be wished, and yet from want of proper housing they would not produce a single egg during a winter. It is small wonder that many fowls do not lay or thrive, for they are kept in wooden houses the walls of which are very little better than would be brown paper, so far as keeping out the cold is concerned. This matter cannot be remedied by such expedients as warming by stoves, for this really does more harm than good, and it is not to be expected that poultry with no more protection than we have named will thrive and lay during the winter season. To secure eggs the hens must be comfortably and warmly housed. Wooden houses should be much thicker in the material than is usually the case, and the light portable structures which we recommend for use during the summer and autumn, should not be employed for the laying hens during the winter. If, however, there are none other at hand they must be well lined out with straw matting, or covered over with felting, or the Willesden paper which is now being so much adopted in this country. In no case must artificial heating of such houses be attempted. I do not say that larger buildings of a permanent nature may not advantageously be heated, if heated to that degree when no harm will be done, but this is simply impossible with small wooden houses. On

(1) There is no doubt about the coloured egg being more highly flavoured than the white egg. A. R. J. F.