



GOOSE BREEDING.

BY CHAS. O. FLAGG.

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.

ALL that is gained in constitution and vigor in the first cross is quickly lost, and the progeny often varies greatly from the parents in size and shape, and frequently reverts to some ancestral and inferior type from which one or the other of the pure breeds was originally developed. The fine quality, size and vigor, of the first crosses is often a temptation to preserve them for breeding purposes, but disappointment is sure to follow such a course. Breed only from pure breeds, sending the crosses to market. Crosses may be "graded up"; by using a male from one or the other of the pure breeds used in making the cross, but, as the results are usually inferior to those secured by a first cross, there is little purpose in doing so.

An English authority writes: "I, myself, exhibited at Birmingham, some few years since, the cross between the male Embden and the Toulouse goose. The gander and two geese shown on that occasion, * * weighed sixty-seven pounds. They proved, however successful as to prize taking; and the following season their progeny degenerated sadly, the unvarying result, as I have found of all crossbred birds. * * All experiments, in fact, seem to limit

the advantages of crossing the various breeds of geese to the produce of the first cross." Another writer says:—"I find that the cross between the English and Toulouse geese will produce much heavier and larger birds than either of the pure breeds. I have had the crossbred birds as heavy as 15 pounds each, at thirteen weeks old, and have no doubt that if a flock were properly managed they would be found to average 14 pounds at that age. At two and three years old they reach very nearly 30 pounds."

Wright says: "I am convinced beyond question, after many trials, that the finest geese are those procurable from a cross between the Embden and Toulouse; and I much prefer the whole of the geese to be thoroughbred Embdens, and the gander an equally pure Toulouse. By this first cross, birds of great frame are procurable, and, under constant high feeding, of weights very far beyond those of either of the parents producing them. I have, as a rule, between Michaelmas and Christmas, killed birds of the same year thus bred, the geese being from 17 to 20 pounds each, and the ganders from 22 to 26 pounds.

(Continued next month.)

THE FANCY IN AQUATIC FOWLS.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

FANCY fowls are practical fowls, despite the popular error to the contrary. The breeder, who strives to produce perfection of form and feather, does not, necessarily, lose sight of other qualities. Indeed, the very skill which is exercised in the attempt to perfect fowls in configuration and coloration, gives an earnest that improvements in other directions will be made. Fancy fowls are simply well bred fowls, fowls upon whose breeding thought and skill have been employed. And it is a fact, capable of easy demonstration, that the fowls which have been brought to the highest perfection in utilitarian qualities, have been produced, either as distinct new breeds and varieties or as improved strains of old breeds and varieties,