

Hen	19	21	24
Duck	28	30	32
Goose	27	30	33
Pigeon	16	18	20

According to the observations of M. Teissier, of Paris, in 582 mares, * * * the shortest period was 287 days, and the longest 419, making the extraordinary difference of 132 days, and of 89 days beyond the usual term of eleven months. The cow usually brings forth in about nine months, and the sheep in five. Swine usually farrow between the 120th and 140th day, being liable to variations influenced apparently by their size and by their particular breeds. The true causes which abridge or prolong more or less the period of gestation in the females of quadrupeds, and of the incubation of birds, are yet unknown to us.

From some carefully collected and very extensive notes made by Lord Spencer on the period of gestation of 764 cows, it resulted that the shortest period of gestation when a live calf was produced was 220 days, and the longest 315 days; but he was not able to rear any calf produced at an earlier period than 242 days. From the result of his experiments it appears that 314 cows calved before the 284th day, and 310 calved after the 285th, so that the probable period of gestation ought to be considered 284 or 285 days.

In most cases, therefore, between nine and ten months may be assumed as the usual period, though with a bull calf the cow has been observed to go about 41 weeks, and a few days less with a female. Any calf produced at an earlier period than 260 days must be considered decidedly premature, and any period of gestation exceeding 300 days must also be considered irregular; but in this latter case the health of the produce is not affected.

Mr. C. Hilliard, of Northampton, states that the period of gestation of a cow is 284 days, or, it is said, nine calendar months and nine days; the ewe 20 weeks; the mare 11 months. The well-bred cattle of the present time appear to me to bring forth twins more frequently than the cattle of fifty years ago. The males of all animals, hares excepted, are larger than the females. Castrated male cattle become larger than entire males.

KICKING COWS.

This is one of the most troublesome and tormenting things on the farm, and there is no cure. Severity and beating are worse than useless, they hurt not only the animal but the milker. If the cow kicks, and is not so extraordinarily good that her evil habit is overbalanced by her good qualities, sell her, or fatten her, but never beat or ill use her. It is "habit," and she cannot help it. If kindness will not do, nothing like its opposite will. We had at different times most inveterate kickers, and the writer milked them with his own hands for many years. We tried the beating, tying

down the back, and every other mode of severity without avail; one of the cows (the worst kicker of all) was a perfect marvel for milk. After the calf was gone, she would give a perfect flood of milk for many weeks, so much that to mention the quantity would expose us to the charge of exaggeration. If not secured, she would give the pail brim full, and just as the stripping was finished she would lift her leg, pop it into the pail, and send all flying. If she was in a good temper she only put her leg into the pail but refused to take it out, of course spoiling all the milk. Her hind legs were tied together without effect, she was too expert to be conquered that way, so we got a rope with a slip noose at the end, put her leg into it, and tied it back so far that she could not reach the pail. This conquered her, and if she was tied so that she could not back down, the milk was secured. She would always try, however, but never till her udder was relieved of milk. We kept her many years, and a more profitable animal for the dairy no one ever owned. Sometimes she would behave well for sometime, but if the rope was neglected the old habit was too strong for her, and the milk was destroyed. She had been so badly beaten for kicking before we had her, that her temper was soured; but after some time and when severity was no longer practised, she became as kindly as any others, except at milking time; we were however so convinced from old experience of the hereditary tendency of the habit, that good as she was, we never saved a calf from her. They were calves indeed! At six weeks old they weighed from 36 to 40 lbs a quarter of veal, and it was as fat as veal could be. We had several other kickers, but after once understanding them, never beat or punished them, but always secured them in the way above mentioned.—*Correspondent in Globe.*

WEIGHING CATTLE BY MEASURE.

An exchange gives the following rules for approximating the weight of live stock by measurement. If the dressed weight of a live animal can be nearly approximated by them, they will prove of real value to the buyers and sellers of stock. The girth is the circumference of the animal just behind the shoulder blades. The length is the distance from the shoulder blades. The superficial feet are obtained by multiplying the girth by the length. If less than one foot in girth, multiply superficial feet by eight. If less than three, and more than one, multiply superficial feet by eleven. If less than five and more than three, multiply superficial feet by sixteen. If less than seven, and more than five, multiply superficial feet by twenty-five. If less than nine, and more than seven, multiply superficial feet by thirty-three. If less than eleven, and more than nine, multiply superficial feet by forty-two.

Example: Suppose the girth of a bullock to be six feet three inches, length five feet six inches; the superficial area will then be thirty-four; and, in accordance with the preceding