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DEVOTED TO A POULTRY, IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

For the FANCIER, the FARMER, and the SMALL BREEDER

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GOOSE BREEDING.

(Continued.)

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, 1888, REVIEW

HAVING the location, the next thing to be considered is the breeding stock and mating. The first question to be determined by the breeder is whether he will keep and raise pure bred or cross-bred geese. There is always some demand for breeding stock which should always be pure bred, even when cross breeding for market is followed. Some breeders contend that even for market it is better to breed pure bred geese, than to cross-breed. There are good reasons already given in favor of cross breeding, where only green goslings or birds for the market are to be produced. A man who raises pure bred birds for breeding stock has often to keep them for some time with the uncertainty of sale, while green

goslings are disposed of in the course of three months and other market stock before the close of the year. So few geese, aside from those intended for use as breeding stock, are kept into the winter by those who grow them, that it is often difficult to obtain good birds for breeding unless they are ordered during the summer season before the young geese are killed. It is oftentimes a difficult matter to purchase desirable breeding stock aside from young geese. Few men, having geese well mated which have proven good layers of fertile eggs, would care to sell them at any price the purchaser would deem reasonable. A man beginning goose breeding is more than likely to get undesirable stock when buying old geese, and it is much the safer way to purchase young birds, and take time enough to get accustomed to the locality, and to get of sufficient age to show what they are really capable of doing, before expecting the best results from them. A goose two or three years old is undoubtedly better than a young goose as she will lay more and larger eggs, and the young will usually be more vigorous.

Old geese, changed from their home surroundings to a new locality, will seldom do as well the first season as afterwards, unless, perhaps, the change has been made in the summer, after the close of the breeding season; so that, in any event, the novice in goose breeding must not expect the best results the first year. He must determine to begin and follow the industry with patience, acquiring experience, and getting his stock into the best possible condition at the same time. Success will come if care and patience are exercised.