

In feeding remember that sour milk and butter-milk is excellent for all kinds of poultry. It is both food and drink. For laying hens the best food is good sound wheat. Give other grain occasionally, for variety sake.

REV. DR. W. K. HUNTINGTON prescribes the three T's—Toil, Thrift and Temperance—as the best antidotes for poverty.

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### TOULOUSE AND EMBDEN GESE.

Geese are among the most profitable fowls which the farmer can keep, for they cost little or nothing to keep after the first month or two. They are excellent foragers, and do not leave much that is edible for any that may come after them. They are especially useful on the stubbles after harvest, and in some parts of this country geese are employed to do the greater portion of the "stubbling" of the farms. It is only necessary to keep them away from fresh pastures, as they will nip off the young grass closer than will sheep. It has been stated that cattle will not feed upon a pasturage which has been overrun with geese, but this is by no means a general experience. Where any one has waste ground, or access to open lands, geese can be kept for a mere nothing, and as they bring a good price during the later months of the year, they are indeed profitable fowls. They do not ramble as far as do ducks, nor eat the garbage which those birds delight in, but when kept in quantities it is desirable to have some one to watch them. They require to be drily housed, and if provided with plenty of litter, either fresh straw or leaves, they will supply a splendid manure. They do not absolutely require a pond, but are all the better for it, and nothing in the way of vegetable food, which is their staple diet, comes wrong to them.

*Toulouse Geese*, or as they are frequently called, "grey geese," are preferred by many to the Embden, or white goose, and of the two varieties they are the stronger, but in other respects there is very little to choose between them, both being rapid growers, fleshy and of a large size. For early killing, the Embden are to be preferred, as the Toulouse does not lay on its flesh until farther advanced. On this point a goose breeder recently said: "Toulouse goslings grow bone very fast, and being loose in skin they soon fill the eye and exhibition pen. But they are very deceptive weighers when young and raw; even under favorable circumstances many strains of them will not gather flesh and fat until fully matured, when they can then be fed to an enormous size and weight, unsurpassed or unequalled by any other variety; they are, therefore, not so well adapted for early maturity, and are seldom fit for the table before Christmas, previous to which they dress very loose and blue in appearance, and are quite out of season as green or Michaelmas geese. Used, however, as a cross with any other variety of geese, they produce, mature and fatten very rapidly." Both male and female should be very massive in all proportions, with deep, perfectly divided double breast touching the ground and extending well in front of legs. This gives the bird, when standing at ease, a square appearance, but it is capable of raising its body to a majestic height and presenting a bold front; the head and bill are very strong, joining with a uniform curve which gives the head a pleasing and uniform expression; the throat is "dew-lapt"; the color of bill and feet is dark orange; the head, neck, back, and thighs, a dark shaded brown grey, the outer edge of each feather distinctly and boldly laced with a very light, almost white, shade of grey; the breast is of the same color, but descending evenly lighter beyond the legs, from which to the tail is per-

fectly white, presenting an attractive contrast. The grey feathers on the thighs should form a perfectly three-quarter circle; tail white, with broad grey band across centre of top; wing-tips very dark shaded self-colored grey. The Toulouse breed very truly, are very uniform in color, the male and female being alike. These geese are as a rule non-sitters, in which respect they are distinctly different from the Embden, and wonderfully good layers. As a rule there is not much trouble with the goslings, which hatch out and thrive well. The weight attained by Toulouse is often most extraordinary, and at Birmingham specimens have been exhibited scaling over thirty-five pounds. Young birds at twenty five pounds are by no means uncommon, and the best breeders and feeders produce numbers upwards of twenty pounds. As already stated, it is somewhat slow in filling out as compared with the Embden.

*Embden Geese*.—The other principal variety of the goose is the Embden, which is entirely white in plumage, with a flesh-colored bill and orange-colored legs and feet. It is not quite so squat in appearance as the Toulouse, and has a somewhat more erect appearance, but in other particulars, such as shape, the two varieties are very similar indeed. In consequence of the color of the plumage, it is necessary to give the Embden more water than is needed for the Toulouse, but with an exception the methods of management and of rearing are indetical. The white goose does not usually attain the same weight as the grey by several pounds, and this is a decided disadvantage except for early stock, as then the Embden can claim the first place, growing more rapidly than the Toulouse. Still many Embdens have attained great weights, and pairs have occasionally been exhibited in Birmingham, weighing nearly sixty pounds. This variety takes its name from Embden, an Hanoverian town in Germany, in the district