

The Poultry Yard.

THE FIRST HATCH.

Regarding the care of growing chicks, Wallace's Farmer of Des Moines, Iowa, has the following to say regarding care and feed for young chickens after they are some weeks of age:

"Those first hatched chicks are not so attractive as the fluffy babies, but they are worth more at present, and should be given all the nourishing food they will eat. After a chick is four weeks old it has a fairly good hold on life, and will live on scant rations, but it will not thrive. Crooked breast bones, crooked backs, malformed combs, runts and cripples come from chicks that are neglected. Some breeders seem unable to raise chicks of different ages and have them all thrifty; they begrudge the feed which the older chicks steal from the younger; the younger chicks are trampled on by the older. Unless arrangements are made for chicks of different ages, it is best to hatch as many as possible at one time, cull out the weaklings, and give the rest the food they need. Grow a few chicks to the best they are capable of rather than many fairly good ones. If you don't believe that chickens need the best of food, and plenty of food while they are growing, try six or eight this year. Give them all they want of a variety of food, plenty of room and air, and compare with the average chicken of the flock in the fall."

MARKETING EGGS.

Marketing the eggs is one-half the battle to poultry success, as is buying property to the merchant. Farmers' wives, living at the edge of large cities, where markets are readily reached, will do well to attempt the private market, rather than the public. There are two main reasons for this.

(1) No matter how good or carefully prepared your product (if taken on the public market it must be sold for the same rate as all others, and the possibility of more money for more pains is nil.

(2) If a private market is sought, where the looks of the eggs and the guarantee of their freshness may be told, the individual buyer, a better price may be commanded and the market will be more likely to remain stable the year round. Mrs. Walter Evans of Plainfield, Ill., states that she finds a market for the fresh eggs from her farm in Joliet, a near-by city, where she is paid an average of 14 cents a dozen above the average market price for eggs the year through.

Actual tests on a large poultry farm in the East show that pullets laid 105 eggs each their first year, while the yearling hens laid but sixty-five. The age of the individual birds in a farmer's poultry flock is usually an unknown quantity. Tab on the age of your hens may be kept if the trap-nests are used, which will soon eliminate any birds which do not lay up to the standard you have fixed for your flock. In planning the number of birds you will raise this year wouldn't it be better, at that rate, to plan for a few more than usual and get rid of the layers falling below a reasonable standard?

Save eggs for your hens or incubators, for the months of April and May are the best of the year for hatching. One of the advantages of this plan is that the eggs are more fertile at this season of the year, and your hatch will be larger.

Another is that by the time the chicks are big enough to be placed

into colony houses or coops, where they must brave the battle of life for themselves, the weather will be settled enough to assure success.

The age of maturity when chicks will have started to lay is practically all up to the owner of the flock, his methods of feeding and the care he gives the chicks.

Seven months and more is required for the average chicken to lay after being hatched. With care from the cold while the weather is yet bad, with food containing a good variety of materials, and with cleanliness, pullets hatched in April and May will be laying the last of October.

One advantage resulting from hatching chicks in the two months named above, is that pullets rarely lay well during the winter if they must start in very cold weather. With proper forcing the pullets will lay before the thermometer goes too low and then continue through the winter months. Otherwise, the best laying days of the hen's life are spent in needless inactivity.—K. E. Hawkins, in Missouri Journal of Agriculture.

"LIFE AND SPEECHES OF AYCOCK" TO BE PUBLISHED.

"The Life and Speeches of Charles B. Aycock" is the title of a new book now being prepared for publication by Mr. R. D. W. Connor and Mr. Clarence Poe assisted by numerous friends of the late ex-Governor. The book will not only give a graphic and picturesque account of Governor Aycock's personality, character, and career, but it will also contain the cream of his public addresses and political speeches, including the speech he had prepared for delivery in Raleigh, April 12th, and which many regard as unsurpassed by him in all his life. The book will be brought out in handsome form from the presses of Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York, and will sell, cloth-bound, at \$1.50 a copy. That it should have a place in the book-case of every North Carolinian and be read by the children in every North Carolina home, goes without saying.

The publishers have determined to offer liberal terms to agents, and that it will be one of the best selling book propositions ever offered in North Carolina, is easy to foresee. Dr. Albert Anderson, Raleigh, N. C., is Business Manager of the proposition, and all requests for agents' terms should be sent to him. It may be said in this connection that Dr. Anderson, Mr. Connor and Mr. Poe are all doing their work as a labor of love and without reward or hope of reward. The publication of the book is being rushed with all possible speed and it is hoped to have it ready for delivery within a few weeks.

In order to make the most life-like possible characterization of Governor Aycock, Mr. Connor, and Mr. Poe are asking his friends in every part of the State to send them any authentic reminiscences, incidents, anecdotes and conversations of any kind regarding Governor Aycock that will shed light on his character, personality, and power. Any readers recalling any such incidents will confer a great favor upon the editors by writing them at once.

A good, balanced feed for a horse is one quart of oats and one of bran twice each day, when idle, and three times a day when at work—substituting corn for oats occasionally; and half a bundle of fodder, or one good forkful of hay, three times a day at regular hours. My horse keeps fat on this. He is given plenty of water.

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