

division, these being given about 1 square foot each in the plot to allow of a hoe being used for cultivation. In order to delay seeding until a good roothold had been established the plants were cut on 21st October, the weight of the cutting being 68 lb. The plants then made strong fresh growth, pollination took place between 12th and 14th December, and the plot was harvested on 5th January, 1916, yielding 6 lb. of seed—approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ million seeds. Some of this seed was plot-tested during the past autumn and made a vigorous, heavy growth. The illustration shows the sheaves from which the seed was threshed in January.—*J. Beverley, Assistant Plant-breeder.*

POULTRY - FEEDING WITHOUT WHEAT.

NOTES ON THE MILTON TEST.

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THE feeding test recently concluded at the Department's Milton Poultry-station, final results of which were published in last month's *Journal*, has brought out several useful facts. The most important of these demonstrates what was really the sole object of the test—namely, that a satisfactory egg-yield can be secured where wheat is totally eliminated from the ration. It has also been shown conclusively that lucerne is a most valuable constituent of a fowl's diet. As oats were also used with the lucerne, the favourable results obtained from a diet from which wheat was eliminated cannot, of course, be attributed to the lucerne entirely.

The morning mash during the test for pens Nos. 1 and 2 (birds fed with wheat) consisted of $2\frac{1}{2}$ parts pollard, 1 part bran, 1 part maize meal, with 5 per cent. meatmeal added. In both rations the proportion of pollard had at times to be slightly varied according to its quality. The whole was moistened with hot water, and the birds were given as much as they could eat without waste. The evening meal consisted of whole wheat, and was fed in straw litter.

The morning mash for pens Nos. 3 and 4 (birds fed without wheat) was prepared and fed on similar lines to that of pens Nos. 1 and 2. In this case, however, the lucerne-hay chaff was placed in a bucket with boiling water overnight, covered with a sack and allowed to steam in its own heat. This process had the