

## PRELIMINARY TREATMENT OF BIRDS.

Before fattening was attempted—and this point should be emphasized—the birds were put into a healthy condition. Epsom salts and sulphur were employed to clear the intestines, and thereby bring the birds into such condition that they could make the best use of the fattening-diet. One packet of salts dissolved in the water with which the mash was mixed was allowed for every twelve birds. The sulphur (about the same amount as of salts) was also added to the mash, and was well mixed with the ingredients before they were moistened. The birds were also carefully treated for vermin, being dusted with carbolic powder before the test commenced, and again a week later. Everything, in fact, was done to ensure that the effect of the neglect to which the birds had previously been subjected should be overcome, and that the priming treatment would have every chance of success.

## THE PRIMING DIET AND MANAGEMENT.

*Pen No. 1.*—The mash formula used in feeding pen No. 1 was as follows: 100 lb. ground hulled oats, 50 lb. ground wheat, 10 lb. ground maize meal, 7 lb. meatmeal, 1 lb. salt.

The fifteen birds consumed 113 lb. of this mixture, costing 10s. 3¼d. In addition they were given 8 lb. of whole wheat, costing 7½d., and charcoal, sulphur, and insect-powder, costing 6d.—a total approximate cost of food of 11s. 5¼d.

The mash was mixed into a crumbly mass with sour skim-milk. The birds were given this twice each day—as much as they could eat without waste. During the last eight days of the test whole wheat and some of the dry ground-grain mixture was always left before the birds in separate receptacles.

*Pen No. 2.*—The following mash formula was used in feeding pen No. 2: 50 lb. ground hulled oats, 50 lb. ground wheat, 6 lb. meatmeal, 1 lb. salt.

The sixteen birds consumed 71¼ lb. of this mixture, costing 6s. 8½d., and in addition 74¼ lb. potatoes, costing 1s. 5d., 16½ lb. whole wheat, costing 1s. 5¾d., and charcoal, sulphur, and insect-powder, costing 7¾d., the total approximate cost of food being 10s. 3d.

For the first week the mash was mixed with boiled potatoes and sour skim-milk, as near as possible 2 parts of potatoes to 1 of meal. From the commencement of the second week to the end of the test the mash was made of equal parts by weight of