

## EGG PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY.

Now that the work of hatching and rearing is in full swing, it is well to emphasize that if our poultrymen are to keep the New Zealand market to themselves they will have to raise much greater numbers of stock than has been the case in the past, in order that the supply of eggs during the winter months may be equal to the demand at a reasonable price to the consumer. It should be remembered that the higher the price of local eggs during the scarce season of the year the greater is the inducement for China, America, and other egg-exporting countries to cater for and establish a market in this country. Each year sees an increase in the number of eggs brought in to supply local requirements. When it is considered that for the six months ending 30th June last there have been imported into New Zealand desiccated whites and liquid yolks estimated to equal 294,000 dozen eggs, together with 50,000 dozen in the shell, or a total of something like 344,000 dozen, it will readily be seen how far the demand is from being satisfied with the locally produced egg. The local market requires a larger supply of eggs in the autumn and winter months, and unless the demand can be met by New Zealand producers it will be impossible to keep out the foreign article. It need not be inferred that cheap fresh eggs should be produced in the winter months, but rather that the summer surplus should be preserved or placed in proper cool storage for winter use for the business of the confectioner and others. By means of organization among producers and a proper system of preserving there would be brought about a more uniform retail price for eggs throughout the year, thereby encouraging greater consumption. The winter prices would be reduced, but the summer prices would be increased, and such an increase in the price of the abundant summer eggs that would be a great factor not only in inducing people to take up poultry-keeping, but also in making the business the profitable undertaking it should be for those engaged in it.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Cleanliness and regular time of feeding are two great essentials in chicken-rearing.

Always guard against overcrowding. It is a poor policy to produce more chickens than the plant is capable of carrying.

There are no chicks that do so well as those reared on fresh clean ground.

There is no gain by getting a good hatch of chicks and allowing the rats to take them. Have the brooder-house and chicken-coops ratproof.