

Broody hens should not be allowed to sit on the nest for weeks at a time. It not only means a loss in eggs, but the encouragement of vermin. Such hens should be removed to the broody-coop immediately they show a desire to sit, while the better they are fed and managed the sooner will they resume egg-laying.

IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FEEDING.

At the present time many of the birds in the average laying-flock will present a worn, thin appearance as a result of continuous heavy laying. Obviously such birds are the best layers. It is therefore imperative that they be given as much food as they will eat, in order to enable them to produce to their maximum capacity. Stupid advice is often given that it is a mistake to provide laying-birds with all the food they will take. It is now an accepted fact that the high-type layer when in a laying condition cannot be overfed with the right class of food. It stands to reason that such a small animal as our modern White Legorn, laying from six to eight times her own weight in eggs in a year, must necessarily have the material, and that of the right kind, to do it with, and then have something to maintain the great bodily vigour demanded of her.

Of course, the poor layer or the bird that has passed her best period of usefulness can easily be overfed, and they will soon declare the fact by becoming overfat. Thus, in contrast with the good layer, these low producers will exhibit a heavy and well-kept appearance, simply because while the good layer is converting her food to the manufacture of eggs the low producer turns into body flesh and fat. Obviously the latter should be culled out, for the laying-on of condition proves her to be an unprofitable layer of eggs. The only really payable bird is the one which gives up her life to egg-manufacture, and she must be encouraged in every way (especially by good feeding) if she is to make a thorough success of the business. Good feeding does not mean a feast one day and a famine the next; it means regular and liberal feeding of sound grain material, animal food, and green-stuff, while sharp gravel grit and crushed oyster-shell should be in reach of the birds at all times.

A CHICKEN TROUBLE.

Many complaints have reached me of late regarding a trouble affecting chickens after being removed from the brooder to the colony house, or before the young birds have commenced to perch. The first symptom observed is a dark greenish colour surrounding the hock joints and under the wings. Later the neck and head swell, and from then on the body gradually becomes discoloured and in a more or less moist condition. At this stage death is usually not far off.

When this trouble makes its appearance it is usually looked upon by poultry-keepers as some mysterious disease over which they have no control; but this is not so. In all cases where I have been called upon to advise its cause has been solely traced to mismanagement, either by overcrowding the chickens or compelling them to sleep in damp or badly ventilated quarters. The trouble is most common where the floor of the house is on a level with or, worse still, below the ground-surface surrounding it, as obviously such a house cannot