

great interest taken in poultry, there were over ninety professional breeders advertising in the CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW, a great many of whom made their living by the business. Mr. Anderson then read several quotations from the press, showing that the products of the poultry yard were assuming extraordinary proportions. He next gave a synopsis of his experience in poultry raising during the past 25 years, having commenced in 1862 by trading a Berkshire boar for two pair of Light Brahmas, and paying \$6 express charges on the fowls from Baltimore. He had been breeding six or eight of the leading varieties of fowls ever since, and considered the Light Brahmas still to the front for general purposes and the Plymouth Rock for a farmers use. With the mercury averaging from 5 below to 15 above zero he averaged nine eggs a day from 12 laying hens. Another farmer with 45 hens got 1,218 eggs in three months. The diseases, he said, of poultry were not so numerous if they are kept comfortable and clean. He here described the different diseases they are subject to, and the proper mode of treatment. Continuing he said the turkey was the next bird in value to the farmer. It is a great forager, and picks up any amount of grasshoppers and other insects destructive to his crops. Among all the different varieties the Bronzes were the best, being the largest, hardiest and nearest allied to the wild bird. After describing the best manner of raising turkeys Mr. Anderson entered into the subject of breeding geese, and the profits to be derived therefrom. He also expatiated fully on the merits of the different kinds of ducks, and showed the mistake some farmers made in supposing that they were not profitable.

### THE SETTING HEN.

BY P. T. H. ERMATINGER.

It must be taken into consideration that the manner in which the fancier

cares for "nature's incubator" has almost everything to do with the great success of hatching.

Unlike the "artificial hatcher" (at the side of which a brass band would not scare worth a cent) the hen must be most delicately dealt with for the twenty one days of confinement to her nest. Now I have never been an advocate of all the imaginery high-faluten ways of putting hens to set, such as warming the eggs before putting the hen on, or the sprinkling of the eggs at different times during incubation. Now to settle this question I would immediately ask the fraternity whether they believe that in a wild state fowls in general have their eggs warmed for them before they start to hatch? For it must be remembered that the wild fowls, such as the Partridge, Duck, and all such fowls that bring forth large broods, never lay more than one egg per 24 hours and the above mentioned wild fowl generally hatch as many eggs as the domestic fowl, viz., 12 to 15. Hence before the last egg is deposited in the nest, which we will imagine to be the 14th, I think that the 1st egg laid will have had time to cool in 14 days?

I am also under the impression that there is no sprinkling of the eggs in incubation in the wild state. I doubt very much whether the Partridge, for instance, is provided with a watering can so as to hold good the opinion of some of our fanciers.

No, I decidedly think that the best way to assure oneself of a good average hatch is to leave the eggs free from heating them prior to setting your hen and also to use the watering can on the *flowers* and not on the *eggs* during incubation. A hen that steals her nest away under some barn or in some nook under the gallery in the vines, etc., etc., will most likely come out some day with fifteen chicks, as the case may be, having hatched 100 per cent—*straight flush!*

Now why is this? simply because she has been left alone and has had no bothersome fellow pulling her wing up on this side and lifting her body up on that side, taking up the eggs, twisting and turning in all fashions.

The way I very simply set my hens (and I generally succeed pretty well) is this, first I make positive that my hen really wants to set, and I generally leave her choose her own place in the chicken house, which generally turns out to be the box in which she has laid all spring. I then prepare a nice nest in a dark coop with the box the hen has chosen to be her own. I now take this box and just lay about half an inch of common earth, and over that I scatter cut straw, I then deposit my 14 eggs in this box, and mind you I never heat them before. I now take the hen and shut her up in this coop, but I never put her on the nest myself, just put her in the coop and close the door and go about your business. Next morning open the coop and wait till the hen comes out to feed, after she has fed, dusted and drank, she will all at once remember that she has some business to attend to and run off and very likely return to the place where she used to lay, now just drive her quietly to her coop and close the door and all is O.K. Repeat this two or three mornings and then leave the coop door open altogether, don't you bother with this hen until the 21st day. I am of the opinion that fanciers handle the setting hen altogether too much during incubation, for the hen must be left perfectly quiet, and if she is at all disturbed or frightened she very naturally will hatch in a most unsteady manner, and ten to one come off with a poor average hatch. A great injustice is done to sellers of fancy eggs in this way, simply because the purchaser knew nothing about setting his hen, or disturbed her ten times during the incubation, and after his poor success he puts it on the sellers back and says he sold him infertile eggs, etc., etc. Care should be taken