

POULTRY AND EGGS.

Mr. Edward Brown, secretary of the National Poultry Organization Society, of England, has prepared an exhaustive review of the work of his Society, and of the poultry-keeping pursuit generally, during 1907. His remarks, on the whole, are encouraging, the year, in the Old Country, in spite of the cold and wet spring and summer, having witnessed greater progress in the development of the pursuit than any preceding 12 months since the Society was established. He states that on all hands there is evidence that more and better fowls are kept than ever before, and that farmers are paying more attention to this branch of live stock, that there is an increasing number of specialists taking up the business on progressive lines, and that the demand for eggs and poultry increases rapidly, to an even greater extent than the supply. Steady increase in the number of fowls is anticipated wherever small holdings are formed. To obtain the best results of such development, however, the need for co-operative marketing will be increasingly manifest, and, therefore, every effort should be made to extend the co-operative system where the conditions are favorable. Mr. Brown gives interesting figures, showing the consumption of poultry and eggs in the United Kingdom, and the sources whence the supplies are drawn. Of the total of fifteen million pounds' worth of eggs, nearly one-half is imported; but, of the four and a half million pounds' worth of poultry, less than a million pounds' worth comes from abroad, or, taking the aggregate of poultry and eggs, which amounts to about twenty million pounds sterling, eleven and a half million pounds' worth is produced at home, as against little more than eight million pounds' worth imported from the colonies and foreign countries.

CONCERNING WHITE DIARRHEA.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

This is one of the troublesome things about rearing chickens by artificial methods. It has received much attention and many theories have been advanced, some new, some old, and yet we have not reached a solution of the problem. The method for guarding against it, outlined in your Feb. 13th issue, has probably only one great fault, but, before mentioning it, it might be well to note a few items in Mr. J. R. Henry's article.

In the first place, I believe the poultry world will accord as much honor to an "egg-gatherer" as to a professor, or to any other person who solves the problem; and, for my part, I think if we could combine the scientific with the old-fashioned, common-sense method, it would be a more practical method.

"We have been turning nature upside down and inside out." Might I ask in what realm is not this true? Who would like, after having known things as they are now, to move back to 100 years ago? We would need to go further back than that to secure the pure, undefiled product of nature known as a hen. One point most writers, who advise nature as an ideal, overlook is the fact that, with possibly one or two exceptions, things are not done according to nature, but according to their own ideas. Suppose there is no white diarrhea among natural-raised fowls, what per cent. increase will they show? Another thing, nature never put a hen in this cold country. Imagine a hen out roosting in an evergreen tree all winter, with snow from one to six or eight feet deep on the ground. I guess the most of those that lived would need a good constitution.

Then, we should have "a proper place to keep the hens or early pullets we intend for breeding purposes." What is a proper place? Next, where did those early pullets come from? Nature don't hatch early pullets. I don't think anyone need fear his hens laying overmuch during the fall and winter, unless they are given more than just enough to eat (meaning good food to live on, but not of a quality for egg production).

"Birds should not become fat." I don't know much about fowls and nature, but common sparrows and chickadees, during the winter season, are what I would call fat, if they get a decent show; and another thing, birds that have laid heavily all winter are not "frail and withered," or the caretaker is to blame. I imagine a hen laying when in that condition. I don't know how others find it, but I find, if a bird is not in good shape, the first thing noticed is the egg product.

I claim to be one who has not observed the difference in eggs noted by Mr. Henry. Does Mr. Henry use trap nests? We have hens which lay the same shape and color of eggs, no matter what the season or feed. Others show it in both the shape and color. I believe the time will come when, by a known method of feeding, the color of the shell, as well as what is inside, will be under control.

I am going contrary, I presume, to the majority of poultry-raisers when I say that it is not the fact that the bird laid all winter, but rather that those birds did not receive the proper food, that the germs were weak, hatches poor, and dis-

ease prevalent. In fact, I knew one man, whose birds were kept in a small, unused dwelling-house (lath and plastered), in which was a small box-stove, which was used on severe days, and those birds laid well in the winter, and he cleared \$96, besides paying for the incubator the next season. The next year he ran three incubators, and made a good success. Last season he thought that this idea of keeping the hens from laying was good, and he could do better than ever in the chicken business. The chickens did not pan out; they were not in the same house or same conditions.

What we want is the reason why you hatched and raised chickens successfully. It's the reason, not the fact, that you raised them, for there are any number who raise chickens, but could not tell how. I believe the editor would be glad to have any reasonable ideas along this line.

Huron Co., Ont.

S. H. WEBBER.

APIARY.

MR. CHRYSLER'S VIEWS ON CO-OPERATION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In complying with your request to give your readers some of my ideas regarding the ways and means that I would suggest in co-operative honey-selling, I am not as yet prepared to mention all the details that the plan would necessarily have, but will give a short outline of the plan I would suggest, and if anyone has further ideas regarding the working machinery, contrary or otherwise, I would like to see them advanced.

Before proceeding further, I would like to answer one of your correspondents (Mr. G. A. Deadman), in your January 9th issue, where he mentions some of the disadvantages in co-operative honey-selling.

The drawbacks and difficulties that Mr. Deadman mentions in co-operative selling of honey are no more than he and others have already overcome.

In comparing the sale of fruit and honey in a



Setting Bees through Cellar Window.

co-operative way, Mr. Deadman does not seem to think that the handling of fruit in a co-operative way had any difficulties to contend with in grading. He says it is an easy matter to grade fruit, and, when packed by an association according to Government standards, it is a decided advantage to the merchant to buy from such an association. He says it would be impossible to have a satisfactory grading of extracted honey. Who grades it now? What has been done in the past with the good honey and the poor? I never heard of anyone throwing either away. This poor honey always meets the good somewhere; the poor has always injured the sale and the price of the good. Is co-operation going to make conditions worse? No. Mr. Deadman says—and truly—there is a great difference in honey, even when gathered from the same flowers, from the miserable, unripe stuff to that which has been fully ripened in the hives before extracting. I wish to state that the fruit-packers and shippers, whether co-operative or otherwise, have had their troubles in packing and grading fruit properly, taking years of schooling, and were finally helped out and their efforts crowned with success by the aid of the Government. Grading of fruit was not satisfactory until co-operative associations made it practical.

Mr. Deadman says it would be impossible to have a satisfactory grading of extracted honey. Now, Mr. Deadman has bought honey for years from as many parts of the Province as an association would expect to collect its supply from. Mr. Deadman, therefore, must either grade the honey satisfactorily, or it is done unsatisfactorily. If he is a failure at grading it, he must surely have that miserable, unripe stuff, as he calls it, to sell to his customers.

He says, also, he doesn't think co-operative as-

sociations could do more for beekeepers than is being done by those of our number who get crop reports from the beekeepers, and who buy their honey. He mentions that, if he is correctly informed, he paid as much as three cents more per pound than some sold their honey for; he may also have paid as little as the other fellow, and, if I am correctly informed, he paid as little as three cents less than the market price. There is, therefore, a variation of at least six cents per pound in the price of honey as the buying price. The buyer enjoys present conditions, and the more names of producers they can obtain who have honey for sale, and deal with them in a private way, the better they like it. Who of the honey-buyers that have been advertising for honey has had the grit to come out openly and publish the price they are willing to pay for what they want? Many of them solicit crop reports from the beekeeper, so that they may determine the value of it (the honey) for their own benefit, and therefore buy to the best advantage, and to the disadvantage of the producer who gave away his information, and, in most cases, gets none in return but a poor offer for his product. These are some of the very best reasons for associating ourselves together for our own mutual benefit and protection.

The plan of co-operation I would outline would be to form an association with sufficient capital to establish suitable quarters for storage, liquefying and putting honey in suitable packages for the retail trade. Make the shares of the company at twenty-five dollars each, and no person to have the privilege of owning more than ten shares, or two hundred and fifty dollars.

The company to have a president, vice-president, and a sufficient number of directors; a manager and one or more salesmen, to be employed by the directors, and be paid a certain percentage of the business done as a salary, to be under bonds, and to be responsible to the directors for all moneys and collections connected with their duties. The proceeds, after all expenses are paid, to be divided among the members, according to the amount and grade of honey contributed.

To facilitate matters in raising the necessary capital, beekeepers may give their notes for the amount of stock they wish to subscribe, and the amount deducted from their net proceeds for their honey. These notes the association can use at the bank, which will advance the necessary capital. More than one place for so collecting the honey may become necessary, as the membership and conveniences demand.

It would become possible to pay in cash a certain portion of the value of any beekeeper's honey any time after delivery.

There are further details of various degrees of importance and advantages of the co-operative plan that will present themselves as experience and operation become an actual fact. Hoping these suggestions and ideas will be of some material benefit to the honey-producer.

Kent Co., Ont.

W. A. CHRYSLER.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

DUCHESS AND WEALTHY APPLES IN QUEBEC.

A subscriber from Coaticook, Que., has written to ask regarding the planting of Duchess and Wealthy apple trees. We referred the question to W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, who writes as follows:

While we should not care to depend for our total revenue on the Duchess and Wealthy apples alone, we believe that these varieties could be grown with good profit at Coaticook. When there is not a good crop of early apples in England, Duchess apples sell well, if they arrive in good condition, as they should with the present facilities for transport. When the crop of early apples is good in England, the price is considerably lower, but even then they can usually be shipped with some profit. The Wealthy apple is more likely to give more regular profits by shipping to Great Britain than the Duchess, as it keeps much better, and there is not likely to be such a glut on the market when they reach the other side. Moreover, their red color is attractive. To get best results with Wealthy, the fruit should be thinned, and the soil kept well supplied with plant food.

Both the Duchess and Wealthy are popular in Great Britain. The price obtained will depend on the market. When the market is fairly good, the apples should sell at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a box, or even as high as \$2.00 or \$2.50. When the market is glutted, one must be prepared to have these prices reduced, even as much as fifty per cent. From these prices must be taken the cost of picking, packing, boxes, transportation, commission, etc., but, even after these are deducted, there should, one year with another, be good profits, if the fruit is well grown, well packed, and well transported.

Twenty feet apart each way should be a good