

STORING EGGS.

For storing eggs a very good plan is to have a large board pierced with holes in regular rows. Many breeders keep them in bran; and this latter method is, perhaps, best for those meant only to be eaten, but for setting hens the pierced board has many obvious conveniences. They should be always kept with the large end downwards. This direction being exactly contrary to that usually given, we (*Farmer*) should state that our attention was first called specially to the subject by a most intelligent lady, who advocated this plan, alleging as the probable reason of its superiority, "Keeping eggs on the small end appears to me to cause the air-bubble to spread, detaching it from the shell, or rather from its membranous lining; and after being so kept for a fortnight the air-bubble will be found to be much spread, and the eggs to have lost much vitality, though still very good for eating." She then described her success the other way, adding, "Owing to this method of storing, such a thing as a stale egg has never been known in my house; and as regards success in hatching, for several seasons when I was able to attend to my poultry myself, of many broods set every egg produced a chick." We were by no means hasty in adopting or recommending this plan, but after careful observation and comparison for two seasons, have proved indisputably that both for eating or setting, eggs do keep much better the large end down. There is after a week a marked difference in eggs kept in the two positions as regards the spreading of the air-bubble—which is well known to affect both the freshness for eating and vitality for setting of stored eggs—and after three weeks the difference can be discerned even by the taste alone. It will, of course, matter little which mode is adopted, provided the eggs are used for either purpose within a short time; but the longer kept, the more the difference from the two positions increases, and while eggs stored with the small end down cannot be depended upon after a fortnight to produce more than a proportion of chickens, those kept in the way we now advocate will keep perfectly good for hatching a month, or even more. We have sent thirty dark Brahma eggs to Ohio, U. S., which were twenty-two days on the road; yet they produced eighteen strong, lively chickens, or sixty per cent., though the eggs must have been nearly a month old. We ought, however, to add that, as already observed, we base our change of plan not on any single instance, however striking, but on systematic trial for two seasons. During each of these seasons we sent out about forty sittings (of ten each) dark Brahma eggs, and we satisfied ourselves most fully that, with the ordinary age of eggs thus sold by English fanciers—say from three to thirteen days—the difference in favour of eggs stored the large end down amounted to nearly 5 per cent. This may not be much; but, as already remarked with age it increases, and we have proved as conclusively, by actual trial, that eggs may be set and successfully hatched with remarkable uniformity, at ages which, kept in the usual method, would be nearly hopeless. We have known eggs kept a month hatch fairly, even on the old system; but we are now speaking of usual and average results, and so simply place at the service of fanciers in general the results patient trial, which have abundantly satisfied ourselves that there is a real difference in the product of the two positions. With regard to packing, so far as actual injury is concerned, we believe there is no difference whatever in the two ways; but if the journey occupy any time, the same position should be maintained for similar reasons.

ASPHALTE PAPER.—Asphalte paper is likely to become of great use in many ways. In thin sheets it is useful for wrapping silks or other fabrics that need protection from moisture, for lining cases, or packing boxes for pianos, &c., or rolled up into pipes for conveying water. Asphalte tubes are only one-fifth the weight of iron, will not rust, and are quite tough and strong. The tubes are simply sheets of paper, of a peculiar quality, dipped in melted asphalte, and then rolled upon a cylinder. A machine for preparing the asphalte wrapping paper consists of a hollow cylinder, heated by steam, and a wedge-shaped box, containing the hot asphalte. The box has a narrow slit, the width of the paper, and as the paper passes, a thin layer of asphalte is distributed on the paper just before it passes the cylinder.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves accountable for the opinions of our Correspondents.]

To the Editor of the *MECHANICS' MAGAZINE*.

SIR,—A great deal has been said by geologists about the geological formation of North America, the many formations, their different ages and how formed. Most of these scientific men say that the quartz rocks were formed by infiltration—silica held in solution and filtered into the chasms of rock when the beds were under water, as I understand it. But I should like to ask those gentlemen how these veins of quartz could be formed by infiltration, when we find so many of them only very narrow at the top or surface and very wide as you go down, all the formation veins and all showing that this quartz came up from below at some time.

Another question.

How is it we never or rarely find a horizontal bed of quartz, and how is it we never find them without their showing some communication from below? If they were formed by filtration would they always have signs of communication from below? If quartz was formed by filtration, how is it we do not find veins of quartz forming now?

I believe they are formed by quite a different agency altogether; and were formed in sections of country at one time. These are all the queries I will ask space for this time. Hoping some scientific man will answer me,

I remain,

AN INQUIRER.

DOMINION.

THE Paris nut and bolt factory has commenced operations.

ABOUT six hundred tons of iron ore is shipped daily from Cobourg.

NO Pullman cars are to be placed on the Intercolonial Railway this year.

THE breakwater for the protection of the light-house at Goderich is completed.

BERLIN has at length decided upon purchasing a steam fire engine at a cost of \$5,600.

SOME agitation is reported from Five Islands on the subject of a railway from Parrsboro' to connect with the Parrsboro' and Spring Hill road, for the purpose of carrying coal to the proposed iron works at the first mentioned place.—*Oxford Sentinel*.

THREE waggon loads of iron arrived recently at Bobcaygeon, from the mine just opened on the Monk-road. The ore is being sent to Pittsburg by Toronto parties. The ore is said to be the best yet discovered in Canada.

A manufacturer in Saxony claims to have discovered a method by which certain alloys of aluminium may be advantageously used in the manufacture of hair springs for clocks and watches. Hitherto the main difficulty in effecting this was that the rolling and drawing of the metal destroyed its elasticity, and it is in overcoming this obstacle that the novelty of the discovery consists. To effect this the wire or band, after having been drawn or rolled to a proper size, is submitted to the action of a plane of peculiar construction, and afterwards trimmed to the proper size by grinding. The superiority of these springs over those of steel consists in their being less likely to oxidise, free from the action of magnetism, and less brittle.