

out that a strong imagination has plenty of scope.

We thank you for your kind remarks, re our efforts, and hope to deserve the good will of all lovers of poultry stock. Our readers will quite agree with you as to the necessity of such operations among animals, and we know from the difference in the anatomical structure of cattle, etc., and fowls, that all will agree there is much more suffering and the operation is more delicate with fowls than either horses or cattle. But our plea is this, that men should qualify themselves before undertaking surgical operations in any case. To be merciful to the lower animals is scriptural too. The command was given direct from Heaven, even with regard to them not being overworked by their owners and masters. Though man may be careless of the agonies of the creatures to whom he considers himself superior, the compassionate Creator of all, was not unmindful of their capacity for suffering; even to the extent of giving them a day of rest in connection with mankind. We think that friend Rayson is sincere in saying that he would "be glad if it were practicable to have the entire system abolished."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Excessive Mortality Among Chicks.

I will try to give you my experience in poultry keeping. I have kept a few common fowls for 17 years and never thought they paid very well. A year ago I got a nice trio of S. C. W. Leghorns, also a pair of S. C. B. Leghorns, but having no place to keep them separate my stock is nearly all mixed. I had a nice lot of young chicks but had over 30 die in two or three days. I found 25 all dead one morning and a few more the next and one old hen, they were of different ages, the youngest were 3 or 4 weeks old. Had been feeding shorts mixed with water, was that the cause of death? I have 35 now, all have seemed well till about 10 days ago when I noticed 1 pullet stagger in walking, to-day another is the same, hardly able to walk and fluttered with wings as if hurt in the back. They are in good flesh, some are laying. Can you tell what is the matter with them? I keep them in a stable under barn where horses, cattle and sheep are all housed, size of barn 30 x 30, height of stable about 7 feet. How many could I keep with profit in such a building, and would they be any detriment to the other

stock. They have the run of the whole place. What would be the best way to ventilate such a building.

J. BULL.

Uffington, Ont., Jan. 27th, 1890.

The cause of death of so many young chicks at one time is almost sure to be due to some fault in the management of the stock. Shorts alone mixed with water, especially if the water be cold or nearly so, is a very bad food, particularly for chicks; it clogs the intestines and induces bowel complaint, and also causes an unhealthy condition of the bird's crop. If shorts are used, bran should be mixed with it in proportion to half and half of each, and this should be scalded by pouring boiling water over it after it is mixed and left to stand. The valuable elements of the bran are then freed and in a condition to be easily assimilated. If the mixture is merely wetted and fed at once, the most particularly nourishing and muscle and bone making properties are not readily freed, and the best results cannot be obtained from such a course of feeding. But if scalded the mixture must not be fed hot, as that is relaxing in its effects, but fed just warm, and well mixed into a crumbly state. Better than to use shorts at all is to use one part chopped feed and one of bran. The chopped feed could be composed of two-thirds good oats one third each of barley and peas. There would be the cost of chopping but it is here only ten cents per bag and it pays because it is such fine stuff to give the stock. Re-the pullets staggering as if back was hurt, it may be due to fat, or soft shelled eggs, which often cause the birds much suffering before they can be expelled. If fat is the cause, the eggs in forcing their way to the vent cause symptoms such as you mention. If they are laying soft shelled eggs, give bone meal and oyster shells and plenty of gravel (don't forget sand is not gravel). If you can't get gravel, pound crockery small and give them. The birds will often drop soft shelled eggs while on the perch at night, and as these are often eaten before the attendant goes in in the morning, the owner is not aware sometimes of the existing difficulty. If fat is the cause, the remedy is light feeding, and lots of exercise.