

search" was perhaps the most important, and many interesting points came out during the discussion. It was realized by all that the support given to the industry in this country is greatly under that which is accorded to it in other lands. Up to the present, all experimental and research work has been carried on at the instigation of private individuals who have had to find both time and money for the purpose, but the time has surely come now when the Board of Agriculture must realize that the poultry industry is an im-

portant branch of agriculture, and that they must exert themselves to help on the movement. Their willingness is shown in a measure by the presence of three of the leading men of the Board of Agriculture at the Conference. Both parties in the State are agreed that steps must be taken at once to repopulate the rural districts of England; to take the people from the crowded centers where work is scarce and conditions most detrimental to the health of the nation, and, by giving them profitable occupation on the soil, make the land bear its rightful portion of the population. The establishment of small holdings is the only solution of the difficulty, and it is undoubtedly a fact that poultry-keeping will play a very important part where such a system is carried out. Even though people do return to the land, they must be taught how to make that land give them a return for their labor, and it is here where the work of the Board should lie. We believe that England stands almost alone in this respect; the Government of every other civilized country in the world has already associated itself with the industry, and no matter in which direction we look—in Europe, with Denmark and France heading the list; to Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania, United States and Canada—the "powers that be" give every help that is possible to forward this the most important minor branch of the great agricultural art.

The first impression that an outsider receives when he learns of the enormous value of the annual imports of eggs and poultry into Great Britain is that, since England, particularly, is one of the most suitable countries for poultry-keeping, the cause of failure on the part of the producer to satisfy the demands of the market must be due to something other than production. There is every reason to believe that one great cause of failure is that the question of marketing has not as yet been properly understood. In the commercial section, some instructive papers were read relative to this question. After Mr. Edward Brown, F. L. S. (Hon. Sec. of the Conference), had given particulars as to the "World's Production in Eggs and Poultry," Mr. Verney Carter (Organizing Secretary of the National Poultry Organization Society) discussed the "British Egg and Poultry Trade." As an offset against this, some statistics were given with regard to the developments which have taken place in the Transvaal, and the question of "Co-operation in Relation to Marketing in Denmark and Britain" was dealt with, respectively, by Mr. W. A. Kock, Copenhagen, and Mr. E. G. Warren.

A highly-instructive section was that dealing with "Cold Storage of Eggs and Poultry," by Major Norton, D. S. O., South Australian Government Agency, and Mr. H. C. Cameron, New Zealand Government Agency, respectively. Major Norton, after referring to the necessity in his country of finding an outside market for the poul-

try produce, stated that in his opinion there were degrees in the value of chilled eggs, and that, given the eggs well chilled gradually to a temperature of 33 degrees F. to 35 degrees F., when perfectly fresh and infertile, and then raised in temperature gradually before being used, after three or four months, they would be as fit for boiling, frying, poaching, and all culinary purposes, as the day they were put in.

#### FINAL SESSION.

The closing session was held in the College Hall, with Sir Walter Palmer, Bart., in the chair. Sectional resolutions were brought forward and passed, and, after votes of thanks were passed to the promoters and worker, the Conference was brought to a close.

W. B.

#### COLLEGE POULTRY FARM AND EXPERIMENT STATION, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, READING, ENG.

In view of the Poultry Conference at Reading, Eng., specially reported for "The Farmer's Advocate," elsewhere in this issue, a few notes about the College Poultry Farm and Experiment Station connected with University College, Reading, Eng., will be of interest. In 1895 a commencement was made on a small scale at Reading College, to give advanced instruction in poultry-keeping, and from 1896 to the present, poultry courses have been held at the College, and a large number of students have passed through, some of whom now hold important positions both at home and in the Colonies. At first the teaching was largely theoretical, but in 1898 the College Poultry Farm, Theale, was established. The Farm is five miles from the town of Reading, on the old Bath Road, and is situated in Kennet Valley. In addition to students from various sections of the United Kingdom, there have been pupils from Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and other countries. The number of students trained to date is over 550.

farm can be adapted for the purpose in view. On the large meadows surrounding the farm portable houses are used extensively, as in this way the birds have the advantage of fresh ground, and at the same time they give considerable return by manuring and cleansing the soil.

The lectures are given by various members of the staff, and include "Poultry-keeping," "Chemistry of Foods," "Anatomy and Embryology," "Soils," and "Bookkeeping." They are intended to give a broad basis for future work and a wide conception of the possibilities of poultry-keeping as part of the agriculture of the country. It has always been the main idea to develop poultry as a branch of agriculture, as much as a separate industry.

The breeds of poultry maintained upon the farm are varied from time to time, but at the moment of writing they consist of Buff Orpingtons, Red Sussex, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, and Black Minorcas. Formerly, Dorkings were kept, but the ground was found a little too damp for them. There are several lots of Aylesbury ducks, also Huttegem ducks, of which a specialty is made, the conditions being very favorable to this branch of poultry-keeping. An important feature is made of the experimental work, several experiments being now in process. The reports published by the Board of Agriculture and the College have awakened a great amount of attention both at home and abroad.

The instructors are as follows: Lecturer in Poultry-keeping, Mr. Edward Brown, F. L. S., Assistant Director of the Agriculture Department, and Secretary of the National Poultry Organization Society; Assistant Lecturer in Aviculture and Practical Instructor, Mr. Will Brown, who holds the Certificate in Aviculture; and the business arrangements are in charge of Messrs. T. and W. Brown.

The following are the leading buildings upon the farm:

1. Winter Brooder House.
2. Chicken House.—A small house for chickens, wherein an experiment is being conducted on the dry-mash hopper system of feeding.
3. Range of Scratching Sheds.—Of these there are eight, two accommodating twenty-five birds each, and six smaller in size, intended more for breeding pens. In each of these smaller houses there is, first, a roosting-place; second, a separate laying house; and, third, a covered scratching shed. In front are the usual gravel runs, 20 feet in length, and for each three houses there is a grass run 100 feet in length. The latter are cropped for hay and planted with fruit trees.
4. Hatching Shed and Feeding Cages.—This is for hens, which are accommodated in boxes placed inside the shed, and are brought out once a day and put into the feeding cages in the lean-to at the side, where they have a dust bath.
5. Incubator House.—This is a large and well-built house. It is 33 feet in length by 16 feet in width, divided into two compartments, the incubator room, 28 feet by 16 feet (egg capacity upwards of 2,000), and a smaller compartment, used for stores, and where the lamps are refilled. Special attention is drawn to the system of ventilation, designed for the purpose of supplying pure air both to lamp and eggs.
6. Plucking and Trussing Shed.—There is a roomy shed, 30 feet by 16 feet, divided into two parts. It is fitted with movable desks, and can be used as a lecture room when required, as the partition folds back, making one long room. Here the students are taught trussing of fowls, for which special tables are provided. In front the nursery brooders are kept.
7. Fattening Shed and Cages at Side.—The birds are placed in the outside cages and kept there from a week to ten days, when they are removed to the inside cages, and it is during the latter



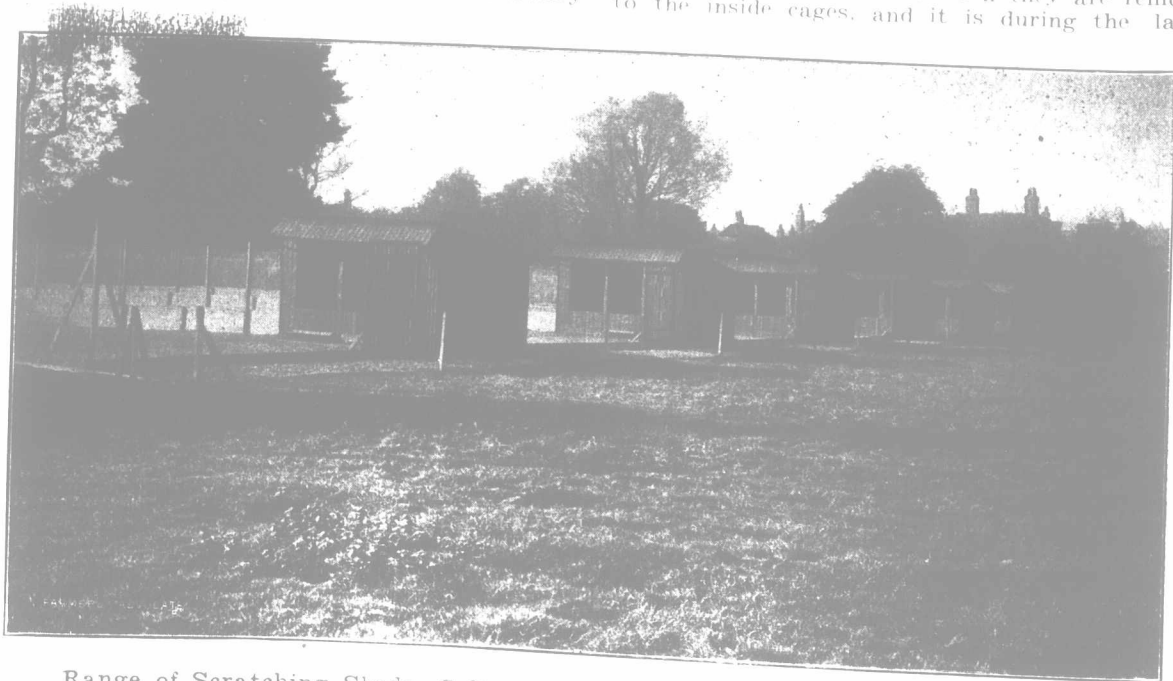
Incubator House at College Poultry Farm, Theale, Reading, Eng.

Showing ventilation.



Part of the Rearing Ground, College Poultry Farm, Theale, Reading, Eng.

The poultry farm is primarily intended for educational and experimental purposes, and is not run as a commercial farm, consequent upon the work having to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of students. There is a number of permanent buildings in connection with the farm which are utilized as far as possible, one object being not to set up what may be called a "model" poultry establishment, with expensive homes and appliances, but rather to show how such material as is available on the ordinary



Range of Scratching Sheds, College Poultry Farm, Theale, Reading, England.