

Brahma Pootra Fowls.

In our report of the recent poultry show, it was stated that among the importations were a pair of dark Brahma Pootra fowls, exhibited by Mrs. Varley of this city. These birds were bred by Mr. Cooper, a noted and successful English breeder. They did not arrive in Toronto in time to compete for a premium, and were on exhibition only during the second day of the show, having reached town some time during the previous day. The accompanying illustration gives a fair representation of these fine birds, which deservedly elicited very great attention and admiration.

In an early number of the present volume of the CANADA FARMER we published a pretty full account by R. A. Wood, Esq., of the characteristics and merits of this useful breed; it is unnecessary therefore to give any lengthened notice here. They are great favorites with most persons who raise them. Their large size renders them profitable as table fowls; the hens are good layers and excellent mothers; the breed is hardy and easily kept, consuming, it is said, comparatively little food, and foraging well for themselves when they have the opportunity. Some persons object to them as not being a pure breed; but, as is well observed in Tegetmeier's Poultry Book, "whether Brahmas form a distinct variety, or whether they are a made kind, commenced with a cross and established by careful breeding, is a question of little importance. The accusation has been brought against them that no one for a certainty knows their origin; may we not say the same of all our best varieties of fowls, with only the difference of going a few years further back? Whatever may have been their origin, they are now distinct and true to their characteristics."

Winter Quarters for Poultry.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—On page 70 of your paper of 1st March last, appeared an address from Col. Hassard, on "Poultry and their general management," in which, as a true lover of "Mrs. Biddy," I took much interest.

Still, the now commencing cold weather brings to my recollection that there was one important point therein on which my experience has differed from Col. Hassard's—I allude to his advice to select a barn, or such like cold building for their winter abode. Now, though I am inclined to agree with the Colonel when he says that for poultry stove heat is an abomination," still I cannot help thinking that frost is ditto. Theory would seem to indicate that natives of the torrid zone would not be comfortable on our winter's nights, or days either, without some more heat than that afforded by their own natural cover-

ings; and my experience has certainly been, that from hens kept under such conditions few eggs can be had, at least until spring. Now, fresh eggs in winter are humped after at three times the price they fetch in summer, and the price of early chickens bears almost a similar proportion to that of the late ones, besides which, I have never seen the late birds develop into nearly such good breeding stock as the early broods.

A stable, therefore, and not a barn, is the place I would advise a farmer to keep his poultry in; not that I would advocate allowing them to run loose among the horses or cattle, but I would say: Having decided on the space necessary for the cattle, add to

excellent for covering the floor with, to be put on about an inch deep, raked over each morning, and renewed about once in ten days. As to food, I think a frequent error is committed in relying too much on dry grain, particularly oats. I have always found that by far the best results are obtained when the hens have at least one meal a day of hot mashed potatoes, mixed with about an equal portion of Indian or oat meal; if moistened with scalded skim milk so much the better.

Perhaps the foregoing may occupy more valuable space in your columns than you can readily afford. It may, however, be a recommendation that it is founded entirely on practice in our own climate; and although I am fully sensible that it is a serious affair to venture to question so great an authority on these matters as the gallant Colonel, yet I may perchance not do harm should I elicit further discussion on what, with us at least, must lie at the root of all profitable poultry keeping, to wit, their location in proper winter quarters.

GALLUS.

Having submitted the above communication to Col. Hassard, we have received the following remarks in reply.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I am glad to find that at last the design of the Ontario Poultry Association, and one at least of the objects of your valuable journal, are being realized in such letters as that of "Gallus." Discussion on practical poultry matters will tend to profitable issues. "Gallus," I see, hails from Quebec, where I spent three winters. Perhaps he is, under an assumed name, a personal friend, but at any rate he is 'game,' and I am not going to fight him, so that we shall agree on the main question.

My views were intended to apply more to the climate of Upper Canada than Quebec, which I merely quoted as an extreme case, chiefly with reference to

it one or more compartments of suitable size for the number and varieties of the fowls kept, divide these, by open lath-work only, from the rest of the stable, so as to allow free circulation of the warmth from the cattle through them; and see to a provision of fresh air by a ventilator through the roof, to be closed by a slide only on very cold nights. The outside walls of the whole being made double, of boards, with sawdust filled in between, will exclude all frost, even in the most severe weather. Housed in this way, my hens lay all the year round, which they never did before, and the health of the poultry could not be better. I also find the slightly moist and warm air from the cattle to be exactly fitted for the hatching and raising of chickens. Last February I raised a flock of nine, not losing one. I trust I need scarcely add that extreme cleanliness is an absolute necessity; there should be no more smell in the poultry apartment than in the cleanest horse stable. I have found sand, sawdust, and ashes all

frozen combs. I have seen at Quebec the arrangements described by "Gallus," which are of great utility, and if carried out fully, in regard to cleanliness, as he states, will no doubt prove successful. I should prefer myself the same house, with access to a barn or shed, where the fowls would have a dry run. Even in Quebec, where the winters are long and severe, and very trying on poultry, fowls may generally be at large in a suitable place, and then a barn, which would always be dry, even on moist days, saves feet from frost and is useful.

I never was able to keep out frost in a stable made and lined as described by "Gallus," at Quebec, with two horses and three cows in it; but there is no doubt that the warmth afforded to the fowls would assist laying, and if they received the attention "Gallus" recommends, must succeed. I should, however, be afraid of frozen combs if the frost got in, as the moisture in the stable would favour the occurrence. I always prefer open air work for

