

former phase of poultry keeping is carried on by Joint Stock Companies and private individuals. There are several private concerns in the neighborhood of this city and in towns in this locality. The object of these establishments is to obtain eggs in winter and a limited number of early broilers, and later a number of chickens to fatten. Perhaps the most notable enterprise in the shape of joint stock is the Toronto Poultry and Garden Produce Co., situated near Toronto and managed by Mr. J. M. Wilson, an undoubted expert in his line of business. You ask him, "Do you intend to use artificial heat in the houses in which you keep your hens to lay eggs for incubator use in winter?"

"No, sir," he at once replies. "I have scratching sheds attached to the pens in which I keep hens to lay fertile eggs. I want them to have all the fresh air and exercise they can get in the winter months."

"What about your hens, the eggs from which you will sell at winter prices?"

"Ah," he says, "that is a different phase of poultry keeping. The eggs to be sold will not be fertilised and I shall see whether heat is necessary or no."

So it would seem from the above that hens which are to lay fertile eggs with strong germs for incubator will be better without artificial heat. In the latter case eggs in quantity, without regard to fertility are wanted and artificial heat may be a means to that end.

But in our locality where the winter temperature, as a rule, is much lower, a scratching room would be preferable to a scratching shed.

Mr. A. S. McBean, a farmer of Lancaster, Ont., who is making a specialty of poultry for broilers and eggs for market, is erecting a new poultry house, in addition to those already in use. He intends to use warm water heat to a limited extent at first. It will

be most valuable to have his experience. There are other farmers, who neither time nor space will permit of mentioning at this time, but whose experience will be most interesting and important to have.

And there is my confrere, the genial and competent manager of the Poultry Department of that admirable institution, the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., and there is another good authority in F. R. Webber, manager of the Massey Farm Poultry Department.

NOTES.

Mr. H. H. Willis, Granby, Que., writes: "Please correct Montreal prize list. I won third and fourth cockerels, black Minorcas, and not as stated—Frith, third—and oblige."

Mr. W. A. Jack, St. John, N.B., states the Co-Operative Farmer is incorrect in saying that no prize money was paid at the late show in St. John. Fifteen per cent. was paid the winners, after all expenses had been settled.

Brantford dates, January 8, to 11, 1901. Sharp Butterfield, judge; so secretary Minshall informs us.

DRESSED POULTRY AT OUR SHOWS.

BY GEO. W. MILLER, LONDON,

It has often occurred to me that our poultry shows do not strike the practical chord with the vigor they ought to. We are in the habit of seeing birds at these shows that are as near perfection in shape and feather as the ingenuity and skill of man has been able to produce, and we are accustomed to hear the assertion over and over again in the show rooms, as well as to see it regularly repeated in the columns of the poultry press, that the thoroughbred—or, more correctly, Standard bred—fowl is the most profitable for the farmer and market poultry man. I firmly

believe this to be so—yea, further. I know it to be true, for I have kept the mongrel and the Standard bred, and know that in my yards the birds that come nearest perfection from the fancier's standpoint are the greatest money-makers. When I say this I have no reference to the trade that comes to the fanciers from the advertisement that a win in the show room brings to him, but simply to the ordinary market trade in dressed poultry and eggs.

It would be difficult to find a fancier who would take exception to this contention, but what are we, as fanciers, doing to convince the farmers, who form the great bulk of the poultry raisers of Canada, that we are right. Simply nothing. We give them the bald assertion, ask them to buy a mating or setting of eggs from our stock, and prove for themselves that what we tell them is true. They say in reply, that we are cranks, led away by our enthusiasm for beautiful feathers, and there the matter generally ends as far as they are concerned.

If the Standard poultry breeders of this country, particularly those who make a specialty of the American, Asiatic and Mediterranean breeds, would take hold of the question with the same vigor they display in promoting the fancy end of the business, I am satisfied we should soon enjoy a boom in the poultry industry in Canada that would amount almost to a revolution, and that would give our dressed poultry and eggs as high a premium in the markets of the old world as our cheese and butter to-day possesses. I am well satisfied that the members of the "Ontario" are not in the least degree behind the members of the kindred associations that deal with the cow, hog and sheep and their products, in intelligence and enterprise, and that if they will take hold of this matter in earnest it will not be long until the greatest success is achieved. It is sim-