

ter the reds and blues are on the birds he generally manages to get several parties talking about poultry. They then naturally turn to the exhibits and with the birds before them he explains what they should be according to the Standard, and shows where one is better in some point than another, and I have frequently heard the remark, "why I had no idea there was so much to know about fowls. By jove, I think I'll get some of those kind he speaks of for they must be just splendid." But perhaps that ends there. Many of the farmers' wives show great interest in being posted as to the requirements of the different breeds, but it often ends with the lament, "but John won't lay a cent out for the birds and I have almost to steal the grain that I do give them." Farmers don't stint the good wife in the grain for her hens, etc., but get her a few thoroughbreds and see how she will make them pay. But at all events let her have enough feed, for the stock if ever so poor will pay you well in return.

ON-LOOKER.

❖ QUERY * DEPARTMENT. ❖

FLOOR FOR POULTRY HOUSE.

J. C. PETERSON.—I have read your poultry department with much interest and would like to know from you how to fix a floor for my poultry house, being about to rebuild. I like the idea of a floor described by your correspondent, Mr. R. W. Rayson some weeks ago and want to ask if you think it would be too cold for me to use up here, if not I will try it. I think it would be easy to keep clean. I have Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes, just a small flock at present.

Regina, P.O.

We think you would not find the floor too cold if littered with leaves or other coarse litter. We have never used such a floor, but there would be no possibility of any draught, and even if you had a board floor you would find it cold unless well littered. It would be very easy to keep clean and but little trouble. Will friend Rayson oblige us by giving his opinion on this. That kind of floor could be made cheaper for you than one of lumber, that is another advantage.

CORN ENSILAGE FOR POULTRY.

MARY A. JENNINGS.—My father is a farmer and is putting a lot of corn in a silo. Will this do for green food for my hens in winter? Father says the ensilage is slightly sour and I don't fancy feeding sour stuff to hens.

Unless the ensilage is quite sour it will do no harm. But if very sour we

should think it would act as other acid foods and disturb the digestive process, then as a consequence bring on bowel complaint. Sour feed always limits egg production. But we are not prepared to say with certainty as to the corn ensilage, because it would be so entirely different in its nature to other forms of sour food. Apples, for instance, if very green and sour are hurtful if eaten in excess, but you will readily understand that ensilage is of a totally distinct nature in its form of acidity. When in a position to build a silo for our own use we shall prefer cut grass, beet leaves, turnip tops, clover and the like, especially clover, as it furnishes so many needed elements of the hen's food in winter. If cut cabbage can be kept this way it would be a great boon to poultrymen. The sulphur which is present in large quantities is just what we want in winter for the eggs and their sure vitality. But to feed sulphur in Canada requires very nice judgment, and is always risky, so much so in our own experience and knowledge of others that we have abandoned its use altogether in food.

COMING SHOWS.

Industrial Exhibition at Toronto, Sept. 9 to 21. H. J. Hill, Secretary.

Central at Ottawa, Sept. 9 to 14. C. R. W. MacCuaig, Secretary, Ottawa.

Great Central Fair at Hamilton, Sept. 23 to 27. C. R. Smith, Secretary, Hamilton.

Great Northern Exhibition at Collingwood, Sept. 25 to 27. T. J. Crawford, Secretary, Collingwood.

West Simcoe, at Stayner, October 1, 2 and 3.

Dunnville, Dec. 3, 4, and 5. R. H. Marshall Sec'y.

OHIO.

Central Ohio, at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, January 7th to 11, 1890. J. Y. Bickdell, Judge, W. F. Bruce, Secretary.

Cleveland, January 14th to 19th, 1890. C. C. Schellentrager, Sec., Glenville.

Fayette Association, at Washington C. H., January 14th to 10th, 1890. J. B. Collier, Sec. Union, at Cardington, Dec. 17 to 21, 1889, G. S. Singer, Secretary.

NEW YORK.

International, Buffalo, N.Y., December 11th to 18th, 1889. H. M. Fales, Sec., La Salle, N.Y.