

How mad I felt to hear that. How I wished I could reduce that man to a hen give him her nature for "not quite a week," and put the same misery onto his leg for that time. I could not help being a little sarcastic when he informed me that they were "clucking yet." I soberly said that when he did the next two hens, if he made their trails to match it might work better; that I thought the hen with the brick was jealous of the one with the wooden trail, and was bound to keep on clucking till he gave her one like it. But I started this to tell you of a better way—as my way if you like. I have a small place made of lath with a weather-tight roof and no floor, a door in one side. I have this near the house where some of us are continually passing, and when I want to break up poor biddy I put her in there; as we go to and fro all the bustle distracts her attention and I throw in any dainty I can get hold of—a bone to pick, a piece of bread or cake—anything handy, and in two days my hen is so busy looking out for people and "scraps" that she has forgotten that she was a clucking hen the day before yesterday. I have a perch in the little house and if two or three hens are in together it can do the same for all; the lath going all the way around, biddy can see so much of what is going on, and being of the feminine persuasion, her curiosity is easily aroused and the business is soon over. If you shut a hen in a dark place to break her up, she will select a corner and "sot and sot forever" like the Irishman's hen. The reason I have no floor in it, is that if they want to enjoy a dust bath they can, and that helps the breaking-up process.

Molting Hens and Pullets.

THE "Nor' West Farmer" says: When hens begin to molt they cease laying, and the result is that they are sent to market while the pullets hatched early in the season are kept over in order to replace the hens. This is all wrong. A pullet is not matured until she is at least one year old, and although she may lay, yet the eggs are not always the best for hatching purposes. It is an annual sacrifice—the slaughter of the hens—that should cease. If not discontinued the poultry of this country will gradually lose vigor and the average number of eggs laid will fall off. In fact, every year we can point out new difficulties such as diseases and failure to lay, the weakness of chicks, and the lack of ability to withstand severe winters. Pullets may indeed be kept for laying, but for reproducing the stock the hens alone should be used. There is a mistake made by selling off the molting hens. If they are

permitted to remain and shed their feathers they can be relied upon as the best of winter layers, especially if they begin to molt so as to finish the process before the winter begins. The molting hen requires food rich in nitrogen. The best food is a teaspoonful of linseed meal mixed with bran meal and ground oats, made into a crumbly not (sticky) dough, in the morning with meat three times a week (at noon) with wheat at night. If fed in this manner she will in ten weeks shed her feathers, and be in prime condition for work; her eggs will hatch strong, vigorous chicks, and she will be able to go through the summer without difficulty.

Report of the Poultry Manager of the Government Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

EGGS FROM CANADIAN BREEDERS HATCH BEST.

IT will also be seen that the eggs supplied by Canadian breeders hatched better than those from the United States. The eggs furnished by our home breeders were wrapped in paper and packed in bran, while the eggs from the United States breeders were tightly packed in sawdust, a method strongly condemned by Canadian poultrymen, who assert that the turpentine contained in pine sawdust lessens the fertility of the eggs. There is room for interesting experiment here.

NEW BREEDS IMPORTED—INDIAN GAMES.

The Indian Game eggs were the first of the kind imported into Canada. It was thought best to give them a trial, as the Indian Game had earned a great reputation in Cornwall and Devonshire, England, as a market fowl, the male birds attaining to a weight of 9, 10 and 11 lbs. The cockerels are also highly spoken of for crossing purposes with the Plymouth Rock and Dorking. It was the 4th of July before the eggs were hatched, and that month being unusually chilly and raw, four of the chickens succumbed, notwithstanding the greatest of care, leaving three which never made much headway and died on the approach of wintery weather. These chickens were slow to feather, displayed no hardiness, and were content to brood when four months old. I would suggest another trial of this breed, the chickens to be hatched at an early period, so as to have ample opportunity to mature before the fall months.

RED CAPS.

The Red Caps, another late arrival from England, were also tried, but with unsatisfactory results. Up to the age of two months the chickens grew rapidly and appeared hardy, but did not stand the cold and extremely wet weather.