spread it on the open ground facing the sun; it was soon covered with flies, and shortly after we had plenty of maggots, but much to our chagrin they all very soon disappeared. We subsequently communicated this to our correspondent, who sent us the following explanation in reply:—"I inclose you a description of the fly you have been experimenting on. I should infer your fly pit was not tight, and that you maggots escaped; it would not be natural for them to die, but quite natural for *Larva* to become *Pupa*."

"In the receipt I have from Germany relative to the construction of the breeding pits, great stress is laid upon the use of bricks and cement; also that the pits are to be roofed (about two feet high). The fly I propose to breed from is the *Musca*, that lays its eggs in dung.

"1st. This kind of compost is more economical than meat and attended with less annoyance arising from smell. I have no doubt the maggot is sweeter to the taste, as I know even fish will not eat readily the blowfly maggot, unless it has been well scoured in bran.

"At present I presume there is no advantage in using the *Musca Calkiphora*, if the ordinary *Musca* will prove as prolific a breeder—and it is credited with producing 20,000 in a single fly. There are, however, several varieties of dung-breeding *Musca*, as well as of meat-breeding *Musca*. Experiments will probably give much information; there are also beetles that breed both in dung and in meat; in fact the whole subject is capable of expansion, and must certainly be very interesting to all bird fanciers."

It is quite clear then that in the experiments we made, we allowed our maggots to escape, and hence our failure. The fly-pits must be close, and the maggots, when produced, kept secure, afterwards to be fed out only in such quantity as may be required for immediate use.

Now that the season of the year for the production of maggots has arrived, we shall be glad if some of our readers will make further experiments and communicate the results. The importance to poultry breeders of such chicken food cannot be over estimated, while the prospect of a winter supply of the best of all kinds of poultry food is something very desirable indeed.

DISPROPORTION BETWEEN FOWLS AND THEIR EGGS.

The disproportion which exists between fowls of different varieties and their eggs has frequently attracted attention. Some large birds lay small eggs, while other birds much smaller in size lay larger eggs; again, other varieties lay eggs proportionate to their size. Whence then this disparity?

Let us, for instance, take the Asiatic breeds; their eggs are much smaller than the Spanish, yet in size they far exceed them. The eggs of the Hamburgh are small, but much more in proportion to their size than those of Asiatic breeds. So also it may be said of the Polish varieties, and of many others which we might enumerate.

Nor need we confine our comparison to different varieties of fowl; it may very fairly be extended to different fowls of the same breed, and in this way continued to every known breed.

Let us again take the Asiatic breeds into consideration, and it will be found that the disproportion alluded to does not exist, as between, for instance, the eggs of the Brahma and the Cochin—the two principal Asiatic breeds—so much as between the eggs of these two varieties produced by birds of the same breed, and from different yards. We have seen eggs of the Cochin class as disportionate in size to each other as are Bantams to Hamburghs. So also of Brahmas, Spanish, Houdans, and the other breeds. Again we ask, whence then this disparity?