

## NOTES.

FROM THE ENGLISH *Stock-Keeper*.

WE learn that Mr. R. E. Williamson has shipped Mr. Geo. G. McCormick a black Cochin cock. It will be recollected we recently mentioned that Mr. McCormick had taken up this breed, and had purchased all Mr. McNeil's stock of this handsome variety.

## INCUBATORS AT THE INDUSTRIAL...

The incubator contest at the Industrial exhibition, Toronto, seems to be exciting some interest, though we feared at first the affair would be quite tame. Mr. John Chambers, Commissioner of Public Parks of Toronto, has kindly consented to take charge of the machines which will be locked into the building, devoted during exhibition, to pigeons and the key placed in Mr. Chambers charge. The eggs are to be placed in the machines in time to hatch out during the Monday of the second week of the exhibition, the day on which the exhibits in the poultry section go in. Any intending exhibitors should apply at once to Mr. Hill, the manager, for further information.

## DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARM OTTAWA.

REPORT OF THE POULTRY MANAGER, A. G. GILBERT.

TO WILLIAM SAUNDERS, Esq.,

Director Dominion Experimental Farms, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit to you the fifth annual report of the Poultry Department for the year ending 15th January, 1893. In my last report, which extended to 29th February, attention was given to the effect of a morning warm ration on a certain number of fowls. The ration was composed of:—

	Lbs.	Oz.
Bran.....	2	8
Shorts.....	2	8
Ground meat.....	1	8

with clover hay and a small quantity of coarse sand and fine ground oyster shells mixed, with the object of preventing eggs being laid with soft shells, or no shells at all.

It had been noticed in previous years the laying stock were most addicted to the vicious habits named during the month of March. Consequently, careful attention was paid to the layers during that period, and it was found that the vices were not indulged in to the same extent as formerly. This may have been owing to the mixing of the oyster shells and coarse sand in the soft feed, but no definite con-

clusions could be arrived at from one observation. The same ground is being gone over this season with certain additions to the rations of last winter, which are noted elsewhere.

## SOME OBSERVATIONS AND THERE RESULTS.

It was observed, however, that the fowls in the pens containing the lesser number were freer from vice than the more crowded ones, thus showing the benefit of room and comparative range. The importance of farmers giving their laying stock as much room as possible was impressed upon them in my last report in the following words:—"The layers do better when they can enjoy as much freedom as possible. Many farmers have their poultry house so arranged that with very little trouble or expense they can allow their fowls access to a barn, stable, or inclosed shed, where gravel, sand, coal ashes, or other substances may be found for the hens to scratch in. Fowls so situated are not likely to give way to egg or feather eating, or lay eggs with soft shells or no shells at all." The experience of the past season confirms this. The observations of the past few seasons also lead to the conclusion that in constructing winter habitations for fowls it would be a good plan to have half the floor of the pen covered with straw litter and the other half with coarse sand and gravel, or half wooden flooring and the other half dry earth. Placing the earth on the board floor would be more likely to keep it dry, which is absolutely necessary. Experience with earth, on board floors, has shown it would not be necessary to remove the earth for three or four months, provided it was occasionally raked over and a small quantity added at the same time.

## A TEST OF DIFFERENT BREEDS.

A good opportunity was afforded of trying different breeds in enforced confinement when the breeding house was completed at the end of February last, but the construction of the outside runs was unavoidably postponed for some months later. The house contained 12 pens 8 x 5 feet each, and they were calculated to hold five or six females and one male. The following were placed in the building:—

- Pen 1.—White Leghorns: 7 pullets, 1 cockerel.  
 " 2.—Black Minorcas: 5 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 3.—Andalusians: 5 pullets, 1 cockerel.  
 " 4.—Plymouth Rocks: 7 pullets, 1 cockerel.  
 " 5.—Wyandottes: 5 pullets, 1 cockerel.  
 " 6.—Houdans: 5 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 7.—Black Hamburgs: 6 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 8.—Langshans: 4 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 9.—Buff Cochins: 5 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 10.—Red caps: 3 pullets, 2 hens, 1 cockerel.  
 " 11.—Coloured Dorking: 4 pullets, 1 hen, 1 cockerel.  
 " 12.—Golden Polands: 3 hens, 1 cockerel.