

ording to my experience. That some, I will not say a good deal of this in-breeding is necessary to get certain points of excellence fixed I am aware, but I am satisfied that as far as egg production and hatching are concerned, that the less of this that is indulged in the better. The best layers I have ever had, Spanish and Plymouth Rocks included was a cross of L. B's on P. Cochins. Now the progeny of this cross has for two years beaten either variety of the parent stock all to pieces. Pullets of this cross or I may say crosses, for I crossed L. B. cock on P. C. hens, and P. C. cock, on L. B. hens; commenced laying one month earlier than either L. B. hens, or P. C. hens, and have continued one month later in fall, and now some of these hens are at it again. To me this is conclusive evidence that the mingling of blood is beneficial from a "usefulness" standpoint. Now have we not proofs of this as the facts that P. Rocks, Wyandottes, etc., always excelled as layers when first originated, but was this superiority maintained? I am of the opinion not. I cannot speak authoritatively respecting Wyandottes but the strains of P. Rocks bred by me for some years were no improvement upon the L.B. Now that they were originally superior I have no doubt but as soon as a new strain is originated or, I may say, blocked out, then commences the in-breeding process to fix their distinctive points. Now in L. B.'s these points have been firmly established and I cannot see why good specimens from different strains will not beget birds as good as their parents.

For weight of flesh I am persuaded that more pounds of meat can be raised from medium sized parents than can be raised from overgrown parents, and so says I. K. FELCH too. I have a strong conviction also that birds that are in-bred lose that brilliancy of white which is so desirable in L. B.'s.

I have a cockerel now in my yard too dark for a show bird and the white

is as pure as snow. and this bird is a cross on the Lansdowne strain, I having purchased MR. HALL'S prize hen at Montreal, to put my convictions to practical test. Let me say I offer my convictions based upon my experience, educated also by reading especially the words of I. K. Felch, not in a dogmatic way, so I shall not, at any time, be surprised to find that others have come to a different conclusion, which, if they will give us, will be of advantage to all.

NOTES AND HINTS.

BY W. C. G. PETER.

I am in the clutches of that worst of demons, "bad spirits." I have bid adieu to my oldest chicken "chum," and I want some one to caress me back into hopeful existence. None but a fancier can sympathise with us and keep up the cheerful interest to its highest pitch. I am unfortunate in that, for in this place there is but one "thoroughbred" man left to gossip with.

What will be the future of our Canadian REVIEW, Mr. Editor? Each copy is an improvement on its predecessor. Let all unite to extend its circulation, take an interest in making it known, wherever you go speak of it. I am surprised to find that some do not really know we have a Canadian poultry paper at all. There are few subscribers who could not get one per year added to the list of readers, and what encouragement it would promote all round?

I noted the remarks *re* the *Rural Canadian's* report in your last issue. No indeed! Plymouth Rocks are *not* going out, and exhibition specimens of Wyandottes are not so "all-firedly" easy to breed that they will knock the Rocks out of a place altogether. Certainly the Rocks were not so large a class this year, and old birds all through were not out strong. The old ones moulted early this year, and nearly

every man's birds were in poor condition this fall at the time of the Industrial, and some of mine that I did send shed their feathers in the coops, and were nearly naked; and no man likes to risk his birds that are in heavy moult, if he puts any value on them. As it happened, it was well there were no more birds, for I really do not know where they could have been placed.

Does it not seem gentle reader, that A. A. W. has a good thing in last number? He places oats at their right value. They certainly are great invigorators to the stock. How shall we feed well and not over-feed our pets, now that they are in close quarters? Nearly all the evils that occur (outside of dirt and neglect), come from over-feeding. Now, to make a bird feel comfortable it must have a full crop, but not too full; and if it is full of wheat or other highly nourishing food, and kept so, the bird gets too fat and becomes too inactive in consequence. Then begins the evils consequent on a very full habit of body—appoplexy, bowel and liver complaint, &c. And this is the reason most poultry-men give vegetables, and grain that is coarse, besides other more concentrated food, viz., to fill the crop and make the bird feel comfortable; promote thrift, and at the same time prevent them getting too fat to be in the very prime of health and vigor. It takes a lot of resolution, too, to go through the quarters and have your pretty flock cluster round you in expectation of something being given, and see how disappointed they look as you turn away and give nothing, for a flock that is not too well fed will always be like Oliver, "asking for more"; and it is the essence of kindness not to be prodigal in the way of food. Supply gravel and granulated bone and broken charcoal and oyster shells. Now that the birds are not at liberty to search for these very necessary things people are apt to think these things too expensive. They really are the reverse of this, for these materials