

POULTRY

LONDON POULTRY AND PET STOCK ASSOCIATION.

REGULAR meeting of the London Poultry and Pet Stock Association was held in their room, Albion Block, on the evening of the 26th inst.

President McNeil in the chair, with a fair attendance of members.

Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed; accounts from the room committee ordered to be paid.

Mr. McCormick brought up for inspection a sample of the ticket holder that is being adopted by the Western Fair Association for the coops in poultry building. They are to be secured to the sides of projection in front of the coops, so as not to obstruct the view.

Most of the members reported good success with their chickens this season, and are coming along nicely.

Game Fowls were to have been brought up for competition at this meeting, but the owners failed to connect, the warm evening getting in its work on the Game men.

The President promised to have them all dubbed if they so far forgot themselves in the future.

Mr. McLeod and his high station competitors will do well to make a note of this.

Receipts for the evening, \$2.

Adjourned.

R. OKE, Sec'y.

June 22nd, 1892.

Separate the cockerels and pullets now into two flocks, both will grow the better for it

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

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

To WM. SAUNDERS, Esq.,
Director Dominion Experimental
Farms, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour of submitting to you the fourth annual report of the operations of the poultry department for the year ending 29th February, 1892. In the beginning of my report of last year a formula was given of a warm stimulating morning ration for winter, but varied so as to suit the Asiatic or Spanish families, for the reason stated "that the generous diet suited to the latter breed would tend to make the former too fat to lay well." The result of the treatment was considered satisfactory, so far as egg production was concerned, but it was thought that a ration just as effective, but a little more economical in its constituents, could be prepared. The importance of a cheap winter ration will be evident, for it is at this season when eggs are high in price—because they are scarce—that the margin of profit is greatest. Eggs are more difficult to obtain because the stock is confined to limited quarters, and they are more expensive to obtain because the layers require a more stimulating diet and more careful attention. Notwithstanding all that has been written on the subject of winter laying, correspondents write, visitors ask the questions: "What is the best method of feeding and caring for fowls in winter, so that I can obtain eggs?" From the North-West a correspondent writes: "Eggs are worth 60c per dozen here in winter. What kind of fowls are best, and how should I feed them to get eggs in paying quantities?" Again, a visitor says: "I can sell all my eggs at 40 cents per dozen in winter, but just as I

am getting them in liberal numbers my fowls begin to lay eggs with soft shells." Another exclaims: "I am very much troubled with my fowls eating their eggs and one another's feathers."

These questions open up the whole subject of the proper winter treatment of laying stock, and they embrace three of the greatest and most discouraging drawbacks to the beginners success in the shape of eggs laid with soft shells, and egg and feather eating. Answers can best be given by describing the rations fed this winter, and the reasons for so feeding, other than that already mentioned.

THE RATIONS OF THE PRESENT WINTER.

The hot morning ration fed during the winter was composed of—

	Lbs. ozs.
Bran	2 8
Shorts	2 8
Ground meat	1 8
Clover hay—steamed and mixed in liberal quantities.	

Salt—very small quantity.

Coarse sand and fine ground oyster shells mixed—about three handfuls.

The whole was mixed with boiling water. Boiled potatoes and turnips were occasionally substituted for the clover hay, for variety in diet is beneficial. The hens did not eat the scalded clover hay when exposed to them by itself, but readily did so when mixed in the soft feed.

The results aimed at in feeding this ration were:—

1. Greater economy by the omission of cornmeal.
2. By supplying lime regularly in soft feed to prevent the laying of eggs with soft shells.
3. By avoiding too generous a diet to prevent the hens from becoming so fat as to lay eggs with soft shells.
4. To avoid, by the omission of cayenne pepper or other condiments, a highly stimulating ration, often the cause of eggs being laid with soft shells or without any shells.