

eggs, and cannot be molested by other hens. And when the chicks are hatched, they live with the hen in the same coop, and will stick to it when she is again in the Poultry House if you choose to let them, but if not they go with the rest and the box may be again used, previously lime-whited inside after the chickens are hatched. It is well to shift the box every day or so, to give the hen the benefit of fresh ground; by doing this at night or after the birds are at roost no trouble is entailed, and all is ready again by the morning.

A more elaborate contrivance may suit circumstances, but for people in bush settlements, distant from towns, there is no better, quicker or cheaper plan of accommodation for a hatching hen.

F. C. HASSARD.

BREEDING FOR EXHIBITION POINTS.

Many amateurs when smitten by the desire to become breeders of some leading variety of fowls forthwith visit one of the leading Poultry shows, or the yards of a high class fancier, and at an extravagant price purchase a pen of birds for breeding stock. Every care and attention that can be given these birds is bestowed upon them; chickens are hatched and reared, and great are the expectations as to their success as prize takers at the next exhibition. The time arrives, and much to the chagrin of the expectants, their pens of birds are passed over by the Judges without even so much as a commended, while the adjoining one, perhaps owned by the person from whom some of these very amateurs purchased receive the much-coveted first prize. Suspicion, not unfrequently wholly undeserved, is the immediate result, and the charge that the vendor could not have sold first class birds is averred, the simple truth

being, that the judgment of the skilled breeder had enabled him to produce better stock than his amateur friends.

Success in breeding fancy poultry is not obtained by paying fancy prices. All breeders know well that far more depends upon the judicious mating of birds than on their intrinsic excellence, and better results will be obtained by very mediocre stock mated with judgment than are likely to be bred by the best birds in the country paired by chance. The breed fancied must be carefully studied, and it would be well for those intending to breed to study it well for some time before any purchase is made. This can readily be done now-a-days, in the first instance through poultry literature and poultry-books, and in the next place by procuring information from fanciers already well acquainted with the subject. Nearly all fanciers are pleased to give valuable information for the asking, and it is no use being shy in asking it. By thus learning something about a breed in the first place, by securing the aid of some friend in the selection, by beginning in a modest way till more experience is gained, and, most of all, by careful reflection, observation, and study of the birds when obtained, more or less success will always be secured, where the rash or "any price" system will only end in disappointment and failure.

We have frequently of late been shown letters received by some of our Toronto breeders, requesting weight, age, &c., of fowls offered for sale, evidently intending the purchase, if carried out, to be for the breeding pen. The writers of these letters do not seem to understand that the production of first class exhibition chickens depends more on the careful mating of their parents than on size or weight; and in placing together birds in which defects in the one will be counterbalanced by per-