

## Poultry Farming.

### Editor Review.

In looking over last issue of Review I noticed a communication from G. F. C., St. Thomas, asking for the plan of a hen house to accommodate 3,000 hens. I think it safe to say that a house of such gigantic proportions as this would necessarily be has never been designed, or if it has, has no doubt been abandoned as being unsuitable.

Now, I do not wish G. F. C. to infer from this that 2,000 hens cannot be kept on one farm. They undoubtedly can be, but to be kept to the best advantage it will be necessary to erect several houses, instead of one large one. But I would warn our friend not to go too deep at first. From the nature of the enquiry I presume G. F. C. has had very little experience in poultry farming, or he would in all probability have found it necessary to keep his fowls in flocks of 25, or not over 50 in each. If from actual experience he had found it profitable to keep them in large flocks, the enquiry would have been unnecessary; hence my surmise.

Our friend must not take offence at my remarks as to his experience. If my conclusions are erroneous I humbly apologize. It is for the purpose of advising and disseminating information that poultry journals are published, and I am glad to see G. F. C.'s inquiry in Review. If all who have embarked in the poultry business on a large scale had sought advice through the medium of a poultry paper there would not have been so many disastrous failures.

If our friend will content himself with 300 hens as a start, with proper care and strict attention to business, he will no doubt be successful; but unless he has practical experience with the larger number, no matter how well posted theoretically, I should be very much inclined to predict his failure.

To accommodate 300 hens, I would recommend three houses, each 50 feet front by 15 feet deep, three feet running the extreme length of the building on the north side should be used for a hallway. The house can then be divided into four pens, each twelve feet square, and 25 fowls can be kept in each pen. The walls should be built on a 2 x 4 in. scantling frame, and should be lined over the studding on the inside with tarred felt paper. This will keep out the cold, and the odour of it is very obnoxious to lice and parasites. The inside can be boarded up, and white-washed regularly.

In many modern poultry houses very large windows have been used; in fact some have gone as far as to make the entire south side of glass, and in some cases also the roof, too; but it has been found by actual experience to be a bad plan. There is no doubt that fowls enjoy the sunshine, as it streams through these windows, but it should be remembered that at night when there is no sunshine these windows let in a lot of cold, and when the thermometer marks zero outside your fowls are freezing inside. On bright days, when the sun shines, let the fowls out, and it will do them more good than sunning themselves at a window. On very cold stormy days the less windows you have the better. A window three feet square will be plenty large enough for each pen or compartment. There should be two large ventilators on the roof, one at each end of the building. There should be a door communicating with each pen from the hall way; and there should be

two yards or runs in front of each pen. The fowls should only be permitted to use one run at a time, as where many fowls are kept the ground becomes covered with their droppings, and if permitted to use it continually would breed disease. After the fowls have occupied one run for a considerable time, put them into the other; the first one can then be dug over, and grass seed, corn, or anything else that will grow quickly, and furnish good green food, should be sown. The ground, being well manured, will give a luxuriant growth to vegetation, and the growing crop will, of course, in a great measure exhaust the manure, and this is just what is wanted. When your crop has attained sufficient growth turn your fowls among it, and go through the same operation with the other run. By this plan your birds will be kept clean and healthy, and you will have plenty of green feed all summer and fall.

I have said nothing about the interior fitting of the house, taking it for granted that any one meditating keeping fowls in large numbers will know how to arrange perches and nest boxes.

Yours very truly,

T. A. WILLIAMS.

Toronto, May 8th, 1884.

## Our London Letter.

BY W. R. GARNER.

Our local poultry association is in a flourishing condition. The second regular meeting was held on the 22d ult., and was well attended. We have a membership of about thirty, and it is safe to say that at the end of 1884 we will be able to boast of a membership of not less than seventy-five. Your readers will be glad to learn that the Western Fair Board adopted the prize-list as amended by our association. These amendments represent an addition of about \$100 to our prize-list, and several varieties of fowls are now on the list that were not on before, as a comparison of the prize-lists will show. This will, no doubt, have the effect of drawing a larger number of exhibitors to our Western Fair, our prize-list now ranking second in Canada in point of money offered, Toronto being first. So far our association has accomplished a great deal. Very unfavorable reports were given by the members regarding the hatching of their pets, but hoped that when the warm weather set in this aspect of affairs would change, which it has in many instances.

We visited the yards of Brother McNeil to day, and his youngsters seem to be "breaking the shells" very rapidly. "Billy" seems to know how it's done, for he generally has a "stack" of chicks in the fall.

The writer performed a very successful surgical operation upon a Plymouth Rock hen today. The hen in question has been sick for upwards of a month, seeming to have something in her throat. She fed all right, and was not particularly mopy, but did not lay. Determined to kill or cure, I secured the hen and began the operation. I took a sharp knife and opened the crop, and to my amazement found therein a piece of common hemp rope the size of a man's hand. This I took from the crop, sewed up the wound, and now the bird is apparently as well as ever. Thus a valuable fowl was saved from an untimely grave. By the exercise of a little skill many a valuable bird