

one male and from four to twelve females. He needs for his trade, and the community which buys of him needs more females than males, three or four times as many, and he finds, as one usually does find, about as many males as there are females, has a superfluity of males, which must be sold as dressed poultry, and will therefore bring him much less money than if they could be sold as stock birds.

So we see that there are classes to whom a large number of males is not an unmixed blessing, as well as a large number to whom a superfluity of males is almost an impossibility. And in view of these facts we find many who are seeking for some remedy for this state of things, some means by which the ratio of males to females can be regulated.

#### WORLD'S FAIR—SPECIAL NOTICE.

**W**ILL all exhibitors from Canada at the World's Fair let the editor of the REVIEW know *at once* whether they have been paid their prize money or not. On enquiry from Mr. J. S. Larke, Executive Commissioner for Canada as to probable date of payment, he replies that he is surprised that any are yet in default and wants a list of those who have not yet received the money.

#### PRACTICAL POINTS.

BY BLACK WYANDOT.

**I**N crossing with common fowls or small birds use the light Brahma, if a sure increase in size, stamina and winter-laying is the object.

Spend your money for wholesome foods, not "egg foods" or other medicated foods. Cayenne pepper, when a little stimulant is needed, is cheaper and safer.

A green bone mill is the most valuable machine yet invented for use in the poultry yard. The clover cutter ranks next.

Don't keep old fowls after the third year. They decrease the average egg product and consequently the profits.

"Hard times" are upon us. Now is the time to save money wherever possible and invest it in advertising.

The blood of the Pekin Duck has become so widely diffused in the flocks of farmers and poultrymen in America that few flocks can be found not showing traces of this blood. A great increase in the quantity and quality of this product has come within the last few years, and while the

present contraction of prices is affecting the poultry product there is never a time during the year when good ducks will not command a price affording a good profit above the cost of production. This fact, added to the well known fact, that ducks are little liable to disease, and are almost always easily reared with only sufficient water for drinking supply, makes this branch a very attractive one. Duck farms have been more successful than market chicken farms, another fact which proves the practicability of this branch of industry.

Many of the preparations sold as "egg foods," condition powders, etc., are of little real value. A recent writer says that one of the most highly recommended of these preparations was found on analysis to consist of cheap and wholly useless materials seasoned with a little cayenne pepper. Aside from the unnecessary expense of using prepared foods and stimulants of this kind they are often a positive injury to a flock. If fowls have the right care and a good variety of wholesome food they will seldom need a stimulant. If the money inexperienced poultrymen often invest in crushed oyster shells and like indigestible materials supposed to furnish lime for formation of shell would be invested in good green bone mills it would be a most sensible change, and the breeders flock would show the benefit.

#### THE SITTING HEN—ITS TREATMENT.

BY WILLIAM HAY, CORRIE ARRAN, SCOTLAND.

**T**HAT the sitting hen may be kept in health and be able to complete the duties she has undertaken, she should be allowed her liberty once a day for food, exercise and a dust bath. Sitting too close in hot weather is not favourable to successful hatching or a vigorous family, as the membrane under the shell becomes too tough for the chicken to break.

If the instinctive affection of the hen makes her unwilling to leave the nest during the first two days, she must be lifted off the eggs; care being taken that none are removed with her. In a day or two this will not be necessary, as she will rise at once when the attendant enters.

How long a hen may leave her eggs with safety depends upon the weather and the stage of incubation at which the eggs are. If the weather be cold the interval of relaxation should be as short as possible; but danger may be averted by placing over the eggs a piece of warm material to prevent them from being chilled. The greatest danger we may say is at the beginning of incubation and when the hatch is due. From the second week of incubation, when the future