



BREEDING PEN OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

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ings in the skin situated in rows along the side of the body, the fine particles of dust close these openings, so that the parasites die of suffocation as quickly as quadrupeds would if held under water. This has been denied by other scientists, who say that these holes are defended by a very delicate but effective apparatus that makes it impossible for any foreign matter to enter, no matter how minute it may be. Be this as it may, we know that wild fowls take dust baths whenever the weather and the state of the soil permit. Nature is a good guide, and whether the dust bath is for the prevention and absorption of effete matter which has become too odorous, or whether it acts as an insecticide, it is certainly advantageous to fowls, or they would not use it.

Therefore, the careful poultry-keeper will provide boxes for birds, filled with

fine road dust, coal ashes, sandy loam or fine clay thoroughly dried and pulverized. It makes but little difference which of these varieties of soil is used. The principal thing is to have it clean; that is, not a highly manured soil, but a comparatively unfertile one is preferable. Subsoil will do very well. The next qualification is that it must be perfectly dry, and the other qualification is that it must be very thoroughly pulverized. The best place to locate the dust-bath is just inside the south or east windows, where the fowls may enjoy the health-giving rays of the sun, and where the dust in the bin will be most apt to be kept perfectly dry.

P. H. JACOBS.

Although the best morning meal is one composed of soft food, warm, and of a variety, yet it should not be fed in

a manner so as to allow the hens to eat their fill. The better plan is to give them only a small quantity as a stimulant, when just coming off the roosts, the remainder of the meal to consist of grain, for which the hens should be made to hunt.

Carbolic acid is the best disinfectant known. An ounce of the crude acid (costing 75 cents a quart) to each gallon of water should be sprinkled about the poultry-house once a week.

The Almighty created birds to protect grain, vegetables, trees and fruit against the ravages of the insect tribe. For every bird that dies millions of insects are spared from death, and millions of insects means famine. Select your food for your fowls with as much care as for yourself; and do not con-