

than those bred in May. Why? The harvest suns are the hottest and intensely ripening to all grains. This intense and overhead heat is damaging to all fowl plumage, dries and saps it like the scorching of the leaves. When the last or adult plumage is young and tender at this time, the sun scorches and turns all white plumage to a straw or yellow shading. Thus, when we consider that $1\frac{1}{2}$ points will cover the difference in the score of most of the winners in any show, we see how a month's difference in the time of hatching makes a wonderful difference in the chances to win, and why it is many males from the same pen of breeders will be straw color while others will be pure white all summer, for the simple reason that one's plumage ripened after the heat of harvest was over. These observations are what led me to advocate that poultry exhibitions be held from Jan. 1st to March 30th. Were we to inaugurate this policy by each breeder setting his face squarely against breeding till April 15th to June 15th, and making the egg season from April 1st to June 1st, we should have better specimens as a rule, even if we used incubators we could rear the chicks on the grass and on the mother earth.

I think it is safe to say that 9/10 of all the prizes won between July 1st and April 1st are on April and May hatch Asiatics, May and June hatch P. Rocks and Wyandottes and later hatch Leghorns.

This year, April 8th, New Hampshire was three feet under snow. Canada does not awake to spring influences till middle of April.

In States and localities that have short seasons the specimens will grow more rapidly. The colder the general temperature the specimen raised therein will have a greater weight in comparison to apparent size. These are noticeable features to a judge that is visiting

exhibitions in the different parts of the country.

We say eggs hatch poorly between Feb. 15th and April 15th. This is an absolute truth in all sections of the States. When the ground is as a rule covered with snow between Dec. 15th and Feb. 15th, six weeks confinement to a fowl house in close quarters with no chance to get to the bare earth destroys this reproductive vigor—and it is only restored after a season of four to six weeks in early spring, which gives us back this fertility in April and May; as an English writer put it: "*You must wait for the spring warming up.*"

Winter hatching is secured only by the best of care and furnishing artificially as nearly as possible the conditions of spring, and an abundance of fresh air. Low built fowl houses many find to be a mistake for winter breeding. Then what are the requisites. Plenty of air, vegetables, meat, a small grain diet, exercise, and deep laid earth floors, care for all this is the only chance of success.

SCRAPS.

BY A CANADIAN.

THERE were more entries in the late New York Show from the Province of Ontario than from any State in the Union.

Does this prove that comparison judging is more favored in Canada than scoring? To read some of our poultry papers on the other side of the line it would seem so. The real reason, I take it, was the liberality of the managers of the New York show.

In the March number there was an important announcement that all dead

birds might be sent to the Pathological Department of McGill University, Montreal, if the owners wished to ascertain the cause of death. We trust that many have availed themselves of this unusual and favorable opportunity.

In conversation with a fancier the other day, he told me of a bird of his that died and how anxious he was to know what it died of. I said, did you send it to McGill University? and the reply was, I knew nothing of their offer.

I told him, as I hope all will who are interested, to read the first page of the March number.

Bye the way, ought not all of us who are interested in the fancy to feel proud of the April number of the REVIEW? Can the oldest inhabitant tell us of a better one being published?

Speaking of the oldest inhabitant, who is the oldest fancier in the Dominion?

Let us hear from him and tell us something about how things were in the poultry line when he was a boy.

It would also be interesting to know who are left in the fancy that took prizes more than 20 years ago.

One thing is certain there was no A. P.A. in existence for some people to kick at. Those of us who can remember before the A.P.A. was formed know that the most rapid strides have been taken in the fancy since the formation of that Society.

"Uncle Isaac" Felch who has been one of the leading spirits in it since its formation has to retire from active participation owing to his increasing deafness, but he has not, nor must ever will, lose his interest in it.