

common sense method of poultry raising. The greatest interest in fowls with farmers seems to be centred in ducks, geese and turkeys; yet even in these they do not seem to study the most profitable mode of keeping them, or the time to market them to the best advantage. It seems a wilful disregard of expense to be keeping ducks for three or four months, or even longer, when the greatest profit is to be realized by marketing them at eight to ten weeks old. It does not seem much saving to, say, market them two weeks earlier; but just look at it rightly; say a saving of two weeks' feed in a flock of one hundred only; is that a *small* item? I think not; then the two weeks of care and attention must count for something; but, above all, is the fact that at eight or ten weeks old they fetch the very highest market price, and are easier picked. I met a lady in Toronto about four years ago at the poultry show, who had bred ducks for a long time, and yet did not know this. She told me she would try it, and was only too glad to know of it. Of course the stock for market is kept separate from those intended for breeding, and pushed as fast as possible into flesh.

There is much truth in friend MORTIMER'S morsel re the profit in poultry over cattle raising. As I have myself repeatedly remarked, no one would think of neglecting other stock as they do poultry, in fact they would think and say it were madness. They expect to have to feed and house, and care for, and clean the quarters inhabited by every other living thing on the farm, and that, too, in the case of cattle and horses, for years without any return whatever, and then (no inconsiderable item) they carry the risk of a large sum on every head all that time. But if the poultry-house needs cleaning, it is counted so *much* trouble—sometimes too much to be taken in hand at all, and if left and vermin get the upper hand, it is put down to the fowls being

"nasty, dirty, good-for-nothing critters," and "more trouble than they're worth, anyhow." But the pig pens, the stables and cow-sheds *have to be cleaned*. Poultry don't live in them, or they would not be cared for so well.

Yours truly,

W. C. G. PETER.

Angus, Oct. 16, '88.

#### COLOR OF PEKIN COCKERELS.

##### Editor Review:—

In October number of REVIEW, I see you make notice of our conversation at the Industrial. I join with you in what you say that it is an important point which ought to be discussed through your valuable paper, so that a judge may be guided somewhat by the majority of the breeders of the Pekin Bantams. Now my experience has been in using cinnamon buff Cochins cocks and hens, that they would, throw most of their pullets flecked on wing, and cannot remember having ever bred a good exhibition male or female from such a cross. The only way to breed buff Cochins satisfactorily is to use good solid golden cocks, at least, that is my experience. Perhaps some other breeders might have had it different. But through your valuable paper, by men of experience, we may get at facts much quicker than having to prove it by experience over again. I think the same rule will apply to Pekin Bantams.

Yours,

S. BUTTERFIELD.

Bois Blanc Island, Oct. 22, '88.

#### PECULIAR EGGS.

BY SCIENCE.

Since you have done me the honor to ask my opinion on such peculiar cases as that referred to under, "A Curious Case," in your October number, I shall endeavour to make the matter clearer in a brief account of the formation and expulsion (laying) of the

egg. The egg of the fowl, bird or other creature, (for all animals are derived from eggs) is really a developed cell in the case of the fowl, much overlaid with material for the feeding of the chick while undergoing development. When the egg is ready to leave the seat of its origin (ovary) it is a globular mass, in other words a yolk only. After it bursts through the ovary it is seized by the open end of the egg tube, (duct) and is squeezed along this organ, undergoing a spiral movement, hence the rope-like (twisted) appearance of the little bodies seen at each end of the yolk when a raw egg is broken into a dish; and the method of this passage may be understood by watching a horse or cow drink, for it is similar to the movement of the fluid down their gullets, but of course, much slower. The various additions of white in layers; of the two egg membranes lining the shell itself are made during this passage, they are indeed formed (secreted) by the egg tube.

It is to be noted that the shell is the last to be formed, and as the part of the tube in which this takes place is, after all, short, it is not strange that there should be occasional "soft shelled" eggs, i. e., eggs without the shell at all. It also becomes clear why fowl need shell-forming material, i. e., lime, lime, either in their usual food or as an extra, hence the value of ground oyster shells, etc. Suppose now that for any reason the egg duly formed should remain stationary in the tube while one or as in "A Curious Case," two other eggs (yolks) should descend, then the whole mass might be covered with a shell, which I believe is the explanation of the case in question. Dissection of laying fowls, recently killed, will reveal the fact that the ovary is full of eggs, and so it resembles a bunch of grapes, so far as form is concerned, in different degrees of advancement; while on cutting open the egg tube, even the naked eye can discern that all parts of it have