

ence. I have found a good warm breakfast to be a good thing for fowls, but the warmth consequent upon exercise to be better; of course the warm foods produces the warmth while the exercise maintains it.

In conversation, at Yorkville, with Mr. Wright, of Richmond Hill, upon this subject, he said "I am so strongly impressed with the necessity of having sheds in addition to my regular poultry house, that I have decided to tear out the front of every alternate pen, thus converting them into sheds."

Now, Sir, if I were building again this would be just my plan; first a shed, then a pen, and so on. Of course it must be remembered that I deal with one variety only, and write accordingly. I shall build during the summer, in addition to my present supply, two more sheds, one 12 by 25, the other 12 by 14.

I have met the following peculiarity during the winter in the growth of comb in Light Brahmas. I sold some half dozen young cockerels to a neighbor, some four of which he again sold, retaining four for his own use, selecting those with small, neat combs. Since, both of these birds have developed the largest combs I ever saw on a Light Brahma, while those sold by him have small, fine combs. All my own birds have also small combs. Now, what is the cause of this, is the question. I said at once, too much meat, but the answer was, "They got no meat only such as they picked up." Now, as this gentleman can affirm, he came right into my yard and brought two clutches of chicks all but two, which I selected out of the lot, while they were yet small, and so they were just the same as the rest. The argument that they have bred back will not do in this case. The cock used was direct from the yards of P. Williams, Esq., and had a good comb, and I am confident that P. W. has not used a bird with such a comb for the last twenty five years. I must conclude for this time.

I am yours fraternally,

GALLINÆ.

Lefroy, March 2nd, 1881.

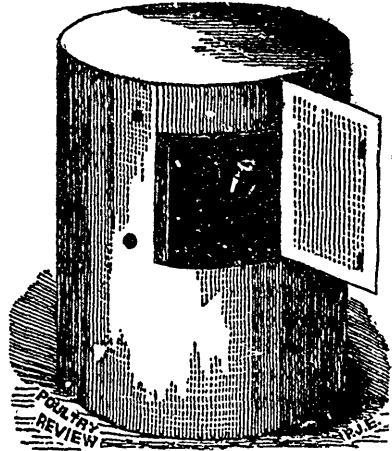
Hatching.

The very important work of hatching out the chickens is now in order. We have no doubt but that among our new subscribers of this year, there are many who have not had much experience in management of the setting hen, and will be glad to receive some hints upon the subject

CARE OF THE EGGS.

The eggs should be collected as soon after being laid as possible, especially in cold weather, and placed on end in a box or drawer in which there is sufficient bran to hold them in position. The fresher the eggs are when put in the nest the

more apt they are to hatch strong chickens; they will hatch after being kept a considerable time, but when over two weeks old they should be discarded.



THE NEST.

The nest here illustrated cannot be improved on for hatching purposes. It is simply a cheese-box, with the bottom and cover connected by four laths about eighteen inches long, nailed firmly with clove nails, and covered with coarse sacking. Fill this with moist earth to within four inches of the top of bottom part, hollow out a little in the centre, place a bedding of a couple of inches of soft straw on the earth, and it is ready for use. The sacking should lap over at the opening, and can be fastened with a pin or button. The loose nature of the sacking allows sufficient air for the hen, without draughts, and plenty of light. This nest can be set anywhere, and is so cozy that the hen becomes greatly attached to it. She is never alarmed by anything that may be going on about her. The cost will not exceed 25 cents.

THE HEN.

Nearly all the varieties that hatch will produce good sitters, but there is as much difference in this respect as there is in laying—of two sisters one may be a good sitter and the other a poor one. With proper care it is very seldom that a hen will desert her nest. There are some hens that are unable to hatch eggs, not having sufficient animal heat in their bodies. This is seldom the case when the bird is in good health and condition.

The number of eggs placed under the hen should be regulated according to her size; a common barnyard fowl can cover 9, a medium size hen 11, and an Asiatic 13. In warm weather two more may be added to these numbers.

The hen should never be given the eggs until well settled down to business. Four or five pro-