

Translated into more modern English the above passage would read as follows: Also at Cairo, that I spake of before, sell they commonly both men and women of other lands, as we do here beasts in the market. And there is a common house in that city that is all full of small furnaces; and thither bring women of the town their eggs of hens, of geese, and of ducks, for to be put into those furnaces. And they that keep that house cover them with the heat of horse dung, without hen, goose, or duck, or any other fowl; and at the end of three weeks or a month they come again and take their chickens and nourish them and bring them forth so that all the country is full of them. And so they do there both winter and summer.

Sir, John's account corresponds very closely with that given by modern observers, proving not only that artificial incubation is no device of recent times, but that the methods successful in these days in that gray old country are the same that were practised more than 500 years so successfully "that alle the contree was fulle of" chickens.—American Poultry Journal.

## ❖ QUERY \* DEPARTMENT. ❖

### IMPURE HOUDANS.

W. H. DICKSON.—I bought a sitting of Houdans eggs and always understood that they should have five toes. My cockerels have but the females have not. Is this usual?

The male and female should alike possess the five toes. We have never seen or heard of a well bred Houdan lacking the fifth toe, and even in crossing it shows up for a long time. We suspect the purity of blood in this case, and it would be folly to breed from such females, for the trait would only obtain a stronger hold on the race obtained from them and would annoy you exceedingly.

### SICK CHICKS.

J. WILSON.—Some of my chicks are sick, they mope around and drag their wings on the ground. Can I do anything for them.

Examine for lice about the vent. If they are free from that it may be their quarters are damp or too cold. As you give no symptoms of any sickness I cannot say what is the matter. They may be suffering from looseness of the bowels as the weather has been very hot, and this would make them dispirited. If this is the case feed them once daily a feed of cooked rice just swelled

nicely to fill out the kernel. If you can put a little milk with it it would be better. Try a little, say a desert spoon to a quart of water, of Radway's Ready Relief for a tonic.

### FEED FOR MOLTING HENS.

J. M. M.—What is the best feed for molting hens.

As much change as possible. An occasional feed of meat is a great help. Bullock's liver or lights cooked and cut up small are very good, and cheap; the lights need more cooking than the liver. The liquor these are boiled in, thickened with meal and bran, would make a fine nourishing dish. The new feathers, as you can see by examination, are full of blood all up the quill, and must necessarily keep the bird under a constant drain. If at liberty they will get on without any extra feed, as they procure in one form or another everything needful; besides, there is an element belonging to liberty that we cannot estimate or analyze, viz., the sense of freedom, the very enjoyment of which seems to produce wonderful results in every form of animal nature. Hemp seed is good, and milk, one of the best aids, especially if sweet. Green food is indispensable at molting time. Sunflower seed is useful too.

### COMING SHOWS.

Industrial Exhibition at Toronto, Sept. 9 to 21. H. J. Bill, Secretary.

Central at Ottawa, Sept. 10 to 14. C. R. W. MacCuaig, Secretary, Ottawa.

Great Central Fair at Hamilton, Sept. 23 to 27. C. R. Smith, Secretary, Hamilton.

Great Northern Exhibition at Collingwood, Sept. 25 to 27. T. J. Crawford, Secretary, Collingwood.

Dunnville, Dec. 3, 4, and 5. R. H. Marshall Sec'y.

### OHIO.

Central Ohio, at Mt. Gilead, Ohio, January 7th to 11, 1890. J. Y. Bickdell, Judge. W. F. Bruce, Secretary.

Cleveland, January 11th to 15th 1890. C. C. ScheMentrager, Sec., Glenville.

Fayette Association, at Washington C. H., January 14th to 16th, 1890. J. B. Collier, Sec.

Union, at Cardington, Dec. 17 to 21, 1889, G. S. Singer, Secretary.

### NEW YORK.

International, Buffalo, N.Y., December 11th to 18th, 1889. H. M. Fales, Sec., La Salle, N.Y.

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