

a variety of inflexions, and finally to hold his head up straight. The feathers he is covered with are only a fine down, and whilst they remain wet they make him appear almost naked. These feathers seem, by the multitude of their branches, to be so many small shrubs; when those branches are wet and sticking to each other they take up but very little room, but as they dry they unangle and part from each other. The branches, or rather the beards of each feather were kept and pressed close to each other by a kind of pipe within which they were lodged. This pipe is made of a membrane which breaks as soon as it dries, and the spring of the beards, which inclines them to recede from the stem, contributes to this effect. When all these beards are spread, each feather so composed takes up a good deal of room, and when the feathers are dry and straight the chicken is covered with a coat which is extremely warm and pretty.

Whenever you observe a pretty large fracture that has been made in the shell, together with a rending of the membrane, remains the same for five or six hours and is not enlarged, you may conclude from it that the chicken adheres to the inside of the egg; if you look attentively on the brink of the hole made in the membrane you will see it dry, no fluid appears to moisten it, and it will sometimes be apparently covered with feathers sticking to it. You must not hesitate then to do for the chicken what he would infallibly do were he not deprived of all liberty of acting, by many gentle strokes of a hard body, as, for instance, the end of a key, you will lengthen the fracture till the whole circumference is completed, and then tear the membrane, which is under the fracture. This may be done with the point of a pin or a pair of scissors, but you must take care not to let it penetrate into the cavity of the egg further than is necessary to effect the intended rent. You may often without any danger to the chicken, tear the membrane round the whole circumference of the egg with your nails or your fingers, by making the gentlest efforts to take off the forepart of the shell the membrane that sticks to it is torn by the efforts thus made against it. When the resistance proves to be too great you must break the said forepart of the shell into many pieces, which must be separated gently from each other afterwards, that the chicken may lie quite open. There are amongst these pieces of shell some that must be removed with great circumspection. I mean those which cannot be pulled without making the chicken squeak, and to which his feathers are glued. You sometimes tear his feathers off, but commonly the feathers themselves tear off the shell the part of the membrane to which they adhere. It happens sometimes that the chicken adheres not only

to several places of the forepart of the shell, but also to many places in the hind part, from which he must be separated. This operation though painful to the chicken is not mortal to him, he no sooner gets rid of it but he appears to have as much vigour as any new born chick. This assistance is important to many chickens, may prove fatal to others, for which reason I advise the reader not to attempt it in too great a hurry. The facility of coming out of their shells ought not to be procured to any but those which have been near four and twenty hours together without getting forward in their work. There are chickens which show too great an impatience to peck their shell, and do it before the yolk is entirely got into their body; it would be fatal to these were they enabled to come out of their shell a few hours after they have pecked it. I have found both among the chickens that were hatched of their own accord and those which I have assisted, some that, notwithstanding the perfect consolidation of the place through which the yolk had been introduced into their body, had nevertheless still without it proportions of intestines, some longer, some shorter; one might think that these proportions had not been inclosed in the cavity of the belly at the same time when the rest was, but it is no less probable that all this is the consequence of the efforts the chicken had made towards being hatched, and that they had brought on him a rupture which generally proves fatal in a few days.

Next month will be commenced a series of letters on the Artificial Rearing of Chickens, contributed by Mr. Thick.

Our Lefroy Letter.

Editor Review,

Let me say that in giving my opinion upon this subject, that to rid my statements of the very appearance of dogmatism, I shall endeavor to state as decidedly as I can the reason upon which my convictions are based. That the conclusions themselves, or the reasonings by which they have been arrived at, will be found absolutely correct I dare not hope. I shall, therefore, neither be disappointed nor chagrined to have the error fairly pointed out or corrected.

Now sir, to come right into the midst of the subject in hand, it is my opinion that the show of the Ontario Poultry Association would have been far more successful, both financially and educatively, if it had been held in the City of Toronto, than it has been either at Guelph or Brantford, and that there is no other city in Ontario which affords the same facilities and advantages for an exhibition of any kind, especially an exhibition of poultry, as Toronto does.

Now, if this be the case, it is the duty of the fra-