

NEW HAMBURG ASSOCIATION.

Editor Review:

AS PROMISED I enclose you the proceedings of our annual meeting and names of officers elected. After the reading of the minutes of previous meetings and payment of accounts the election of officers was proceeded with, with the following result:

President, Alexander Fraser; vice-President, Robert Puddicombe; Secretary & Treasurer, Louis Peine; Directors, R. T. Winn, H. Henrich, J. Laschinger, T. Sterling, L. G. Pequegnat, F. Goebel, J. L. Hamilton, C. F. Ernst.

It was also unanimously decided to hold a show next winter, date to be fixed at future meeting. Mr. Pequegnat was appointed reporter to the different journals. Messrs. R. T. Winn and J. Laschinger were elected auditors. There is at present in the hands of the Treasurer a sum of money which will enable the directors to make our next show equal if not better than any heretofore held.

LOUIS PEINE,

New Hamburg, April 17th, '95.

Sec'y N.H.P.A.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

BY L. C. VERREY.

DURING the past month I have received no end of communications from various parts of the country telling of the scarceness of broody hens and the great infertility of the eggs. Such results are not to be wondered at, considering the intense cold we had during the earlier weeks of the year; for, as I predicted in my last month's notes the harmful effects of that severe weather would remain for some considerable period, and both the causes of complaint stated above are undoubtedly attributable to the climatic influences, for, as far as regards the scarceness of broody hens, it must be remembered that, just as the hens were coming on to lay, they received a check, and, consequently, as they are bound by Nature's law to lay a certain number of eggs before evincing a desire to incubate, both the laying and the broodiness were retarded. Now that the weather is more genial, eggs are more plentiful, and the egg-producing organs will soon complete their work, so that broodiness will supervene as a natural consequence. The eggs, also, are becoming more fertile, but still, the number containing the germ of life is not what it should be for this season of the year, (of course, there are cases where fertile eggs are as plentiful as usual, but such

cases are more the exception than the general rule), and, as the time is now getting on, the poultry keeper must make every effort, and leave no stone unturned to make up for lost time; therefore all the stock birds, and the cocks in particular, should have the most liberal diet, besides a little tonic administered to them. This tonic may consist of small quantities of Parishes' chemical food given to each individual bird, or of ale mixed with the soft food thrice a week. Sulphate of iron should also be added to the drinking water, but only sufficient quantity put into the water as to make it slightly taste, for, if it is put in in too large a quantity, the fowls will not drink it; and another thing, even if they did drink it, it would do them more harm than good, for though a little tonic is most beneficial, an overdose is harmful. It must be remembered that any mineral tonic given in excess quickly upsets the digestion, and then no end of complications may arise.

It is sometimes more advantageous to let the cock be with the hens for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon, than to let him run continually with them. I have found this plan to greatly increase the fertility of the eggs. I heard the other day from a breeder who only lets the cock be with the hens for a short time once a fortnight, and he assures me that unfertile eggs are quite the exception. I know that this method is adopted by some turkey breeders, and found to answer well; therefore, I do not see why the same plan should not answer equally as well with fowls. But as I have not tried it, I cannot speak from experience; I may say that I should be most pleased to hear from any of my readers if they have ever experimented in like manner and with what result, as I am sure this subject would be received with interest by a vast number of poultry keepers.

Sitting, hatching, and rearing will form the chief work for the month, and perhaps it is needless for me to say that every possible egg should be set during the next three weeks; still, the reminder may not be out of place to the beginner, who may think that eggs set in May, and the chickens hatched in June, will do better, and require less attention than if hatched sooner. The latter is certainly true, but the chickens will never develop into the fine birds that those hatched during April will. Should the weather become very warm and dry towards the end of the month, a little warm water may be poured round the nest during the hen's absence on the three mornings before the day of hatching.

Exhibitors who are desirous of being well to the front at the autumn shows must bestir themselves to keep the early chickens moving—that is, growing—for, as the hatching is bound to be carried on later this year than usual (to make up for lost time) extra attention will be required to get the