

I can assure them I had no intention of doing so. Any immoderate language used, as far as I have heard and read, has come from the opposite parties.

But if those fanciers who are "young" are not judges they are exhibitors, and members of the association, and are just as much interested in these matters as those who have the honor of more advanced age.

SITTING DARK BRAHMAS.

To Mr. Bartlett I would say, I do take back anything I have said disparagingly about Dark Brahmas; but honestly, friend Bartlett, mine set *awfully*. But I have made up my mind in the face of such testimony, that I had got hold of some poor stock, for I am aware that the character of the Light Brahma has not unfrequently suffered through the misdoings of her half-bred cousins. But I feel I am bound to state the whole truth. Just at the time I was writing my letter on Light Brahmas I wrote Philander Williams asking him if he would advise me to keep a pen of Dark Brahmas as sitters. His answer rather surprised me: "I find the Dark Brahmas even less inclined to sit than the Light."

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Lefroy, August 27th, 1884.

Scoring.

Editor Review.

We are hearing a great deal through the columns of the Review just now about scoring. Now, there seems to me to be a certain amount of fallacy in this scoring business, and I for one feel certain that many who are now so anxious about scoring would after a trial be quite satisfied to return to the present method of judging. So far as I have learned the strongest advocates of scoring are dissatisfied exhibitors, and as far as that goes they might not be any better satisfied if their birds were scored. But as a learned judge once said, "The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it," so I think the best way to cure this scoring mania is to have our birds judged by scoring, for a time at any rate, and I do not think it will be a long time until we will mostly all be satisfied with the present system of judging.

There also seems to be an idea afloat that in order to get our birds scored we will be obliged to import such men as I. K. Felch or B. N. Pierce. Now I think this is erroneous. I feel sure that the two judges who officiated at Toronto at our last poultry show are quite capable of scoring. Both of them have assisted at good shows across the lines, as well as having an extended experience here.

I would therefore suggest that we try scoring at our next poultry show, at Guelph this winter, by which means I think many would find it very unpleasant to pay for the extra time taken up, while, according to the usual custom, only the prize-winners would get a score-card.

J. W. BARTLETT.

Lambeth, Ont., August 27th, 1884.

Reasons Why Eggs do Not Hatch.

Editor Review.

A year ago last spring there was complaints from fanciers all over the country respecting the very unsatisfactory manner in which the hatching season opened. Hundreds of settings of eggs were utterly useless, and in other cases not more than 25 per cent. of the early set eggs hatched. Various theories were advanced in explanation, but the most generally accepted one was that the fowls had been subjected to too much confinement, and in addition had been over-fed.

In my opinion this was most undoubtedly the case in most instances, but no doubt there were isolated cases, where other causes accomplished the same disastrous end.

This year the reports from fanciers and breeders are quite the reverse of last, the majority reporting good hatches from the commencement of the season. In my own yards eggs hatched splendidly, indeed I never knew eggs to hatch better. But still, notwithstanding the generally improved state of affairs, there are some instances that have come to my knowledge that have been fully equal to the most disastrous experiences of last year.

In nearly every case reported the fowls have been Asiatics or Plymouth Rocks, and in each case where I have obtained full particulars, the cause of failure has been over-feeding and confinement.

There are some who attribute these seasons of failure and success to the weather,—to some mysterious element, which they do not make the least attempt to explain. The chicken crop cannot be regarded in the same light as the wheat crop. Everybody knows that cereals of all kinds are only too often a failure on account of the weather, either directly or indirectly, either from drought, or the reverse, continued heavy rains, or spring or summer frosts; or indirectly by the ravages of insect, which only make their appearance when the weather is favorable to their existence. We all know that it depends almost entirely on the weather whether the grain crop is a success or a failure, but that the weather can influence the chicken crop to such an extent as this I most certainly refuse to believe. The growing grain derives its nourishment from the chemical elements which it draws from the atmosphere and from the earth, and if by any unfavorable change in the weather it