

## Poultry Department.

Edited by

JAMES FULLERTON, STRATHROY, ONT.

To whom all communications, items of news, &c., on this subject should be addressed.

### NOTES.

Mr. Wm. Brown, Toronto, has purchased from Mr. Thos. E. Dudley of St. Catharines, his Langshan cock and pullet which won 1st at Toronto and Guelph. These added to his Langshan stock will make it excellent for breeding the coming season.

A FREAK.—At the late Stratford show was exhibited a Spanish cock that had become perfectly white. Several fanciers testify that two years ago he was as black as a crow, and a good specimen of his class. What a fright he must have had.

The following is the weight of prize geese and Turkeys at the late Birmingham show:—White Emsden, 48 lbs. 12 ozs.; Toulouse, old, 49 lbs.; young, 42 lbs.; Turkeys, tom, 35 lbs. 13 ozs.; hen, 30 lbs.; poults, 17 lbs. 8 ozs.; 16 lbs., 15 lbs. How does this compare with weight of Canadian birds?

The Black Spanish and Andalusian fancierstalk of forming a club for the improvement of their specialties. Mr. A. F. Banks of Toronto a noted Black Spanish breeder has been mentioned as likely to fill the President's chair.

In our report of the Toronto show it was stated that all but one of the Langshans exhibited were disqualified. We were misinformed in this, and beg to apologize to Messrs. N. Lush of Peterboro, and Kydd and Wright of Bowmanville, for the injustice done their birds.

### SEASON NOTES.

The shows for this season are now about over, and preparations for breeding operations will now be the order of

the day. The birds that have been knocking about from show to show will need good care. Good care for them does not mean high feeding, but such treatment as will bring them into good breeding condition. Nearly all fowls return from the shows lighter than when sent. This is seldom caused by want of sufficient food while on exhibition, as the care-takers more frequently err in feeding too heavily than in stinting the fowls, but the changes, want of rest, and exposure in travelling, take the flesh off very quickly. This loss of flesh will not often be a disadvantage to the fowls, but the causes which led to it will be certain to impair their breeding powers. The eggs laid for a couple of weeks after the fowls have been on exhibition are not so apt to be fertile as they will after that time.

The fertility of the eggs is greatly influenced by the feeding and care the fowls receive. The more closely our treatment of them while in confinement approaches the conditions they live under while at liberty in summer, the more apt are they to fulfil their functions properly, and give us fertile eggs and thriving chicks. In summer they will voluntarily take exercise in search of food, gravel, etc.; in winter they must be driven to take it in their limited quarters by giving them inducements to scratch among straw, leaves, or chaff, for these articles. Fowls will make about one-third of their living on grass if they have access to it in summer; green food should therefore be supplied them regularly in winter. Insects, grubs, &c., are found by them in summer; cooked meat will make a good substitute for these in winter; but as the supply of animal food is limited in summer, and only secured by much labor, so should it be in winter. Gravel, for grinding the food, and lime for the manufacture of shell, must always be on hand. Ground oyster-shell fills the bill for the latter purpose. Wheat is the best staple food, but changes are desirable. Corn should not be fed the

females except for their evening meal. Over-fed or fat hens are never good breeders, they are apt to give thin shelled and unfertile eggs.

Six hens to a cock or cockerel makes a good breeding pen, either for large or small breeds. Always give the preference in the breeding-pen to fully developed hens, especially in the large and slowly maturing varieties. Asiatic pullets, no matter how well mated, will seldom give anything but fine-boned and undersized progeny. If a cockerel is used with hens, he should receive extra feeding to prevent his duties regarding his growth. The best way to manage this is to arrange a special food trough for him so high that it will be out of the reach of the hens, but accessible to him on account of his greater height. Such tit-bits as would fatten the hens can be dropped into this for him to his great benefit.

Avoid giving stimulants of any kind to the breeding hens. Such treatment will do very well when eggs are wanted for market, but what the fancier wants from his birds now is eggs that will hatch. Keep the houses as warm as possible without artificial heat, the fowls busy scratching, then wait with patience till nature acts without forcing, and you will be further ahead next fall than if you had done all the forcing possible.

### A WELL MERITED TRIBUTE.

The members of the Poultry Association of Ontario, at their last annual meeting, did themselves credit in showing the appreciation in which they hold the retiring president, Thomas Gowdy, Esq. It is not saying too much to ascribe to that gentleman more than to anyone else the success that has always attended the exhibitions of the association in Guelph. Not only has he been untiring in the discharge of his duties as president, but he has, besides this, always given his services where most needed during the exhibitions. He has been an impartial and efficient