

Varieties of Poultry.

EDITOR CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I see in the February number of your paper a gentleman praising up his Brown Leghorns for being such good layers. As I have been breeding pure-bred fowls for the past 12 years, it might not be out of place for me to offer a few remarks on the different breeds of poultry. I think the Silver Grey Dorkings will lay more eggs than the Brown Leghorn, and for the table they cannot be beat. My experience with the White Leghorns is that they will beat the Brown Leghorns for eggs. The Dark Brahma in my opinion are also ahead of the Brown Leghorns, only it takes them so long to mature. For large eggs the Black Spanish will beat any fowls that I have tried. As I have kept 12 kinds of pure-bred fowls, I think I might be in a position to know. If eggs is the object in view I think part-breds are ahead of any pure-breds. For instance, take the Black Spanish cock and the Black Spangled Hamburg hen, and you have the Black Hamburgs, which are magnificent layers, or the White Leghorn cock and the Black Spangled Hamburg hen, and you have the Rose-combed Leghorns, as they are called. They also make an excellent cross. Then cross White Leghorns and the Golden Polands, and they can hardly be surpassed for eggs. Though the part-breds are good, yet I like the pure-breds, for several reasons, which would occupy too much of your space if given. Now I will draw to a close.

GEORGE BENTLEY.

Kirkton, March 20th, 1885.

The Apiary.

May Management.

Bees, well managed previously, should be well advanced in fitness for a good summer's work, and, ere the close of the month, ready with many thousands of early progeny to rifle every melliferous flower within a circle of six miles in diameter. During the month they will have the blossoms and other less important pasturage. Should their supplies be scanty, it would be well to continue sparingly to feed, and especially between the time of fruit blossoms and white clover, and so push the rearing of young. If your bees are strong in numbers, and otherwise well appointed, a good flow of honey for two or three weeks will not leave you a loser for all your labor and expense; and in some parts of Ontario the honey season is little over four weeks, although I believe that, through the efforts of bee-keepers, it may be, and has been considerably prolonged.

During the month, and indeed at all times, you should know exactly the condition of every stock. Be sure each has a good queen. If not good, prepare to supersede her as soon as possible. If you can't supply the place of a lost queen, unite the stock with another—an operation which will require skill and care. If, about sunset, you can quiet both stocks by gently smoking them, tapping on their hives, and sprinkling them with well-sweetened and scented water, you may remove all the cards from both the hives, except those having brood and adhering bees. In the centre of the hives which is to contain the united stocks, place a card of comb full of honey, uncapped, and it may be dripping. Let the bees of each stock respectively then occupy the opposite sides of the hive with their own cards of brood. They will meet and mingle and become acquainted peacefully about the dripping comb.

Next day some bees might fly out and go to the stand vacated and be lost. For the prevention of this it might be serviceable to leave a piece of board over the fly-hole. The bees, coming out, unaware of this obstruction, will at once say to themselves, Hullo, what's this? Where am I? This is not my hive! They will suspect that Riel or Sir John, or some one

else has played them a frightful trick and put up "that blawsted fence." So they will proceed to examine it. They will run out and in, and fly about, and mark the place, and come back all right to feed their babies and honor their queen and enjoy their new home.

If you have a number of stocks your recollection of their conditions and requirements might get mixed. To prevent this, various expedients have been used. My own practice was to tack on each hive a card on which I wrote with a pencil, in abbreviated form, whatever was needful.

Some stock may fill up and have no room for breeding, and so prepare to swarm. Let them have room. Some extract before white clover comes. The honey in such a case is apt to be mixed and inferior, and there are other unpleasant liabilities which make extracting questionable.

Bees may be transferred from box hives to movable frames this month—an operation requiring some manual dexterity, but less difficult than a beginner might suppose. It is well, when extensive operations are to be performed, to proceed as near right as possible, to prevent robbing. Smoke the bees a little and tap on the hive. After some minutes carry it a few rods away. Set it bottom up. Place an empty box over it for the bees to run up into—which they will do, all except a few, after twenty minutes' drumming. The box should fit closely or the interstices be closed with rags. Remove the box and bees to their stand, and the hive into a shed or room. Take the hive apart so as to save the comb from breaking. With a thin, sharp knife cut the comb into such pieces as will fit into the frames. To fasten the pieces in the frames some use clamps of tin, and some tie with strings. I used strips of basswood $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, fastening them with small tacks. After a day, or when convenient, remove the strips. Bees will not cease to nibble at strings. Use precaution that the brood be not chilled. When the comb is suspended in the hive, place it on its stand and empty the bees out so they will run into their new home.

The raising of queens and the forming of nuclei should now be attended to. For instances I refer to some work on bee-keeping.

Hive foundation, barrels, cans, etc., should be all ready now for the busy season.

J. F.

Grenfell, N. W. T., April 18, 1885.

Horticultural.

Meeting of Winona and Stoney Creek Grape Grower's Club.

(Held over from April.)

(From our own correspondent.)

Another meeting of the above named society was held at Literary Hall, two miles east of Stoney Creek March 13th. Most of the fruit growers of the township were present, and a large number of friends from adjacent townships; also several gentlemen from a distance, among others Mr. Morden, of Drummondville; R. N. Ball, Niagara, and Mr. Montgomery, of St. Catharines.

The first subject discussed was "Plum Culture," introduced by G. W. Cline, of Winona. Mr. Cline stated that plums should only be planted on land thoroughly drained, and the land should always receive good cultivation. An annual dressing of salt at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bbls. per acre he thought beneficial. Found most profit in early and late varieties. Thought rot started where plums were stung by curculio, and then spread to adjacent plums. Lombards

loaded heavy alternate years. Black knot worst on Lombards. Hoped severe measures would be taken to compel people to burn black knot found on cherry trees. Combated curculio by jarring the trees and spraying with Paris green. Spray as soon as blossoms begin to fall, and again in a week, and a third time after another week, four ounces of Paris green to 40 gallons of water.

As to varieties, if confined to a few, would plant the following in order of ripening: Imperial Gage, Bradshaw, Lombard, Columbia, Pond's Seedling, German Prune, French Prune. Had found Wild Goose and Weaver worthless. Victoria a good plum, but drops its foliage somewhat, and is a little tender, as is Duane's Purple. Other gentlemen present had saved their crops by spraying trees with Paris green.

Mr. Murray Pettit was next called on for a paper on the "Collection of fruit for exhibitions," but excused himself on the ground that there were more important subjects to discuss. Several gentlemen dissented, claiming there is a very great injustice in the present methods, as a private individual often carries off the prizes with fruit grown by his neighbors. Mr. Montgomery spoke energetically on this point, urging that every man should have credit for his own fruit.

Mr. A. H. Pettit followed, urging that this could best be accomplished by a society of this kind making such a display annually as would prevent these borrowing exhibitors from winning any prizes. The district or locality would get the credit then, which should be one of the objects of a club of this nature.

E. D. Smith thought, to accomplish this, steps should be taken early in the season, arrangements being made with different members to specially cultivate and prepare certain varieties of fruit for the autumn exhibitions. Mr. E. J. Woolverton thought this a good suggestion, although he did not believe in doctoring vines to obtain abnormal specimens.

In the absence of Mr. E. Ashley Smith, Mr. J. H. Biggar opened the grape question. He said some years ago when he first started to plant grapes he was called crazy, his neighbors telling him he could not find sale for so many, but now they were sorry they had not planted themselves, and he could assure the same gentlemen that in a few years more they would be sorry they had not planted Niagaras. He would plant over 2,000 in the spring, digging out 18 year old apple trees to make room. Mr. Biggar claimed Niagaras would pay better than Concordats at the same price.

Mr. Montgomery would like the opinion of growers as to whether a white grape would sell better than a blue one on account of color. E. D. Smith thought not, but the reverse if raised in equal quantities, as the consumer could not tell when they were buying ripe grapes so well as in blue or red grapes, as in these latter the color showed plainly whether they were ripe or not. The growers who had tried Niagaras had found them to ripen about with Concordats.

Mr. Lusse, the oldest grape grower in the township, thought the Scott Act would be a damper on grape growing; also that Niagaras would not make good wine if they were as good shippers as represented. Mr. Lusse explained different systems of pruning in vogue in Switzerland, his native country, and gave much valuable information regarding grape culture both in Europe and on the grape growing islands of Lake Erie. Said the result of leaving too much wood would be premature decay. Believed in close pruning, and common sense as guide. Sought to renew the vine every third or fourth year by the substitution of new wood for old, the new wood being brought up gradually from the bottom. Different varieties need-