

Now Sir, permit me to say at the very commencement that as far as these letters refer to these gentlemen personally, I have no desire to meddle, but the subject of prices being public property, and a rather important feature in the egg trade, I shall therefore offer a few remarks upon it as quoted by "S. P."

Now in the first place, "S. P.," in my opinion, has entered too much on the Cr. side of hen account, and not enough on the Dr. side, if only the feed be taken into account, and thirty-five settings sold from twenty hens, even at \$1.00 per doz, a balance on right side of the account might be reasonably expected. But the cost of food is a very small item in the expense of procuring and maintaining a yard from which a man can honestly offer eggs for sale from first class stock.

Now, how many fanciers succeed in disposing of 35 settings of eggs from each variety they raise? Not many. Would not 15 for each variety be more nearly the maximum number? I do not mean to say that "S. P." has not sold that number, if he claims that he has, but if these figures be applied to 99 per cent. of the fancy, they will not be correct. In support of this take Thomas' figures as they appeared in REVIEW some time ago, I cannot quote them exactly, not having those numbers on hand, but I am sure his sales did not average over 15 settings to each variety, and he was one of our most successful breeders.

But let us look at the other side of the subject, and in doing so we cannot follow a safer course than to commence at the beginning. A beginner must have birds, and therefore finds himself making the following entry in "hen account:" To trio, &c., \$25.00; for if he wants a first-class trio, such birds being in demand, he will have to pay a good price. Now this price is no exaggeration, as I am aware of that price being paid, or the cost was that, a few months ago. There is no doubt that this law of supply and demand regulates the price of eggs as it does all things else. But the beginner is only now commencing his education, and this trio is his book, and in nine cases out of ten at the end of two years he has succeeded in raising a lot of anything but exhibition birds; and in the meantime he has made several additional entries on the dr. side—but he has gained knowledge. Now, if this be a true picture, then we see that the knowledge of how to raise fancy poultry costs both time and money to acquire, and for a beginner to mate a lot of very good fowls together without a knowledge of what will be the result, and advertise eggs on the character of that first trio or some other fine specimen he has purchased, and probably gained a prize upon, is not honest; for in advertising he leads the public to think or believe that the eggs purchased of him will produce first-

class poultry, or a fair per cent. of them; and the plea of ignorance on the part of seller is no excuse. But I am wandering from the subject. Now, even if he offers eggs for sale, his sales will not be very large for a few years. But having got fairly started, to maintain the stamina of his flock he must introduce fresh specimens into his yard continually, and one first-class bird would take the shine off fifteen dozen at \$1. We will allow that the eggs produced after hatching season pay for feed.

Again, if his birds are to gain for him such a reputation as will enable him to compete with others, a good house must be provided, and here we come to another formidable debit entry. Again, suitable yards and run-ways are necessary where more than one variety are kept, and even where one is kept, for if his neighbor have fowls he must fence against them, and this will cost money too. But why enlarge; by the time they are well advertised and well exhibited, not to speak of risk, rent of land, or interest of money invested in its purchase, besides subscriptions to poultry journals, &c., we find that to raise fancy fowls costs money, and that a would-be fancier has a great deal to do besides purchasing a few eggs or fowls. And how many ever become successful fanciers? Very few indeed; and if their history be carefully scanned, it will be found in the majority that they are men who have given their most careful attention to one, or at least two, varieties for many years. I agree with "S. P." that in many cases \$1.00 is enough, but where a fancier goes to all the care and expense which is demanded to ensure really first-class stock, I fear it would not pay. When fanciers take no care of their flocks, allow them to run nearly where they will, and keep their reputation by either purchase or borrowing, any sum would be too dear.

And as far as creating a greater interest in the subject by offering eggs cheap, I fear it will be a failure. It is not the price of eggs that prevents farmers—and until they take a greater interest in it I fear it cannot amount to any great thing in Canada—from improving their poultry, but pure indifference about the matter, and there is some reason for it. Farmers must be made to see that a change is for their advantage before they will adopt it, and at the present time when one becomes convinced of the superiority of the pure-bred over the common, I find that the chief difficulty is not so much the price but from whom to purchase that they may get the genuine article.

In conclusion, permit me to say to my old farming friends, that I am at present fencing, and dividing off into run-ways, one acre of orchard, also building a poultry-house for the accommodation of one variety of fowls, and am keeping account of costs. House is 10 by 20 feet, on 2 by 4, lined in-