

as I purpose explaining in a future number. Pliny evidently had this fact in view when in his writings he describes that "eggs laid upon a bed of straw, cherished by a gentle heat, in a warm place, and regularly turned, in due time disclosed the included animal." Book X, chap. 55.

With regard to the Egyptian method of artificial incubation, and coming down to the present time, I would mention that about ten years ago an expedition was formed in England amongst scientific men, to travel Egypt and explore the relics of antiquity, science and art in the ancient city of learning. One of the number, Mr. I. K. Lord, a talented scientific gentleman, (now deceased,) wrote some very interesting papers of his travels in *Land and Water*. His journeyings took him to Cairo to inspect the mammals or hatching ovens, and elucidate the mystery of the Bermean secret of successful incubation, but Mr. Lord being a portly gentleman, and I suppose of a somewhat sensitive nature, did not pursue his researches with very great ardor, as he found the mammals so infested with fleas that he could not stand the phlebotomizing process sufficiently long to arrive at a satisfactory result. The sand of Egypt, coupled with the fuel used for the purpose of generating the heat necessary for the hatching process (the fuel being composed of cakes of camels' dung &c.) having a tendency to incubate the lively flea, and that insect, like our friend the mosquito, having a penchant for fresh foreign (in contra-distinction to native) blood, fairly drove Mr. Lord out of the place, and deprived posterity of some, no doubt, very interesting incidents.

The Chinese have practised artificial incubation for many generations. Monsieur D'Abrey, French consul at Han Keo, in China, publishes an interesting paper in the *Bulletin de la Societe d'Acclimation*. He says the process is practised in places called "pao jang," each consisting of a mud hut three yards in height. The eggs are laid on mats, and fire is kept up inside the hut to heat the eggs, whilst an attendant is constantly engaged in regulating the temperature and turning the eggs,—a plan very analagous to the Egyptian. They also employ themselves in hatching duck eggs whilst in their boats on the rivers and canals, depositing the eggs in sand at the bottom of wooden boxes placed on iron plates and kept moderately heated.

(To be continued.)

Remember that those subscribing now for Vol. 4 of Review will receive balance of current volume free. Now is the time to subscribe.

Agents are not allowed a commission on their own subscriptions.

If you have anything to sell, you should advertise it now.

## Eggs by Weight or Number.

Editor Review,

SIR,—“In union there is strength,” says the demagogue, the politician, the patriot, and even the preacher, and in the history of the past how many proofs we have of the correctness of this assertion; so many indeed that it may be accepted as a truism. Then what has been done can be repeated, or the conditions which gave success in the past can reasonably be expected to give it at present. The same united effort which secured success to the Anti-Corn Law League, and gave independence to Italy and the United States, will secure for the fanciers of the Dominion, not only a national society, but also a Standard. There is not a doubt but that there are many in the fancy in Canada who will come to the front with all the energy they possess when once the thing is set agoing. Of course it is a pity they do not come out and say they are ready for work, but everybody does not feel disposed to see their names in print.

But, sir, I started with the intention of calling the attention of the fancy to a custom which seems to me needs reforming very badly; I refer to the custom of buying and selling eggs by the dozen instead of by the pound. In many ways this custom is unfavorable to the poultry interest; and that the custom has been allowed to continue so long is a strong evidence that farmers take but little interest in the matter. What else that the farmer produces would he sell in this slipshod fashion? But he makes no objection to it. And why, we may ask, does he not do so? Just because in nine cases out of ten it is to his advantage, because his common fowl lay a fair number of eggs about the size of nutmegs, and he will get just as much for that dozen as he would for a dozen double the size. This may appear like stretching a bit, but it is not, and as proof, the following came under my own notice: Two baskets of eggs were brought into a shop a few weeks ago, one of fair sized eggs—the fowls had a dash of Brahma in them—the other was a basket of the orthodox nutmegs. The shopman noticed the difference and tried the comparative weight of them, and eight of those fair sized eggs weighed as much as one dozen of the smaller. What an inducement it was to that farmer to buy another Brahma, as he got just the same price per dozen for his large eggs as the other got for his small. But this is not all: I have a buff Cochin hen which commenced laying in January and layed till May, when she took to the nest, and I am confident eight of her eggs would weigh as much as one dozen of those largest eggs, and this would make one dozen of her eggs worth more than two dozen of those smallest ones; yet if I had offered them for sale I should have received the said 10cts.