

birds ill, others throw it on so carelessly that very little of the remedy gets on them at all, and as many of my neighbors have asked me how to apply it, I may mention for the benefit of those in a similar fix that the best way is to procure an "insect gun," I forget what the cost is but think about 30 cents. With this a large number can be dusted with very little inconvenience to the operator, and it is also very quickly done.

To return to the clucking hen; food, water, gravel, and a dust box (in which put a little flour of sulphur) should always be at hand, and within easy reach of the hen, also a little chaff and short straw on the floor; the little extra exercise this affords has a wonderful influence on the health of the fowl and rests her cramped limbs.

After she has been set one or two days, when you go every morning to change the drinking water, (as I hope you do), accustom the hen to be handled on the nest every time, treat her gently, and speak to her, and let your every movement be exceedingly quiet, without any bustling about. If your birds are very tame you can do this without any trouble. If she screams at you and threatens your life with her bill, proceed with your work and show you mean to touch her, if you get pecked, bear it as if it was pleasant and rather to be desired than otherwise, never show fear. I have conquered very spiteful hens by this plan, the benefit of which is that by the time of hatching, the hen is so certain of what you will do that she will offer no resistance when you approach to examine her nest for empty shells, and in consequence will not get into that nervous and excited state of mind that causes hens to trample hundreds of chicks to death every year. Last year I lost only three in this way from over three hundred chicks, and as I hired 16 strange hens for mothers, I call that good. I simply stoop down in front of the nest and put my hand under the hen very

gently, and sometimes raise her breast up a little, as if to look at the eggs; of course I have my hands wounded sometimes but I regard such scars with honor. I will own that it takes moral resolution to enable one to bear the pecks and not flinch or withdraw the hands suddenly, which must not be done, or it is the signal for your hen to fly and be frightened of you for that sitting. Hens that will allow themselves to be petted at any other time will be nervous and excited at the hatching period very often, unless they are used to some such treatment.

To save the lives of valuable and early chicks, when hatched all right, is a subject of much importance. I have found that hens that have lived together, if set in one place are very friendly and will not often interfere with each other, providing the difference in ages of the chicks is not more than a month. In fact they will share and trade their chicks in the most obliging manner. I did not try it till last year, when the late spring made warm quarters scarce; and now I have two Wyandotte hens that are quite friendly. One cares for all the chicks while the other has her bath and a good run round, and then the other has a turn; it is very amusing to watch them. I have often heard it remarked concerning hens with broods, that it is such a waste of time and so long before they lay again, and have even been advised to give two broods to one hen and put the other back in the breeding pen. I have experimented with some and the result of my observation is that hens will lay again before their chicks are a month old, if well fed and kept comfortable, and be in excellent condition for breeding again if necessary, if they are allowed to carry their chicks—and I can see that it is most beneficial to allow nature that much time to recuperate. On the other hand, the hen deprived of her beloved nestlings, droops for days, and after her apparent grief is conquered, will not do so well as her more favored sis-

ter with the chicks around her, and in my experience has not laid earlier than the others; but the most careful attention is necessary to get such in the best condition for breeding again. I wish Mr. Spillett or some other fancier would enlarge on this subject.

I am sorry to read some hasty remarks in the last few numbers of the REVIEW. There is room for a great deal of Christian charity between judges and exhibitors. Let such subjects as call for remarks be treated with courtesy and temperance. A judge on the one hand cannot please every exhibitor, unless indeed all took a prize, and on the other hand exhibitors sometimes have just cause of complaint. Each should be able to express an opinion without giving mortal offence to the other, and not let petty quarrels disturb the prosperity of our Associations. Let us cultivate above all friendly feeling as far as possible, it is a great help to the cause.

Yours respectfully,

W. C. G. PETER

Angus, April 2nd, 1886.

#### WANTED.—AN EXPLANATION.

##### Editor Review:

I write to give a flat contradiction to statements in the advertisements of Messrs Miles and Cooch, and A. J. Willson in your March number.

In Messrs. Miles and Cooch's ad., they state that they have all the prize-winning birds of that variety (Dark Brahmas) at Ottawa—".

This is *utterly untrue*, as my pullet took 1st prize, and my cockerel 3rd prize, although two days *en route*, and although I was exhibiting at Stratford on the same dates.

In Mr. Willson's ad., he states that his pullet was "the highest scoring Dark Brahma in the show" at Stratford. This again is a mistake, as my imported hen "Lady Hertford" (winner of 12 cups and 1sts in England) scored 95½, equal with his pullet, which latter Mr.