

ing, candles are taken down, and the hens are fed by candle-light, and it is astonishing how soon they learn to come off when the light is brought to them. Generally they require lifting off the nest the first day or two, but after that they rarely want any more inviting than the light. As soon as they are all fed and gone back to their nests, the light is taken away from them, and they are, as before, in total darkness. To prevent any unpleasant smell, I throw a disinfectant on the floor of the cellar, and a little dry earth is occasionally sprinkled on the bottoms of the pens where the hens are.

GOUT IN FOWLS is a swelling of the feet, with a great degree of heat. Cochins and other Asiatic breeds are more subject to it than smaller birds. It may be removed by giving one grain of calomel at night, and three drops of wine of colchicum twice a day, care being taken as to warmth, diet, &c.

IS THE COLORADO POTATO BEETLE POISONOUS TO POULTRY?

In a report recently published on the "Colorado Potato Beetle," by Messrs. Saunders and Reed, of the Entomological Society of the Province of Ontario—the receipt of which was acknowledged in our last issue, we find the following paragraph.

"There is great diversity of opinion as to whether poultry will, or will not, eat the larvæ of the potato beetle, and if they do eat it, whether any injurious effects will follow. We obtained much contradictory evidence on this point. A few people asserted that some of their poultry had suddenly sickened and died, after eating freely of this insect, while others stated their turkeys, ducks and fowls had eaten the larvæ greedily, and with perfect impunity. The evidence is so evenly balanced, that we are unable to give any decided opinion; we hope some further experiments will shortly be made, and a definite conclusion arrived at."

We hope so too. In the meantime we do not think there is much cause for alarm to our poultry breeders. Among the many causes of death to poultry, mentioned, we have not noticed any at-

tributable to this, although in some portions of the United States, said to have been overrun by this insect, there are many poultry breeders of repute, who would have noticed ere this anything of the kind. In another portion of the same report we find the following, which is somewhat re-assuring.

"As many stories are current relating to the supposed poisonous character of this insect, we made it a special point to obtain all the information possible on this head, and we were unable to find the slightest evidence to sustain the popular belief, although we conversed with many persons who had handled and destroyed many thousands of the insects in their different stages, and also handled them freely ourselves with impunity. We do not know of any insect belonging to the family *Chrysomelidae*, of which this beetle is a member, possessing poisonous properties, hence we deemed it highly improbable from the first that there was any truth in the stories so widely circulated, and which have created so much unnecessary alarm."

Perhaps some of our poultry friends would favor us with their experience on this subject.

HATCHING RESULTS.

Mr. THOMAS COSTEN, *Montreal*, writes us that he has imported eggs this season from England, and gives the following results: from Mr. Henry Beldon he received 31 eggs; out of 8 Black Spanish he had 4 chicks, and 4 eggs were bad; 7 Gold Spangled Hamburgs produced 7 chicks; 8 Dark Brahmans 2 chicks and 5 bad eggs; 8 Light Brahmans 2 chicks and 6 bad eggs. From Mr. Henry Pickles, through John Leemy, Esq., he received 45 eggs; 13 Houdans produced 6 live chicks, 3 dead in the shell, and 4 bad eggs; 13 Black Hamburgs 4 chicks; 13 Aylesbury Ducks 7 Ducklings, and 6 eggs bad; 6 Silver-pencilled Hamburgs 2 chicks and 4 bad eggs. In a subsequent letter Mr. Costen says of the fifty additional eggs he received from Mr. Beldon he was not near so successful. They consisted of White Crested Black Polands, Silver Pencilled Hamburgs, and Houdans. Out of the whole he had only 1 White Crested Black Poland, one dead in the shell; 1 Houdan, and one dead in shell, and 4 Silver Pencilled Hamburgs. The eggs were well packed, and arrived in good condition.