

are laid in one pen and gathered from the other. There is a board running the entire length in front of nests; twelve inches in height and about eight inches away from the front of nests; they are movable, and simply rest in upright cleats, this makes a dark alleyway; the hens go in and are not seen by the others. It is the best plan I have struck yet for nests, and prevents egg eating altogether.

Your plan for floor is *fine* Bro. Rayson. But how many will do it is the question, but to your remark about the smell from floor, I beg to differ. I had a boarded floor in one house for over eight years, and it *never* had a disagreeable smell but *I am careful to keep it well sanded and littered*, so that the droppings scarcely ever touch the floor, till too dry to hurt the wood. We are glad to hear that fowls are doing well in your section, and hope the favorable symptoms will continue. We shall be glad to hear from you again soon on this subject friend B.

#### Turkey Laying Soft-Shell Eggs.

**H**ENRIETTA F. Buller—I am very much pleased with the poultry department of the C. B. J. and herewith send greeting and wish it many years of success and usefulness.

It seems a simple thing to keep poultry but like every other business there is lots to be learned. I have always been fond of chickens and all kind of fowl and taken care of them since I was a child still I am often surprised what mistakes I make. Can you tell me what is the reason of one of my turkey hens laying soft shelled eggs and if there is any remedy. She is a fine large bronze hen two years old. She seems rather mopy and when she walks about, her tail does not droop as it should and she walks in rather a stiff way and generally has been head or rather neck short instead of stretched to the full length. I lost a fine two year old turkey cock a short time ago. He was only sick for three days and when he died his crop was full of a white liquid. Do you suppose that it was a disease, or would poison have such an effect?

Campbellford, Ontario, June 3rd.

It is very rare for a turkey hen to lay soft shelled eggs. The way she walks is common to hens suffering from the same cause; have you ever noticed the extraordinary efforts a hen has to make

to expel a soft shelled egg? That no doubt has weakened the back of your turkey, and the neck is never held right when they are feeling ill. Try some good tonic poultry food for her. Spratts Patent Challenge Poultry Meal." You can get it from H. B. Donovan, Toronto, their agent.

Cannot say what about cock bird unless I were to see contents of crop. Most likely poison. I have written Mr. Bell, of Banda, a reliable and experienced turkey raiser on your behalf, will send his reply. Many thanks for your good wishes.

#### The Value of Poultry Meat.

**I**T is a positive pleasure to note the increasing attention being given on every hand, by agricultural and general papers, to the poultry industry of the country. A mistaken idea obtains widely that journals devoted to poultry are designed solely for the gratification of fanciers—i. e. persons with a penchant for breeding to an ideal rather than a practical standard. Truth is, these fanciers are the noble pioneers in a mighty work for good, but they are as the poet or philosopher to the newspaper men in the domain of literature. They hold the standard up, while the work a day operator fills in the foundation upon which to plant the emblem. There is a practical side to the poultry business. The idealist tells the scoffing farmer that the fowls on his place are not what they should be and the poultry journal steps in between the two extremes and explains why the improvement should be made. The fancier does not care for money any more than the true artist does; the farmer wants pay for his work. The poultry journal reaches the pure-stock breeder and joins hands with the farmer, as an educational medium, to bring the two parties into unison. We do not ask the fancier to abate one jot of his enthusiasm. Let him go on breeding to the highest standard. Meanwhile, we ask the farmer to stop sneering at "the chicken business" long enough to listen to a fair business proposition. There is money in fowls well raised. Ah! now we've struck a pleasant key-note. How can the money be obtained? By accepting, point by point, the advice of those who