

that its recognition ought to lead to the revision, on strict economic lines of some of the standards. It would be well if we could divide our poultry into fancy breeds and useful breeds. No one wants to see the Brahma, the Cochin, or the Hamburg lose aught of the beauty which the breeder's skill has, through evolution, obtained for them; the Wyandotte, too, will bye-and-bye be a beautiful, fancy fowl. But on the other hand, for breeds of domestic utility, we want standards framed solely with regard to the development of useful features. Why should the Plymouth Rocks, and the Houdans—birds of homely appearance, which no ingenuity can make handsome, be suffered to deteriorate for the sake of fancy points? Why should the wonderful little Leghorns be ruined by their own never-to-be-satisfactorily-cultivated white earlobes? Why should that really useful bird, the Langshan, be foolishly sacrificed by its friends to the ungainly length of its own shanks? One word of advice to amateurs in conclusion. When you are selecting eggs for sitting, always choose the biggest; when you are buying hens, or deciding which of your pullets you will keep, be sure that you take those with the largest combs. In this way anyone can get hold of a good laying strain; for after all, the merit is not so much in the particular breed, but in the strain.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARM
Report concluded.

METHOD OF FEEDING.

The conditions as to temperature, feed &c., were the same with the exception of the Brahma hens, which were given more oats than the others. The morning feed was varied, but always warm and known as "soft" It was composed of two parts shorts, one part cornmeal and one part boiled wheat. The hot water the wheat was boiled in was used for mixing the feed. To the mixture was added, almost every

morning a small quantity of Cayenne pepper and bonemeal. Twice or three times a week meat scrapes were substituted for the bonemeal and boiled wheat. At other times small potatoes and scraps of cabbage formed the greater part of the morning meal. On this variety the layers were fed barely enough to satisfy and never enough to gorge. Soon after, when the water was given for drink, a few handfuls of small wheat or ground meat were thrown into the chaff, always on the floor for the fowls to scratch in, every effort to keep them in activity being of paramount importance. The noon meal was light and scattered in the chaff. The last feed of grain, also thrown on the floor, was liberally given and the layers sent to roost with a full crop to carry them over the long night fast. A cabbage suspended from the centre of the pen was also used as an incentive to exercise. Oyster shells (ground) and gravel were also supplied.

The temperature varied from 30 to 45 and 50. On reaching the two latter figures the morning feed was greatly reduced and more dry grain given. At the lower figure the chill was taken off the water given to the layers.

MALE BIRDS SEPARATE.

The male birds, in all cases, have been, and are kept from the laying stock, for the reason that an impregnated egg is not so good in flavour, nor will it keep as well, as one from hens with which no male bird has been allowed to associate. The cocks and cockerels are also kept away from the breeding stock and will be so kept until the breeding pens are made up. Their feed is oats and wheat with green food, gravel &c., &c.,

SICKNESS.

Several cases of sickness have occurred, among them five or six cases of virulent roup. The birds were most likely affected before coming into the new building. The sick were at once

separated from the others, and the roup cases with the exception of two, were quickly cured. The exceptions, two cockerels, were so bad that had a cure been possible they would have been useless for breeding purposes. Under the circumstances the birds were killed and the remains burned. Experiments as to the best remedies for the diseases of poultry are being made, as opportunity permits. I will be most happy, on enquiry to give those desirous of knowing what has been found the most effective treatment in the different cases met with so far.

IN HOSPITAL.

There are at present in hospital one black breasted red Game pullet; one bearded golden Poland pullet; one black Russian hen, and two black Minorca cockerels. Their ailment is cold, sometimes called catarrh.

FALL EXHIBITION.

According to your instructions 125 chickens of the different varieties were placed on exhibition at the Canada Central Fall Show in the month of September last, a space for the purpose having been allotted in the poultry shed.

PRACTICAL VISITORS.

Since the occupation of the poultry house there have been numerous visitors, among them several farmers who expressed their intention of establishing poultry departments in connection with their farms. Two of their number had already 75 to 85 hens, and one is making preparations for the housing of 500 winter layers. All the information desired as to the best methods of care, feeding &c., was given.

PROPOSED CROSSES.

Among the crosses proposed for experiment, some of which it is intended to undertake in the spring, are the following:—

- Dirigo—White Leghorn.
- Brahma—Black Russian.
- Black Spanish—Red Cap.