

to settle the question is worthy of consideration. I suppose that one object of your magazine is to give tyros in science and experience an opportunity of ventilating their ideas, that they may receive counsel from wiser heads; but when any of the former class get out of their proper sphere, and assume the role of teachers, and even call all who hold contrary opinions "pedants," and, by implication, fools, it is high time that some one administrator reproof as well as counsel, that in the future such novices may feel disposed or be obliged to write with that modesty that becometh their class. I make the following quotation: "Some of the *pedants* would have us believe that wheat turned to chess when transmitted of its own accord, and *others* of them would have us believe that to have thick shells on eggs we must feed lime to fowls. Two impossibilities! Nothing less than a miracle could produce such results. To change the carbonate of lime to the phosphate, or *vice versa*, is not natural or possible. I know that many breeders, and fanciers, too, feed and dose their hens with lime for the purpose stated, and will cite you long proof experiments to aid their witness, but it is all a delusion." The man who has the courage or cheek to write in the foregoing strain should know that his arguments and conclusions are founded on facts established by the best scientific authorities. Any reader of the REVIEW unacquainted with the composition of an egg shell would naturally infer from the tone of Mr. Brown's remarks, and the ridicule which he cast upon those who ignorantly think that carbonate of lime contributes in some way to the formation of a shell, that he knows from reliable chemical analysis that an egg shell is composed solely of phosphate of lime. Now, what are the facts of the case? *Ninety five* per cent of every egg shell is carbonate of lime or limestone, and only *one* per cent. phosphate of lime. The remaining ingredients are mostly animal matter and magnesia. The usual weight of a shell is 100 grains, so that a hen laying 100 eggs in a season would require 1½ lbs. of limestone or Ca CO₃. Some of this limestone, undoubtedly, the hen secretes from her food, but the greater part of it she gathers from the pebbles, lime, etc., that she picks up in her continual searching and scratching.

I was pleased with the tone of Mr. Spillet's letter in reply to Mr. Brown in January number of the REVIEW. Mr. Spillet is a close and wise observer, and hence from the standpoint of experience was able to refute Mr. Brown's arguments. If his scientific information was defective he had the manliness to say, "I do not presume to say that my opinions are absolutely correct, and if any brother detects error in them let us have the correct thing." As I keep fowls for amusement and profit only, and do not expect to become an exhibitor, your numerous readers will excuse me for signing myself

INCOGNITUS.

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Is your subscription for 1884 paid?

The REVIEW is late in reaching its readers this month, but we hope the increase in number of pages will, in a measure, compensate for the delay. We were anxious, as were also exhibitors, that as many of the lists as possible should appear in this issue, and waiting for these has largely caused the delay. Peterboro' and Bowmanville shows will complete the list, and these will appear next month.

There are very few of those indebted to us who have not received their accounts, but very few have paid any attention to them. The amount in most cases is small, and would not much inconvenience those who owe them to remit, but the aggregate makes a large sum, the want of which greatly inconveniences us. We must have old accounts settled at once, and after this notice it need not surprise any whose accounts extend back into 1883, to find them in court for collection.

A delay of several hours on our way to the Seaforth show was very pleasantly spent with that excellent fancier, Mr. Wm. Sanderson. Late in the fall he moved to his present residence, and had not time before winter set in to fully provide for his fowls, and they are consequently rather crowded. In spring he will have plenty of room and fine grass runs, and facilities for raising good chickens. His Plymouth Rocks, Black Javas and White Leghorns are very fine. His Black-red Game are on a farm at some distance from town, but judging from the quality of a pair of chicks on exhibition at Seaforth we would conclude that he