

trouble, and it is rare that any thoroughbred stock is found at shows, particularly the county shows, where the judges are too often incompetent to pass judgement. Many times the judges are entire strangers to the birds exhibited, and may never have seen specimens of the breed before. What can be arrived at from a firstsight of anything, and fowls especially, where there are so many points in consideration? Nothing short of an adept can discover the difference between a mongrel and thoroughbred, and oftener the prize goes to the mongrel or deficient bird.

It does not follow that a bird is pure because it has taken the prize. It is the progeny of these birds that tell the tale. If exhibitors were obliged to show the eggs in the coop with the fowls, and vouch for the purity thereof, the exhibition would be of far more value. To obtain new breeds, crosses must be made, but to perfect them is quite another thing. A first cross is a half blood. The second remove from mongrelism, with a pure parent on one side, usually a male, is a three-quarters blood. A third remove is a seven-eighths, a fourth is a fifteen-sixteenths, a fifth is a thirty-one-thirty-seconds, and a sixth is a sixty-three-sixty-fourths, or in effect a pure blood. It is calculated that the sixth cross removes all the mongrel blood from the veins, and that fowls thus bred will come true to parentage if bred together. To accomplish this end, none but thoroughbred, perfect cocks should be employed. Close breeding does not damage the flocks so much as is imagined, if managed rightly, but in-and-in breeding should be denounced. Of course fowls bred in one yard for a number of years are more or less connected, but the judicious breeder keeps two separate strains from which to draw his breeding birds. The healthiest alone are selected, and in this manner they may be bred to suit the taste of the breeder, true to a feather, either for size and flesh, or eggs only. Uniformity in eggs and chicks is the rule.—C. B. in *Country Gentleman*.

Notes from Waterloo.

Editor of Canadian Poultry Review.

DEAR SIR:—

The best evidence to a hunter that his aim has been well taken is to see the game fall, and I, for one, admit that your shot in September number of the REVIEW, at the laxity of Canadian poultry breeders to write anything of interest for the benefit of others, has taken effect, and if you deem any remarks of mine worthy a place in your journal, I shall avoid being your target in future.

The article referred to was an excellent one, and just to the point. There are a great many experienced, intelligent poultry breeders in Canada,

whose opinions and hints from their experience would be highly acceptable to the many younger fanciers, so I trust you will keep firing away until all are brought into line.

My experience in poultry breeding has been nearly altogether with the Asiatics. To those who live in towns and cities, with confined quarters and limited range, they are most suitable, as with a common picket fence your neighbor's flower beds or newly sown seeds are perfectly safe; and with comfortable housing and proper care you can have fresh eggs during all our long Canadian winter. Those accustomed to buying eggs from the stores can readily appreciate such a luxury.

A properly constructed poultry house does not require fire heat, even in this climate, for old fowls. If you wish to raise very early chicks, and can afford a room with a stovepipe passing through it to heat when really necessary, all right, but the less artificial heat the better. A close building, properly ventilated, with a good large window facing the south, and plenty dry earth on the floor, will be all that is required.

I have erected during the past summer an additional building, frame 12 by 36 feet, shanty roof; north wall 3 feet high, south wall 12 feet; ceiled at 8 feet up; the ceiling joists do in lieu of collar-beams, and strengthen the roof; plastered inside and out, and the shingles on roof laid in mortar; floors, double inch boards. It is divided into five compartments, with window to each. The floors are kept covered four inches deep with road dust, and no perches are used whatever. This latter is a matter of surprise to visitors, but if fowls have clean dry earth-dust or coal ashes, or both mixed, they prefer it to any perch, as they are cooler in summer and warmer in winter, and never become bumble-footed by jumping off a perch.

The cleaning is only a small matter: every morning, after feeding and watering, take a pail, dustpan, and piece of shingle with handle whittled to suit, and without soiling either your hands or clothes, in a very few minutes can have the whole place clean and sweet. The droppings roll up a coating of the dust, which being an excellent deodorizer, prevents all smell, and by saving them in barrels you have guano for your garden or to sell, which will amply repay the labor.

By dispensing with perches you can scarcely ever be troubled with lice, or those mites that stay about the wook-work in day-time, and suck the blood from the fowls during the night. Surely, then, this is a great gain, for Burnham says, (*Diseases of Domestic Poultry*) that the most of the diseases of poultry are attributable to their being impoverished by vermin.

As this letter is already pretty long, I will leave feeding, mating, hatching, &c., &c. for another time.

Yours, &c.,

Waterloo, Oct. 4th, 1873

J. L.