

least half pure bred chickens, the exhibitor to state of what breed or cross the chicken is, at the time of entry.

I have myself offered a special at our local show this year, I hope to see the class permanently established on the above lines (for this time it is for the heaviest chicken, thoroughbred or mongrel as the case may be).

The usual premium lists at country shows are confined to full grown fowls, and they are generally out of condition at this season; chicks are what should be shown and prizes should be given for dressed poultry and the latter should be, if possible, shown as in England; an entry to consist of one or two pairs of live fowls, one bird, or pair, to be killed and dressed before the prizes are awarded, all to be dressed by an employee of the committee, and the award to be published as follows:

"First prize" for a chicken (or pair of chicks) said to be under — weeks old, by — sire out of — hens, both cockerels (if pair) weighing — lbs. "Second prize," in same form, perhaps as heavy but condition poor. Again, "Disqualified" as over age, or out of condition. I would suggest that though weight would rule in the same breed or cross, condition should be the first point, and a scale of points could easily be made to judge by, and thus a small or medium bird might take the premium over a much heavier, but coarser specimen. Our farmers are too much given to mongrels and late hatching, missing profits in several ways. Thoroughbreds or grades are uniform in size and color, and sell better in consequence, as also their eggs, than do a mixed lot. Late hatching means the loss of the summer and early fall prices in the market for chickens, and a scarcity if not an absolute want of eggs in winter, when they bring the best prices, besides a great deal of extra cost to get them to the same condition, as it is a well known fact that birds require more food in winter when not fullgrown, unless in a very warm house. The regu-

lar Agricultural Shows are held at the right time for these classes, and the farmers attend them, while few attend the regular Poultry Shows, and they are the ones we wish to get interested. Let us in Canada have less faultfinding and squabbling, and work more for the common cause; what helps it helps each one of us, whereas, the former keeps many from joining, and does infinite harm to those already in the fraternity.

NOTES ON RAISING CHICKS.

BY W. T. DAVIS, STRATFORD.

Since our poultry show here last winter, I have taken great interest in reading the REVIEW particularly the writings of W. C. G. Peter, some of which I take exception to. In May number he refers to "dusting your brooding hens with insect powder," I think hens should at all times be kept clean enough not to require dusting. This can be easily done by keeping a dust bath for them at all times, clean, lime-washed houses, and perches coal oiled once a week.

This, our second year of breeding for exhibition, we determined to raise pure breeds exclusively, and had to procure all our sitting hens from neighbors. In every case we brought the hens and placed them on warmed eggs in nests previously prepared, and although they were in one shed common to all, with the aid of dust bath, food and water, we did not have any fighting or taking each other's nests, and with one exception (bought eggs) had good hatches.

August number has an article on "Brooders vs. Hens." Last year I procured some Brown Leghorn eggs which hatched a nice lot of chicks, but Bidy refused to mother them, so we tried to raise them by hand, and succeeded so well that the pair shown here in the fall were beaten, and I got severely joked. Not to be beaten again I procured a cockerel from Mr. W. Moore, with

which we managed to beat his exhibit of B. L.s here last winter. So far I had never seen an incubator, or brooder, and, from what I had read they were too expensive to purchase. Not to be beaten, I tried to make one and succeeded so well as to get five chicks from forty-three eggs on second trial, then a series of partial failures, at least in fetching them right out, but as a help in hatching it was a decided success. Our plan was to put in 15 to 17 eggs at a time, then directly we got a brooding hen to set her on 13 of the eggs longest in, and risk the remainder in the machine. When the chicks were hatched we took them away and gave her some more partly hatched eggs; by this means one hen brings out four broods in 41 days, while with seven hens we hatched 130 chicks from April 26th to June 23rd, from first to last hatching.

All our chicks now living were taken from the hen as soon as hatched, and in no case was a hen 15 days off the nest before starting to lay again. While hatching we fed corn and barley and occasionally soft feed, of shorts, cornmeal, oatmeal, with a little carbonate of iron mized.

Our brooder is on the principle similar, so far as I imagine, friend Peters to use; we call it an indoors brooder. By the aid of a gallon bottle of hot water at night, with a two inch thickness of mixed road dust, sifted coal ashes, and a little sulphur, we had no smell whatever, and could beat the weight mentioned by W. Moore, viz., chicks weighing two pounds in June.

We intend to discard hatching hens and trust entirely to the incubator, after getting used to it. We brought out 50 per cent. of strong healthy chicks and expect to do better another season, understanding the moisture better. Our incubator can be sold for \$12 to hold 100 eggs heated with a small size chamber lamp, using less than one gallon of oil for three weeks. Our brooder is simplicity itself, and costs nothing to