

POULTRY.

(Under this heading, all questions relating to poultry will be answered.)

WHEW! Ten cents a dozen for eggs this week. The Japanese hen is popularly supposed to be responsible for this state of affairs. We suggest to some of the large poultry ranchers that they buy several hundred and set them and thus get into a good laying strain. Or perhaps the newly formed poultry associations might send a commissioner to Japan to inquire into the state of the poultry business over there. We know of two or three eligible parties for this billet, but, as they are possessed of an inordinate amount of modesty, we will not mention names except under promise of secrecy.

Poultry men report rather poor success in hatching, during the last six weeks, though there have been some exceptionally good results. We think the cold dry winds that have been prevalent during that period are mainly responsible, and we suggest that extra attention be paid to the moisture question. Cornish Indian Game breeders have been most unfortunate in this respect, and from our own experience we find that eggs of this breed have thicker skins and shells than the average egg, and as the trouble has been inability of the chick to break through, we are convinced that lack of moisture is the cause.

One of the handiest plans of administering moisture to the eggs is to use an ordinary flower sprayer and sprinkle while the hen is off feeding, preferably just prior to her return to the nest. Then, during the last three days of incubation, dip them in hot water as advised in previous articles.

Scotch collies are fast becoming here, as they have long been in the Old Country, the most fashionable of the canine race. The many fanciers of this handsome as well as useful dog have been greatly excited over the prospective arrival of a pair which were calculated to put all former arrivals completely in the shade. The pups arrived last Friday, and the opinion of the enthusiasts who have viewed them is that they are quite up to their breeding, the dog especially being exceedingly promising.

Their sire is the English champion, Christopher, sold for \$5,000, and already the sire of over 500 first prize winners. Their dam is Wellesbourne Mable, third at Crystal Palace in 1889, and full sister to the sire of Putley Don, the champion dog of England to-day. The sire of Mable, Ch. Edgbaston Fox, is by Ch. Metchley Wonder, as also is Christopher, though Fox beat Christopher while the latter was in England. We are not at liberty to divulge the name of the fortunate owner, as the gentleman, with characteristic modesty, has asked us to refrain from doing so.

A fine trio of Barred Plymouth Rocks, specially mated for breeding, arrived in town last week. They came from one of the best breeders in Massachusetts, and cost the owner a stiff figure. Here again we are unable to present to our readers

the owner's name, as he also has a strong antipathy to seeing his name in print, even for the good of the fancy.

TEMPERATURE IN THE INCUBATOR.

A correspondent writes as follows to the *Poultry Herald*: "One of the first articles I read in the March number is 'Artificial Hatching,' by H. B. Geer, in which he claims that we run our incubators at too high a degree of heat, that 98 degrees is blood heat, and at that degree our incubators should be run for the best result. We had at this time 175 eggs in our incubator, that we had run from 102 up to 104, never above, most of the time at 103 degrees. To find out more about normal heat I put the bulb of a thermometer in my mouth, and it registered 98 degrees. I then placed it under a hen that was set at the same time as an incubator. I pressed the bulb against her breast in such a position that I could carefully notice what it registered. It went up to almost 104. I then put it on an egg in the centre of the nest, and it registered just the same as the hen's body. I then tried hen No. 2, and the thermometer went a little above 104. I tried another hen and it was the same. These last two were just beginning to set. I next put it under hen No. 4. She had set only a few days, and it registered 105 degrees. If 98 degrees is normal heat in a hen's body, how is it that she runs the thermometer up to 104 and 105, and keeps her eggs at that same temperature? Now, the question is, at what degree of heat shall we run our incubators? Shall we try to give the eggs the same degree of heat that the hen does or shall we run it 5 degrees lower. I would like to have others give their opinion."

HOW TO FEED LAYING HENS.

In the first place, do not overfeed. Bear in mind that if a hen is to keep in laying condition she must have exercise. When you feed grain, do not put it in a trough where the hens can stand and eat their fill, but scatter it far and wide, as the hens will find every grain. If the snow is on the ground after the cold season sets in, throw the grain in leaves or cut straw, so as to keep them busy. Do not feed grain exclusively, but give a variety. Allow ground meat, or meat and bone fresh from the butcher three times a week. Vary the grain, feeding corn, wheat, and oats, and give cabbage, cooked turnips, clover leaves, or any other food that the hens will eat.

It is a very difficult matter to ventilate a poultry house without causing draughts of air on the fowls at night. The proper mode is to keep the poultry house clean, leave the doors open during the day, and shut the house at night, allowing no ventilation at all. We have found that it is very difficult to keep the fresh air from coming in, and it is a fact that many who take pains to render the poultry house warm and comfortable, by stopping all cracks and crevices, and by lining the house with paper, make a hole in the roof or gable ends which they style a "ventilator," and thus let in more cold than they desire. There is not as much foul air in a poultry house as may be

supposed. The severe cold renders all gases heavy, and less volatile matter exists. Fill a poultry house with smoke, and close the door; then step outside and notice where it escapes. You will at once be convinced that you need no "ventilator," and that despite all your precautions, your house is full of air holes that you cannot easily close, and that your birds are liable to roup and other diseases, due to cold draughts of air over them at night.

The rapidity of growth of the Pekin duck is almost marvelous, and to one accustomed only to the keeping of the common puddle duck, the claims made in behalf of the Pekin are subject to doubt. Using ten ducklings for the experiment, we weighed them carefully. When just hatched, the ten ducklings, together, weighed exactly one pound. When one week old they weighed two and one-half pounds; at two weeks old they weighed four pounds; at three weeks, seven pounds; at four weeks, ten pounds; at five weeks, seventeen pounds; at six weeks, twenty pounds; and at seven weeks, twenty-five pounds, or two and one-half pounds each. Some of them were short on weight, while some weighed three and one-fourth pounds each. At eight weeks, the largest weighed four pounds each.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Vancouver Poultry and Pet Stock Association, last Tuesday evening, it was resolved "that Vancouver will co-operate with Nanaimo, Portland and Tacoma in securing two desirable judges, providing the date of the show at Vancouver will be acceptable to the cities named."

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FOR SALE—Houdan Eggs from First Prize birds at late Poultry Show, \$1.50 per doz, 40 Work street, Rock Bay.