

and let it be concealed as it may be these are not good times for any. Now, fancy poultry being with many a luxury rather than a necessity, when economy is necessary no doubt the curtailment will be in the direction of the luxuries.

Still I am strongly impressed with the notion that it cannot be accounted for entirely upon this line. A second cause, in my opinion, lies with the fancier himself. I refer to the custom of selling eggs for hatching.

This not only supplies the market but supplies those who are not qualified to be supplied in this way. An experienced fancier may, and indeed can, procure stock in this way and make use of it in crossing and building up his own stock. But those who are taking advantage of this custom most extensively are beginners.

Now, it becomes evident that this custom not only supplies to a large extent the market for fine poultry, but leads to the market being supplied with a very inferior article at very low prices.

For example, a beginner buys a few settings of eggs. Now to what extent will his matings differ from natural selection, so-called, which is no intelligent selection at all?—notwithstanding Darwin's theory to the contrary. How long, I ask every observing fancier, for natural selection to lose all those improvements which the intelligent manipulations of man have produced by taking advantage of small variation? Every breeder knows, if left to themselves, how quickly even the largest flock of improved poultry will evolutionize backward, or revert to the normal or original type. Instead of being able of themselves to perpetuate small and beneficial variations, away goes the whole in a few generations back towards the original type. A man who must get away with a Creator must still worship something, and he cannot adore or worship anything he is capable of understanding, so he must needs get a theory, let it be

ever so contradictory to what he can see and know, so long as it has mystery in it; something beyond his power of mental vision, and worship this.

But I am digressing. The beginner thus supplies at such prices that no experienced fancier can hope to compete with the bulk of the trade.

ROOM! FOR THE BEGINNER.

BY W. C. G. PETER.

There is an old saying that "the world does not hold anything so good that an Englishman cannot find fault with it." Therefore I feel sure friend "Grumbler" must be a fellow countryman of mine. I like to read such letters too, they "stir us up;" and force us to recognize the fact that the world, even if it is only the chicken world, is looking at us, and there is much truth in what "Grumbler" says. Though the REVIEW is *almost* too good, for even an Englishman to find fault with, (Oh!—Ed.) I had a hearty laugh over the paragraph he devotes to dissecting the advice given as to cleanliness, feed, &c., yea! verily! friend; there are times when the fancier will even go without his own breakfast, or take it cold, so that his winning cockerel may have sufficient to put an extra half ounce on to his weight. There are times too when he will leave his warm bed, and brave a "curtain lecture" to see that his early sitting hen is warm enough, or make sure that his haunting fears that she has left her nest, are groundless. What too does he think of his own comfort, compared with the knowledge that his new brood is cosily tucked up in their feather bed, with crops as full as ticks."

Ah! my dear "Grumbler" you are not fatherly enough to nurse neglected and deserted chicks into possible "winners," I am afraid. It may be that most of the contents of the several poultry journals he subscribes for, are not new to "Grumbler," and the hints as

to feed and care, he does not need. To most old poultry breeders this is all known long ago, but every issue there are new subscribers, many of these are novices or amateurs, to whom this advice, and the hints too, are very useful. And to aid the beginner, should be the proud privilege of every journal devoted to poultry. Those now entering the ranks are the fanciers and judges of the future, and because we know our A. B. C.'s we ought not, in common justice, to prevent them learning it, they can't begin where we leave off, Mr. "Grumbler." I hope you will let us hear from you again, however; we shall all do better, if you will growl at us now and then, so make us "toe the mark," or else we may get lazy, "yer know." While I echo the wish of Bro. Wixson that more of our poultry friends would contribute by occasional letters, to the success of the REVIEW, it seems to me that a little more now and again from the pen of Mr. W. himself would be a step up the ladder. Bro. Spillet, too, I am thinking, would not do us a positive injury by adding a little more to his good articles now and then.

We have been favored this season with open weather, our pets as yet have not been strictly confined to the house this should give us better results with early hatches. Those hens which are over moult and have been generously fed, should now be examined so that they may, if necessary, be reduced in flesh, or at all events not allowed to put on more. The time between the end of moulting and laying, is the period when hens are inclined to lay on fat; when they become simply useless as breeders or egg producers, if it is allowed to be the case, and great care is necessary to reduce them to condition without harm to the birds. Hens that are not laying should, if possible, be separated from the layers and fed differently, the layers require a little animal food occasionally, which would still increase the fat of the others. So that