

In handling Polish fowls, or chicks, care should be taken never to scare them or pick them up suddenly, as they are liable to die in your hands of fright. This is peculiar to this breed of fowl, therefore it is best to draw their attention first by speaking to them. I have never lost a bird in this way, but I have had them tumble over and gasp for five or ten minutes, and then get up and stagger away and get better.

J. M. CARSON.

Orangeville.

Our cut this week represents the White Crested Black Polish, a very highly bred fancy variety, and one that no illustration can do full justice to; they must be seen to be appreciated. The chicks are exceptionally pretty; their little fluffy crests giving them a very cute look. When first hatched, and beginning to feather, the chicks are rather delicate; and care must be taken to keep them from getting their crests wet, but when fairly feathered they are much hardier and as pretty as a chick can possibly be.

Value of Hen Manure.

THE statement that the droppings of one hen per year are worth fifty cents is going its annual round. We have kept about one hundred hens on the average but find them credited with only five dollars on our book for manure, or five cents each. Ten cents is the very highest that we would be willing to allow for the annual manure crop from each hen. —Am. Agriculturist

The droppings of one hen per year are not worth fifty cents, except in an occasional instance, when it might be absolutely necessary to obtain that fertiliser. We should think though that ten cents is too low to allow, but so much depends upon the market open for sale, or the need of the poultry man, as to its use on his own ground. Years ago when close neighbor to a market gardener, I could sell all I had for 25c. per bushel as swept clean off the dropping boards; if mixed with straw etc., 30c. per barrel. Here I have no sale for it at all, but exchange for straw etc. Farmers here are not alive to its value as a fertiliser. If they were they would have all they could get of it. Many do not know its strength as compared with other manure. It is not good to use it too strong; if allowed a covered place to dry in—it can be covered with earth

layer for layer of manure and earth, and all the ammonia is absorbed by the earth and not given off in evaporation. It makes in this way the most valuable manure for strawberries, and cabbages thrive extra well on it, in land that would not grow them without it.

"ACROSTIC."

UNDER the above signature a Torontonion has a few words about cross breeds. He says that he "is not in love with any pure breed of fowls for the farmer's use." That he would like the equal of the Brahma without its "intense motherly instincts." What do our Brahma breeders say to that! In three years I have not had a Brahma to sit but one, and that deserted the nest in two weeks. I have one now clucking but do not think she will sit, and that is all the "motherly instinct" my Brahmas have. Friend McDonald, of Acton, wrote me some three weeks ago that "out of a flock of twenty-eight Brahmas that have been laying since January *not one* showing signs of broodiness", and he is full of complaints as to their lack in this respect. Bro. Carley, of Barrie, was lamenting last time we saw him that his would not sit and in fact any Brahma breeder can tell the same story. The sitting business has been bred out of them largely, and the egg business has been bred into them by careful selection in the past twenty years. These are the little things the fancier does for our pets.

The Spanish-Leghorn cross is no use for table except in a very poor market, and though the first cross is good, if bred back again it fails in most cases in egg production. We have many thorough-breds too that will equal them the year round as layers, and be fine birds and *prime* too for market besides.

We are aware that in England the cross breeds are advertised, but fowls for market are mostly sought in that case, and crosses with the Dorking and Brahma or other large table fowl are nearly always the cross that is bred. I should say your cross of D. Brahma and P. Rock is a good first cross.

Accept our thanks for the kind words of congratulation and wishes for success. It is not intended that the WEEKLY shall become the organ of any person or breed.