

The Egg and the Embryo.

WE promised a further extract from Mr. Strong's work ; and begin this week his interesting article on the development of

"THE EMBRYO"

"When subjected to a steady temperature of 102° Fahrenheit, the process of development begins : First the germinal vesicle rises to the surface of the yolk, and the latter gradually undergoes certain alterations. Tissues are developed by the reproduction of cells, the latter being of various kinds, each serving the purpose of forming the several parts of an animal organism. Carefully breaking a fertile egg which has experienced the necessary heat for the space of 36 hours, a tiny red-colored tube can be seen on the surface of the yolk, in which regular pulsations are taking place. This is the heart, which at the end of six days would have assumed its proper and permanent form. The yolk undergoes a process of segmentation, and at the end of the fourth day has been divided into halves, forming distinct spheres, by the veins which at that time cover about one-half of its surface. With an egg tester, used after dark, in a room without other light, the heart and veins radiating therefrom, can be distinctly seen. Thus the extremities, or more delicate portions of the veins are always creeping downwards, and the same temperature underneath the egg as above it will destroy them or check their development. Occasionally the germ dies in a few days after it commences to develop, and when this has occurred the heart will be found clinging to the lining of the shell and refusing to assume the proper position when the egg is turned."

To be Continued.

For the Poultry Weekly.

Malays, Dropping Boards, Etc.

IF the Standard of Perfection is the same work as the standard of excellence published in England, it might be well to note a rather serious error in the description of Malays. The Standard says the eye should be fiery red, whereas the eye is nearly always yellow, or if from Indian stock pearl color or white.

Another great advantage of dropping boards is that if used 20 or 24 inches wide, they greatly protect the birds from upward draughts. The perches should not be more than 4 to 6 inches above them and then nests for laying can be put underneath, thus securing seclusion and the "dim religious light" so much enjoyed by layers.

A floor much recommended by Mr. Lewis Wright of which I can speak well from experience is made as follows : Put down fresh slacked hydraulic lime and "clinkers" hot tread well every day for a week, then smooth over. Boards absorb moisture from the droppings and soon—well stink is the only word that adequately expresses the result.

There are not many fanciers in this neighborhood, but plenty of good laying fowls. Eggs keep coming in from the farmers by 20 and 30 dozen at a time, and the dealers who pay for them in trade have their hands full getting them shipped.

One lot from a hundred head numbered eighty-two dozen, none of which were more than three weeks old. This was just before Easter. Several large hatches have been reported ; one hen hatching 15 eggs out of 17. She was a large heavy cross breed.

ROBT. W. RAYSON.

Lombardy, Ont., 5 June 1889.

The American Standard description in regard to color of eyes in Malays is as follows : Eyes large and clear, of pearl yellow, or daw color, with a fierce and quick expression."

Yes! the dropping boards are a fine help in keeping out cold from the floor and as the birds often go onto the perch in the day time, they are not nearly so cold about the feet. It is my own plan too, to have the nests for layers underneath the dropping boards. I have them arranged as follows : I let the partition between the pens go down to twelve inches from the floor, the nests are made with a back twelve inches deep, and partitioned off to the same depth, the nests being fourteen inches between each partition, with a narrow strip of light lumber across top and bottom in front to hold it firm, and keep the eggs from rolling out. The dropping boards cover the top and keep the nests dark above. Thus the nests are in one piece and extend the full length of the partition of the pens, and also through into the next pen about five inches through the twelve inch space that was left in the bottom of the partition of the pens. This leaves a five inch uncovered space in the next pen, but we cover this with a hinged flap that depends from the partition immediately above it, and we lift the flap to gather the eggs. So you see the eggs