

POULTRY.

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

THE B. C. D. P. & P. S. Association did not hold a meeting last week, but expect to very shortly. Some of the enthusiasts are talking of 1,500 birds for next show. Quite an advance on previous shows, but, with the right men at the helm, it can be done.

An entry of 1,500 birds would necessitate having at least four judges, if the score card were used; but two would be ample if the comparison system were followed. We would feel highly gratified if the different societies would give comparison judging a trial next winter, if only in some of the classes.

Our advertisers report a good demand for eggs for hatching, and that eggs are, as a rule, very fertile and hatching a large percentage of chicks. The number of imported eggs for hatching is also large for so early in the season, close on \$500 worth having arrived this spring.

Chicks a week old should be allowed to eat all the cracked wheat or corn that they care for. The *Poultry Keeper* gives a good design for a self feeder, by which the corn is always at hand for the chicks, and there is no waste through scattering. It is made of a hopper two feet long, five inches deep, four inches wide at the top and one-fourth of an inch wide at the bottom. It holds from two to three quarts of feed. It is attached to the end pieces which hold it up half an inch from a trough to allow the food to run down. The trough is twenty-five inches long, two and one-half inches wide and one quarter inch deep. The old fowls can be kept from the hopper by putting an ordinary coop over it.

In a former issue, we gave a few hints on managing an incubator, and a reader of THE HOME JOURNAL informs us that by following our directions he was enabled to hatch 89 out of 92 fertile eggs. As many of our readers are now setting their hens, we give a few hints on one of the most important phases of the business.

TESTING EGGS.

Testing the eggs is of importance, as we are able to set two or three hens at a time, when neither eggs for sitting nor sitting hens are over plentiful. Still, forewarned is forearmed, and as many of our readers have doubtless got their incubators to work our hints may be useful to them too. Many people are under the impression that it is possible to tell a fertile from an unfertile egg even before it has been set at all. We constantly meet where purchasers of eggs for hatching write angry letters to the vendors, implying that they have been defrauded, because some or all the eggs sent them were unfertile. It is only by experiment in setting some of them himself that it is possible for a vendor to know whether the eggs from a particular hen or pen of birds is likely to produce a good percentage of chickens. There is, of course, a presumption that from a pen of birds properly set up there will be a fair percentage

of chickens, but it is a presumption which may prove to be erroneous:

The Aylesbury duckers, we believe, sell eggs for hatching guaranteed to be fertile. They have by long experience in egg testing, become so skilled as to be able to discern the embryo duckling when only twenty-four hours or so of the period of incubation has elapsed. They set the eggs for the necessary period, test them, and can then pick out the fertile ones and guarantee their fertility. At this early stage the hatching process can be suspended without fear of harm, and the eggs can even be sent a journey without any additional risk to that incurred by eggs which have not been incubated at all. The object of testing the eggs is to ascertain as soon as possible whether or not they are fertile, so that the unfertile ones may be removed and their places filled by a fresh supply. If two or three hens have been set at the same time, and many of the eggs are found to be unfertile, all the fertile ones can be put under one or two hens, as the case may be, and the other hen started afresh with another lot of eggs. Much valuable time can be saved in this way.

In incubator work there is even less difficulty; but care is necessary here that the fresh batch of eggs be warmed before being put in the egg drawer, or that they be carefully separated by wood or flannel or some other non-conducting material, from those eggs which are fairly advanced in the process of incubation. We have known a good many eggs to be lost in artificial incubation by the introduction of cold eggs into the drawer. If the incubator is fitted with a drying box, this is a good place to warm the eggs before putting them in the drawer. In any case, care must be taken that they are not exposed to too high a temperature.

The most usual period at which to test the eggs is about the eighth day of incubation. At that time the merest tyro can, without much difficulty, distinguish an unfertile or clear egg from one in which there is or has been a living embryo. There are a good many egg testers in the market, and they all answer their purpose with more or less facility. Any device which enables the operator to get the egg between his eyes and a fairly strong light, while at the same time shading the eye from the light, except so far as the light penetrates the egg, is all that is necessary. A piece of cardboard with a suitable oval aperture is the simplest form of egg tester; while a skilled operator frequently prefers to simply grasp the egg lengthwise in the oval space between the thumb and forefinger, surrounding it as far as possible with the thumb and forefinger. The palm of the hand is kept toward the light and a little practice will enable the operator to effectually shade the light with the other fingers held close to each other in a curved form, one above the other. We have found a small kerosene lamp, with merely a clear glass chimney, a very good light for egg testing, but any fairly bright and concentrated light will do.

We have tested hundreds of eggs by the light of a common candle, but we advise the use of a somewhat brighter flame. A tester of simple instruction consists of a

piece of cardboard bent round into the shape of a funnel or hollow cone. The smaller aperture is about the size of an egg, the larger is big enough to cover the two eyes of the person using it, and is so shaped as to fit the face fairly close and to be readily held in position by a piece of elastic stretched round the back of the head. It seems to us that it would be an improvement to make this tester in such a shape as merely to cover one eye of the person using it, and thus leave the other free to be opened at will, so that the operator might see what he was about without difficulty. We fancy the operator who had the field of vision of both eyes, limited, by the American contrivance, might find his hair on fire before he knew that he was in such close proximity to the light used for the testing.

The test used will, or should, disclose that the egg is clear, or, in other words, unfertile, fertile or addled. The appearance presented by a clear egg is simply that of a semi-opaque fluid of uniform, or almost uniform, consistency. If a very bright light is used there will be a slightly darker patch indicating the position of the yoke. The best way to learn what a clear egg looks like is to experiment with a few newly laid eggs. A white egg is much more transparent in its shell than a yellow one, and again, some slightly or deeply colored eggs will be found to have light spots all over their shells when examined. These various appearances of newly laid eggs can readily be learned by a few experiments and the sure knowledge of them saves much trouble in testing eggs during incubation. Eggs which upon being tested are found to be clear, are those which either contain no ovum or germ—having been laid by a barren hen, or those which, although containing an ovum or germ, yet have not had that germ fertilized. A clear egg remains unaltered throughout the process of incubation except in so far as it may become musty or stale through the influence of the high temperature to which it is subjected.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

WANTED 100 PAIRS PIGEONS

Fancy Poultry Bought, Sold and Exchanged.

THOROUGHbred EGGS FOR HATCHING.
Egg Powders for Sale—will make your hens lay.

—AT—
W. B. Sylvester, 9 & 10 City Market.

PENSARN KENNELS.

FOX TERRIERS { Combined strains of
Ch. Venio, Ch. Re-
gent, Ch. Rachel.
SCOTCH COLLIES { Pensarn Gordon, 3,222
Melchley Flurry, 2,842
Melchley Flurry won the silver medal for best
collie at Victoria Show, Feb., 1894.
J. B. CARMICHAEL, 87 Government Street.

Get the Best

o o o o o o o o

BROWN LEGHORNS

FIRST PRIZE—Cock 924.
Hen 924.

At Nanaimo, Dec., 1893. \$2.00 per setting.
JOHN B. CARMICHAEL, 87 Gov't St.

S. SHORE, + + +

JOHNSON STREET, near Gov't

Dealer in Chicken Wire Fencing, Garden Hose
Tools of all kinds, General Hardware.

t to those want-
nursery Stock:

into an arrangement with this journal to open a horticultural department, and, at the way with the existing high trees and bushes and vines have always been considered planting of orchards to any Columbia, and, furthermore, al in the settling up of the he same time, one of the ts we have had to contend fruit lands.

ancouver Island exists all iditions for a great diversity ples, pears, cherries, plums, les, currants, raspberries, ackberries grow best here They ripen later in the e, but ours is a better fruit, ie, which grows twice the a raised prune. It has also arison to the stone. We growing of the prune, as e made out of a small or and there is no danger of If all available land on as planted out in prunes, ice to supply the market

ith the largest nursery in specially a firm noted for rue to name, places us liver any of the following y and freight paid:

6 ft.	per 100...	12 cts (each)
"	"	16 cts
"	"	16 cts
8 ft.	"	17 cts
6 ft.	"	18 cts
"	"	15 cts
"	per 1,000	10 cts
"	per 100	18 cts
"	"	15 cts
5 ft.	"	20 cts
"	"	22 cts

ntities of 1,000. Black-reens, nut trees and ors of same on application.

& COOPER,

Victoria, B. C.

ASON.

rsand Tomatoes

ble Syrup and Sugar.

nd Pickle Works.

ictoria, B. C.

Compound

Does Not Fail.

den Tools for sale

'td., Victoria, B.C.

NURE WORKS,

ers of

BONE.

ual for Floriculture.
e. Make your chick-
d bone.

t and Pembroke sts

uggists,

IN

Plant
Food.

LTD.,

RE, SPRAY PUMPS,
MOWERS PRUN-

Kamloops.