

way, or he has otherwise not cast the outer skin in the usual way. He has evidently had a check during moulting, as he still has a few duck feathers on sides, but he is too good a drake to condemn altogether, so we will give a summer's run, and see what another moult will do for him.

The fourth young drake is about as perfect in color and shape as we can get them; want of size is his great failing; he is short in neck and in body, but very deep. If we were breeding for keel principally this drake would be our choice, providing he would breed at all, which is doubtful. Those perfect little square drakes, very fine in bone and quality, are never reliable breeders, or worth much for that purpose if they were. We like to see more growth, less keel, and greater activity in our stock drakes than this little model possesses.

We have still two stock drakes to select, but we have them here. We have purposely left them to the last. They may both be described together. One is too shades darker than the other, but with this exception they are pretty equal in merit. They have both long, broad, clear bills, clean cut, well-defined rings, sound and well-developed claret breast, back and wing markings, beautiful even blue sides and under colour right through. They are both exhibition specimens of the highest merit, and fit to produce such if properly mated. For this purpose we have kept them in healthy store condition, and out of the exhibition pen. They weigh about 8 lbs. each, and are very tight in feather and active. After the breeding and moulting season we think there will be no difficulty in growing them to 10 lbs. each, and keeled to the ground. The darker one we will call "Emperor," and the clearer colored one, which is perhaps one of the most

promising youngsters we have seen this season, we will call "The Duke."

Next week I purpose selecting the ducks to mate with the four above mentioned drakes with a view to breeding exhibition stock.

(To be Continued.)

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS ON DISEASES, BREEDING, MANAGEMENT, ETC.

Correspondents are requested to make full use of this column. The answers to enquiries, as to diseases will be answered by a well-known medical man and breeder. Please read the following rules carefully.

1. Give a concise, clear and exact statement of case, always giving age, sex, and breed.
2. Enclose 3 cent stamp for reply.
3. Report result, not necessarily for publication. *This is absolute.*
4. Acute cases requiring immediate treatment to be answered by mail in the first instance, later through the REVIEW for the benefit of our readers.
5. Write legibly and on one side of the paper only.
6. Answers to be to name in full, initials or *nom de plume*, the second—preferred.

QUE.—Will you kindly give me some information concerning hens. I am keeping a flock of 140 hens for commercial purposes. They are laying about two dozen eggs a day, but I am quite a lot troubled with soft shelled eggs. They lay every night three or four of these which I find in the mornings under the roosts. They are fed with a choice variety of food I think. The morning feed consists of meat, barley, potatoes, shorts cooked together and fed warm. Dry grain at noon and at night sometimes oats, barley, wheat, buck-wheat, &c., constantly changing. They have plenty of fresh water. The floor of the house is from four to six inches of sand and gravel, plenty of earth to scratch in, straw, etc. Besides that they have charcoal in plenty, pounded bone burnt, luts of ground oyster shells, lime, etc. The shells are very thin anyway, can you give me any reason why

I do not get more than two dozen eggs. They have been fed this way all winter from the first of November. They are kept warm, never allowing the house to get to freezing point. I keep a coal stove burning night and day, keeping the thermometer about 50. Another point, I have lost two hens and have several affected with a species of fits. They generally fall off the roost on their sides, draw up the legs and toes tightly and work violently for a few moments. They seem to draw their legs up so tightly that they walk for a week or two after it quite lame. I have just lost one with it. They will have a number of these fits for a day, each one lasting a few minutes and are then lame for a week after it. They will then be free for a week after when they all have another attack. Am I giving meat too much or too much cayenne pepper in their morning feed. An early answer to these questions will oblige. I have the building well ventilated, well lighted and kept scrupulously clean. They are not troubled with lice as I keep them clean. Nearly all my hens are last years chickens, they commenced to lay about September 10th, but it seems to me they should now be laying at least twice as many eggs.

P.S.—My hens are brown Leghorn, black Spanish, Plymouth Rock and a few mongrels.  
March 2nd, 1892. N.D.

ANS.—Your account is so full and clear it is almost a model. We fear you have been using your birds too well; been giving too much and too stimulating food. They are likely too fat, change the diet and get them to exercise more. They should soon get out for part of the day. Cut off the potatoes, buck-wheat and most of the meat, also the pepper. Give a little soft food slightly warm (previously well scalded) once a day. Put raw turnips before your birds; also raw cabbages suspended by a string. Bones if thus hung up will be greedily and persistently pecked at. A little liver raw or cooked and cut up fine will be useful now and then. Your charcoal, grit, etc are all right when the birds act as you describe. Dose freely with epsom salts, should this not prove successful, treat for worms. Give 2 grains of santonine in doses half an hour apart and followed by castor oil in an hour.

QUE.—I see by the REVIEW you have a column for different diseases. I have a blue Andalusian hen that has been laying for some time and she has been egg bound for nearly