

it is at least only fair to say what can be and has been done to birds that need it; many do not, and are far better left as they are. Briefly, all these improvements depend on the fact that a feather remains for a while set as it dries, and that all feathers when drying tend to curl towards the fire. From the last fact it is found that a little judicious manipulation of the bird even in regard to position, will sometimes assist too straight a sickle to curl considerably; and if this is not sufficient, curling irons are sometimes applied, precisely as to the human hair, to impart for several days the desired arch. We do not think this practice, at least, can be justified. For more excusable is the practice of "fluffing," or bulging out the fluff of Asiatics with the hand whilst drying. If this is done pretty constantly till the bird is quite dry, an immense difference in the apparent development of it may be made; and on the other hand, if a bird is placed in a basket before the fluff is quite dry, this part of the plumage is cramped permanently down, and the appearance injured. This at least justifies fair attention to such a point, and it is difficult to say exactly how far it should go. Warmed irons cleverly used, will also sometimes do wonders for shank-feather, the feathers being curled away from the shank so as to stand out more, in fact, signs of the process can sometimes be seen in the show-pen, by the amount of curve in the shank quills.

The leg feather or feathered fowls rarely look quite satisfactory the first thing after washing. They should therefore be penned in a clean room, amply furnished with clean straw, scattering some wheat among it to make them scratch well. The straw will fray the foot-feather out again; and a couple of days of this will make a wonderful difference in appearance generally. The very last thing before sending off, the heads and combs should have a scrub with a nail brush and clean, cold water, which will remove dust and scurf, and make them bright as can be. If this can be done the morning of judging, all the better; and in that case it is usual to apply to all the red a portion of oil, rubbing them with a greasy sponge. Others use strong vinegar, which also keeps the bright color for a few hours. But if fowls are sent off to be judged the next day, nothing at all is to be gained by this. Not much is gained in any way, and the only real means of obtaining bright, red combs and wattles is, perfect health. A thoroughly healthy bird, with the head scrubbed clean, looks as bright about the head as a bird can; if he is not in a condition to show that color naturally, nothing but dye can make him. It really is difficult to get this color in small yards; but the difficulty can only be met fairly and in the natural way by attention to diet and general treatment, of which an ample supply of green food and a little meat are the chief items.—*L. S. Journal*.

### Our Lefroy Letter.

FRIEND FULLERTON,—Having been pretty busy during October getting ready for winter, I had made up my mind to furnish no "Lefroy Letter" for November, but at the eleventh hour, have changed my mind, and decide to give you a few lines upon my month's work, in the hope that it may furnish a reasonable hint or two to some beginner. At this time of the year there are a lot of odds and ends to be attended to, which if left off till the snow falls and cold weather arrives, will be imperfectly done, or worse still, not done at all, to say nothing of the disagreeable nature of such employment at such a time. In nothing, perhaps, is the old maxim, "A time for everything," so applicable as in poultry keeping.

In the first place all broken window panes have been attended with new glass. I have found it false economy to patch broken panes. Out with them! they can't be cleaned with any satisfaction, besides being liable to tumble out again at some time when you are not prepared for the emergency. Out with them, and let in all the light possible. I am a firm believer in plenty of pure air for the poultry, but like to have the supplying of it under absolute control, for which reason I lathed and plastered inside, leaving two inches of a space between plaster and concrete wall; all small openings have been furnished with double doors, but ample provision is made for admitting air from over head. In addition to this, a rough shed, 16 by 24 has been erected, into which the fowls can be let on stormy days to scratch, and breathe the pure air. Walls are perfectly tight to prevent draughts. This shed is built at east end, and covers the only door into the poultry house proper, and projects 6ft. past poultry nouse to the south, thus forming a good wind-break to the east. This and a wall running 30ft. to south from north-east corner, forms a sheltered place in front, as roof projects 5ft to south. I have found this shelter very handy during the late wet weather. Feeding troughs, &c., set along the south wall, are always dry, and having put a few inches of sand along the front, the place is always clean, and when on a morning, my grand old light Brahmas, after filling themselves, stretch out here in the sun those cool mornings, it would tickle the heart of a stoic to see them.

My hen house is 25 by 10 inside, divided into three compartments now, though I keep but one variety. I have in the past often been cramped for room. I do not know how people who keep as many varieties as they have rooms manage. Well, to remedy this deficiency, along north wall 3½ft. from floor cages have been built the entire length, making