the pastures were about burnt up, but he managed by means of this old ensilage to keep his cows in good condition, with a very little falling off in milk, which was caused more by the horn-fly than want of succulent feed.

AT THE OPENING OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION

the report of the Nominating Committee was adopted. The officers for 1894 are as follows: President, T. B. Carlaw, Warkworth; First Vice-President, John McTavish, Vancamp; Second Vice-President, E. J. Madden, Kingston. Directors—District No. 1, Edward Gower, North Gower; District No. 2, Wm. Eager, Morrisburg; District No. 3, Richard G. Murphy, Elgin; District No. 4, James Whitton, Wellman's Corners; District No. 5, M. E Sanderson, Selwyn; District No. 6, Henry Wade, Toronto. Auditors—Morden Bird, Sterling, and J. R. Dargavel, Elgin.

PROF. ROBERTSON then delivered an admirable address on the winter dairy movement in Ontario. Before plunging into his subject he made some interesting general reflections. He expressed the conviction that dairy farming was the farming which should be pursued in Ontario. He spoke of the splendid advantages offered and the high plane of civilization which existed in this province. He attributed this excellent state of affairs to the prosperity and material comforts enjoyed by the people, and to maintain and increase this condition of things this prosperity would have to continue and increase. To obtain more of the comforts of life the farmer would have to produce what would bring him the widest margin of profits. Wheat crops at one time had been profitable, but the increase of the production and the decrease in its use had made it no longer so. The trend of consumption now was towards animals and animal products, and accordingly the farmer, wherever he could produce these well, should do so. In Canada the conditions for their production were most favorable. The climatic conditions were good, and fodder could be easily and cheaply produced. Prof. Robertson then pointed out how the cheese industry had been of such incalculable benefit to the farmer—how it had furnished them with money which they otherwise would not have obtained. He pointed out what a still greater benefit it would have been had this cheese money been twice as large as it was, and he insisted in clear and logical arguments that this increase to twice the amount could be obtained by means of winter buttermaking in the cheese factories. He said that a great risk was run in the cheese manufacture of pushing it too far; there was also a risk of a fall in prices, but with the winter butter business there would be something to fall back upon. The question of whether this winter industry was practicable was gone into, and Prof. Robertson proved, evidently to the satisfaction of his audience, that it was practicable. He said he had proved that it was so to himself by working the problem out in the concrete. He had established three factories in Ontario, which made $12,000 last winter. The cost of adapting the cheese factories for this purpose during the winter he placed at a little over $1,000. He produced figures from the establishments already in operation to show not only that these winter butter factories would pay, but that they would put more money than that simply obtained from the sale of milk in the pockets of the farmers. The skim milk could be fed swine and calves, and money would also be obtained from these sources. If then, the Professor argued, one out of every ten factories in the province were utilized in this way in the winter, it would net over $600,000. He combatted the idea that this industry was hostile to the cheese industry. It would make cheesemaking more profitable. He then went into the needs of winter dairying, the proper management and feeding of cows, and the way to handle the milk. In concluding, he said that the business of agriculture in Canada was daily becoming to him a question of more serious import. The whole stability of the country was staked on it, and would be jeopardized if farming was not conducted on better paying principles. It was a question which concerned every Canadian—him and his children and his children's children, and it should be the duty of all to adopt any possible combination of conditions which would render this great industry permanently secure and beyond the possibility of being adversely affected.

Mr. James spoke briefly on the possibilities and advantages of our home market, and showed how at present this market was not supplied in dairy products to one-tenth of the demand.

The usual votes of thanks were then passed, and the Convention adjourned.

A Bit of Dairy Help.

BY MRS. J. H. BUCKBEE.

During the past summer we had a hard milker whose teats were so short it was thumb and finger work. I thought one day of the answer of "Bobby Peel" to the manager of the cotton mills, when asked why his spindle was never stopped for repairs: "Chalk your bobbins." I had no chalk, but I took a box of corn starch to the stables, and tried that. It proved a boon to me, as by rubbing a little on my hands I could grip without the teats slipping out of my hands. I also found it useful when milking any cow in the warm weather.

POULTRY.

Poultry on the Farm.

BY MRS. IDA E. TILSON, WEST SALEM, WIS.

I once heard a discouraged farmer say fowls were no more likely to give a profit than a poor soil was to yield anything except white beans. Some poultry investors have realized excellent profits, and what man has done, man can do again. If a poulterer has continued ill-luck, may not this be in his make-up rather than the fault of his flock, surroundings or business? Perhaps he proposes beginning at the very top of the ladder, instead of rising in the natural and usual way by step after step. If so, he secures expensive stock, and unaware that "scrubs" often stand experimenting and poor care better than do choice birds, which have long been tenderly handled and comfortably housed, he places his new purchase in some old hen house, uncleaned and unrepaired for years.

Probably he over-feeds at first, but when all his neighbors have seen and admired the birds, and the latter lose novelty, then rats, lice, lack of shade and shelter, sour, sloppy puddings, excess of grain feeding, and irregular care bring their usual destruction. Or having heard $100 a year can be cleared from 100 hens, he estimates 1000 biddies will net $1000, as a man did whose friends sent him to talk with me. I could not convince him of the greater danger from disease, nor of the extra business ability required to manage so many.

The time spent on a small number is our own and seldom counted in, but a large flock frequently necessitates a considerable outlay for hired help. If we first study the dispositions and needs of fowls, we can, with enlarged knowledge, increase numbers, houses and general facilities. The man above mentioned soon abandoned his extensive "chicken business." As Carlyle says, "Experience takes dreadfully high school wages, but he teaches like no other." Although our own experience is the best teacher, another's experience often gives us a great start up the hill of knowledge, and puts money in our pockets. Not long ago a lady wrote asking me with how many hens she, a novice, should begin. I advised her to take not over fifty, and better, only twenty-five. I myself began with seven tough old fowls, that had perhaps "been in the family for years"—at least none here knew their ages, nor had before taken much interest in poultry. Though an incubator furnishes the business way of raising broilers, I do not use nor deem one necessary in the farm poultry-yard, where but one or two hundred chickens are desired; he who needs an incubator might, according to my observation, profitably take lessons first of old hens in the management of chicks, because the mere hatching is really the easiest and briefest part of chicken culture.

This year I set nine hens on 110 eggs, securing seventy-three chicks, of which I raised sixty-nine. An acquaintance, a novice, did so well as to hatch sixty-nine chicks out of a hundred-egg incubator, but lost many of them subsequently. Other persons fail because they make poultry culture only a "side show." We must understand its importance and mix it well with our other business, else the latter will rise to the top, and our poultry sink to the bottom. Some people think they cannot do anything till they have the best kind of a house. I know those who succeeded with very poor conveniences, and it is difficult to get the "best house" all at once anyhow. A carpenter cannot tell about it unless he is also an experienced poultryman, and poulterers themselves have differing tastes, purposes and ideas. No one can really know what he wants his poultry house to be till he uses it, and finds out his needs by observation and experience. I have made several changes in my buildings, and should add others if sure they would return expense. When the best things are not possible, the best may always be made of what we have. Don't wait until your fingers are pinched with cold before you batten cracks, tighten loose windows, and otherwise improve the old quarters. My houses are just enjoying on their outsides a fresh coat of red paint, which will add somewhat to their warmth and their freedom from insects.

I lately saw a Canadian poultry article, the writer of which said, if he lived down in Indiana or Illinois he should believe all he read about overcrowded poultry quarters in winter, and their lack of ventilation, but at his latitude just a few fowls could not keep each other warm, and soon froze, even in a practically air-tight house. Probably he would approve the plan I have before recommended of a small, snug room as a lodging, with an open shed more cheaply built and added to secure enough space for daily exercise. We often have weather twenty degrees below zero here, but the only house I can entirely close is that double boarded with sawdust between. Sawdust, though apparently solid, is really porous and permits a little circulation of air. Air poisoned by too many breaths is the coldest of the cold, and warms less readily than that purer. Into my paper-lined house had to be introduced a hollow wooden tube, four by six inches, running up perpendicularly from within ten inches of the bottom, and extending about two feet above the roof. This tube acts as a chimney, and sometimes has draft enough to take up bits of down. It helps change of air without striking the fowls, and does so whether I am present or absent, awake or asleep, and whether the weather is stormy or pleasant. Not only is impure air chillingly uncomfortable, but it starves the lungs, empties the egg-basket, and gives our fowls slow death. Now, I think such a tube would be an improvement, even to my sawdust-walled house. Under the shed attached to this latter house—a shed large enough for storage purposes, too—stand a large barrel of fine road dust and seven barrels of lovely gravel—winter provision. We paid three dollars for a man and team that drew, from a bank seven miles away, the gravel, which I trust will last two years, however.

In fact, there is but little good luck anywhere which does not consist in the wisdom to see what should be done, united with the wit and energy to do it. If every poulterer joins the "Try, try again" brigade, and gives his fowls a sort of tender, constant, motherly care, he need not fear they will be like one crop here this year—"small potatoes and few in a hill."

Cross-bred and Pure-bred Fowls.

BY W. J. STEVENSON, OSHAWA, ONT.

In visiting some of the best farms to-day, we will find comfortable stables and houses for every living thing on the place, but poor Biddy, she is left to her own resources, to find her food wherever she can, and roost on a pole under a shed, or on a limb of a tree. Now, if these same farmers will ask their wives or daughters for a statement of the last year's amount of business done by these same neglected hens, it will give them something to figure on. And I will venture to say that the result of a careful consideration will be a "new hen-house" and an improved flock of fowls for the coming season. How many times we hear the farmer say, "Oh, bother the hens!" but, nevertheless, that same man likes a well-filled egg basket for market on Saturday. How it helps when money is scarce! Many a woman knows that if it were not for her hens she would do without many an article of wearing apparel, as well as those for house use. To secure good results we must have good, healthy birds, as near pure-bred as possible. One cross is all right, but go no farther if wishing good success. After about twenty years of experimenting with crosses and pure-bred, my conclusions are these:—You will get a heavier bird for table use from crosses, but for a general purpose one a pure-bred every time. We all have our favorites. For myself I prefer Golden Laced Wyandottes for the farm yard. I have found them good layers, coming to maturity early, easy keepers and quiet in disposition. Now, I do not wish to boom this breed, but speak from experience and a wish te get as many as possible interested in doing better for their fowls in future. Now, readers of the ADVOCATE who are interested in this, let us during the coming winter start a query column (to which I know the editor will agree), where questions may be asked and answered by practical persons. I will do my utmost for its success. We can learn from each other, avoid mistakes and help new beginners. What say you all?

A Poultry Note.

BY MRS. J. H. BUCKBEE.

It almost seems superfluous to say a word about poultry in the face of such writers as Mrs. Tilson (whom I and my hens love), but realizing so much benefit from the experience of others, I wish to give my own in regard to the breaking up of old crockery for grit for fowls, given to us last spring in the ADVOCATE. I place an ironwood block in an old tin pan, put the chipped bits on the block and cover with a newspaper, then tap away with a hammer, and there is no danger of splinters flying in the eyes. Burn the paper, as fine pieces adhere and render it unsafe to lie round.

To Prevent Hens Eating Eggs.

To prevent hens eating their eggs, a trouble so general during the winter season, and so difficult to cure after the habit is once acquired, on the Experimental Farm at Brandon the use of dark nests has effectually put a stop to this bad habit. They are made about four feet long by one foot square, with a nest in each end and the opening, just large enough to admit a hen, in the centre—the box elevated two or three feet off the floor.