

THE POULTRY YARD.

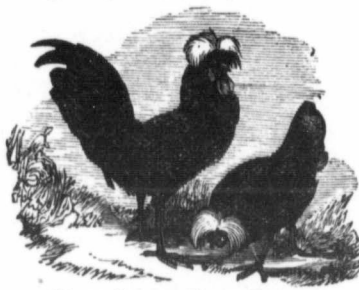
Notes on Poultry, Pigeons and Pheasants.

[Correspondence is cordially invited from anyone who has anything of interest to communicate to this department. All letters should be addressed to "The Editor of THE EXCHANGE AND MART," Room 7, 23 Adelaide st. East, Toronto.

SPECIAL BREEDS AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM.

THE HOUDANS AND CRESTED FOWLS.

We have selected this bird for our initial article, because he is a good representative, besides being the best known, of a class—the French crested fowls. This class includes Houdans Le fleche and Crevecoeurs in contradistinction to the English crested fowls; the white crested white, and the white crested black Polands. They are all large, handsome birds, the English specimens being somewhat more



WHITE CRESTED BLACK POLANDS.

delicate than their French cousins. The Houdan weighs from four and a-half to six pounds, according to sex, and they have five toes on each foot. Their plumage is what ladies call "check," being speckled in black and white up to the snowy top-knot. This latter appendage is heavy, and falls back towards the neck, the comb being nearly invisible from the redundancy of the crest. The Houdan is a peculiarly useful fowl, being a most enthusiastic layer of large white eggs, a reluctant sitter, and plump and fat when killed for the table. They are, however, difficult to keep within bounds, being somewhat nomadic in their habits, and prone to wander like the turkey, if not restrained, long distances in search of food. They are difficult to rear, but most useful and fairly robust when full-grown.

FOOD AND MANAGEMENT.

Like all the more delicate breeds, the Houdan requires some care. A warm mash consisting of oatmeal, bread, boiled potatoes, and a flavouring of broth or fine mince-meat may be given twice a week with a suspicion of salt. Green food may be given in moderation, broken egg-shells occasionally, and as much pumpkin, turnip, beet or grass as they will pick at. These fowls need variety in their food, and mixed grain should be given for the evening meal. Plenty of water for washing and bathing is an essential.

FEEDING FOWLS.

There are a variety of opinions upon feeding fowls—what they ought to have, how often they should be fed, whether the food should occasionally be hot, and so on. There are, however, some phases of the subject of feeding worthy of the attention of poultry keepers. Some are far too prone to give the fowls too little food; they readily grasp at the advice so often given to leave off feeding while the fowls are hungry, and thus the birds do not get enough. We none of us can exist during cold weather in comfort if we do not have sufficient food. The ox does not fatten so rapidly; the pig remains where it was when food is sparingly given, because that is required to sustain its frame, to provide warmth, and repair the waste of tissue; give it enough and it remains in statu quo; give it too little, and it falls away; give plenty, and it fattens. So with the fowl.

The exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists will open in Toronto about the 15th of May, and promises to eclipse all former efforts.

willing to do What He Thought Fair.

He had a sign at the door reading: "Great reduction in prices to flood sufferers!"

An individual who seemed to have passed through several inundations halted, looked suspiciously at a pair of pants, and asked:

- "How much for these?"
"Dot bair vhas four dollars."
"How much off to a flood sufferer?"
"Vhas you in der freshet?"
"I kalkilate I was! Half my farm is still under water."

"Oh! I see. Dot vhas exactly handy for you. I make no reduction on clothing but I take off ten per cent. on some second-hand rubber boots for you to wad around your farm."

He Knew What He Was.

A boy found a woman's switch in the opera house and returned it to her.

"Thank you, my little man," said the lady. "You are an honest boy."

"Oh, no, I'm not so very honest. But I know what I am."

"What are you, then?"

"A hair restorer."—Old City Blizzard

Organizers—Italians.—Philadelphia Chronicle.

Many "heavy swells" float on the bill-owes of credit.

The power behind the throne in London is dynamite.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Bismarck, D.T., need not change its name. D.T. can stand for darned tyrant.

"Dead men tell no tales," but this is not always true of dead politicians.—New York Commercial.

They are a people of opium and leisure, these Chinamen; they take their opium cum dignitate.—Chicago Tribune.

"To the pure," said the milkman as he sold a quart of milk to an innocent little girl, "all things are pure."—Philadelphia Call.

In looking over a list of Americans abroad, we can only wonder who is left at home to keep house.

The camel is the ideal temperate individual. He is not a strict teetotaler, though he seldom drinks.

There is a river in Africa called Kissemelonge. Every girl in the country knows all about it, from the source to the mouth.

A prairie farmer reports that a late windstorm lifted about everything from his lands except the mortgage.

There is in Tallahassee, Fla., an octogenarian who never drinks water and has no thirst for it. The wonder is that he hasn't died of dilirium tremens long ago.

A Philadelphia reporter is an applicant for the position of Chief of Police of that city, but he won't get it. Reporters have been known to catch criminals.—Buffalo Express.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you," Miss Wheeler says. Yes, and slip, and the world laughs at you. At least that has been our experience this winter.

"Will you have a small piece of the light meat or a small piece of the dark?" asked Bob's uncle, as he carved the turkey at dinner. "I'll have a large piece of both," said Bob.

TREES AND FLOWERS

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Table listing various goods and prices, including items like Artichoke, ASPARAG, Conover's Col., BEANS, Carrots, and various types of flour and sugar.

JAMES RENNIE, (Market,) TORONTO.