

that the position commands the full sun, from rising to setting in December's shortest day. For this reason, it should have an elevated position, as the sunbeams are stronger on a hill than in a hollow; besides an elevated position is relieved of all humidity that hangs about low grounds, breeding malaria and distempers.

Since winter eggs are so much to be desired, now is the season to prepare for securing them. The preparations should be all completed, and the fowls be made acquainted with their quarters. Liberal provision also should be made in the way of feed, and the material for the fowls to grind their grain, without which they cannot remain for any length of time in egg production, shut from the ground. Indeed fowls that are laying should be furnished with broken shells the whole year round. The omitting of this for a day or two, where it has been the practice, will deteriorate egg production quite materially. They should be regularly furnished, and broken suitably fine for their consumption, each day; not that the shells or gravel contribute directly to the production of the egg shells, as many suppose and in the stead give lime, but the broken pieces help grind the moistened kernels in the gizzard, and the nutriment derived therefrom increases the health and strength. If there is a desire to change the shell or make it thicker, the grain should be changed. Instead of corn, feed wheat or buckwheat. The latter grain furnishes the largest amount of material that goes to make the shell.

The location should be dry and sunny, and the buildings not too far from the dwelling, especially those occupied in winter, for if far it frequently becomes a task to go back and fourth, and thus the fowls and eggs become neglected just when they are the most valuable. The yards should be ample and enclosed, and are the very best place for young fruit trees. The hens do no damage to the fruit, while in the meantime their presence is a direct benefit, not only from the richness of the droppings, but insects have no hiding place. The earth directly above the roots of newly planted trees should be protected from their scratching, while the shade that the branches afford is greatly relished in the hot season. Peach, pear, plum and apple trees thrive well here, and even currant bushes and berries may be planted with profit.—C. B., in *Country Gentleman*.

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### The Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

Our visit to this exhibition was very hurried, and consequently we had not the opportunity of giving the birds the close inspection necessary to furnish a full report. An early start on Thursday morning we thought would give a chance to secure a good look-over, and we succeeded in making some notes on the old birds, but very soon the building began to fill, and as one old friend after another appeared and claimed our attention, we were compelled to give it up. As considerable space is occupied by our correspondent, "J. B. J." in criticisms on the pigeons and their judging, we will have to be content with a few brief general remarks.

As in former years, the poultry and pigeon department seemed to be one of the principal attractions of this exhibition. The birds were generally in much better feather than they are found at fall shows. The adult birds, on the whole, show improvement, but the chicks were not equal to the exhibits of the two former years, being, with few exceptions, behind them in development. The game classes were the best in the show—that is the old birds; real promising birds were not plentiful among the chicks.

There was the usual amount of grumbling at the awards of the judges, some of it with reason and a great deal without. There were a few cases where we think it was a pity such good birds should pass without recognition. A black-breasted red cock, exhibited by Butterfield we believe, was fully equal to any, and in the opinion of many the best, in the class. His thighs were somewhat bare, but otherwise in good feather; he was grand in station. In black-breasted red game bantams an almost faultless cock was left out in the cold. We think he should have had first place and the one taking 1st the second. He belonged to Way. The best Plymouth Rock hen (C. H. Hall's) was also passed over. In conversation with the judges we found that these birds were thrown out on account of their condition. They certainly were not in as grand condition as the winners, but with the exception of the Plymouth Rock hen alluded to, were in good health. The bantam cock was not as spry as a bird of his class ought to be, and the game cock was in worse feather than the more successful competitors, but neither of them deserved to be rated as they were. In our opinion judges should not deal very severely with "condition" at fall shows.

We would call the attention of the managers to the fact that an addition of one hundred feet to the building is required to give proper accommodation to such an exhibit of fowls and pigeons as is brought together here. The south wing is al-