

as the males are liable to soil and break the feathers of the females. Young birds may be allowed to run together till the cold weather sets in, if there is plenty of room and good grass runs. I can't see anything to be gained by separation. Of course it is taken for granted that all young stock are getting all they will eat of good nourishing food, and that not more than twenty are allowed to roost in one room. My summer's experience has led me to the conclusion that not more than that number of chicks should be allowed to occupy one room. I shall therefore provide small houses, as described in former letters, for every twenty-five chicks at most. I may say just here that as winter approaches, and the chicks are confined to their houses most of the time, I would then separate the sexes. The young males will live peaceably together till breeding time. I think it is a good plan to have four flocks. Let all the very promising young males be kept together, and the same of females. This serves a double purpose; you can more easily select those intended for exhibition, and you can better supply your customers with just what they want or are willing to pay for. As I. K. Felch writes in *American Poultry Journal*: "The price is according to quality in fine fowls, just as in any other class of goods, and reasonably so too. At least I find it so when I need to purchase a fine bird."

In preparing birds for exhibition in winter half the battle is fought if they have been attended to as they should be during the fall and early winter, or continually during and after the final moult. Three or four weeks before exhibition select your best, and a few more than you intend to show, and give them special attention, and if possible let the males be kept in a separate building from the females, as if they can hear the hens they are uneasy and fretful, and will not eat. Old cocks must each have a separate room. The young males can all run together until after show. But let me just here sound a warning note to the novice. When they return from that show don't put them together or you will regret it. Last year mine had been living together so peaceably before the exhibition at Toronto—seven of them—that I had all confidence in their character. They arrived home late in the evening, and though I had some doubts of the effects of bad company. I put them all together into their old home. Fortunately I went out to see them early in the morning, but as early as it was they had found time to cover each other with blood. And to tell the truth, I would rather breed from a bird that had never got a bad threshing than from one that had. It may be fancy, but it seems to me I have some grounds for this notion.

Well, as I have kept fairly well to separation so far in this letter, just another little note or two on

it and I will have done for this month. In shipping birds to exhibition, don't mix the sexes. You may have to pay a little more express, but pay it and you will find it will pay. Your male birds have been kept separate for weeks or months, and are in prime condition, so you see plainly that to confine them with two or three hens where you cannot attend to cleaning, etc., they are almost sure to soil the hens unless you have a good depth of clean sawdust in the bottom of the coop. Still I am in favor of keeping them separate.

In conclusion, I would say respecting my offer in last month's *Review* to answer questions on general poultry matters, I shall try to answer general questions on keeping, feeding, etc., of all kinds of poultry, but am not prepared to discuss critical points of any but the Light Brahma. Of course I do not pretend to be perfect even here, but if I meet with anything too much for me it will be to our mutual advantage to solve the problem among us, for in that case I shall honestly submit the question to the readers of the *Review*; and I further hope that if my answers do not meet the approval of those better posted they will criticise without hesitation. This is the way to get at truth.

Yours sincerely,

STANLEY SPILLETT.

Nantye P. O., Oct. 23rd, 1884.

The Sussex Poultry Industry.

During a recent visit to Sussex we found ourselves in the neighborhood of the poultry-fattening district, and a few notes on this industry may, perhaps, not be without interest to our readers. The centre of the trade is at Heathfield, but it is more or less spread over the part of the county extending from Heathfield to Battle, and comprising Dallington, Brightling, and surrounding villages. The limestone soil abounding here appears to be peculiarly suitable to the growth of the chickens, the birds growing quickly, and being rarely affected by that wretched ailment "gapes," so terribly destructive to the young broods in most parts of the kingdom. The fowls chiefly to be met with are a first cross between the Brahma and Dorking, size being of the greatest importance, and no exception being taken to the slight yellowness of legs, which we are so frequently told by some wisecracks renders any cross with the Asiatic varieties utterly unsaleable. The chicks are hatched to a great extent by the cottagers, and at every turn of the road, and at all seasons of the year, may be seen broods of youngsters in every stage of growth. Poverty is almost unknown in these parts, the occupiers even of the smallest tenements making from £10 to £20 a year by the sale of their chickens. These chickens are purchased by men called