

## Transportation of Live Birds by Sea.

By W. H. THICK, OTTAWA.

*Continued.*

Everything thus ready, the birds cannot be too recently caught. They should be placed in the room a few hours after their capture as possible. Before turning them loose into the room, cut, with a pair of scissors, the first six feathers of the wings and also the tail. Do not, however, cut them too short, so as to injure the hollow quills. The object in cutting the wings and tail is, first, that you prevent the birds dashing about and injuring themselves; and secondly, they get tame sooner, and are ready to go into a small cage without getting the tail and wing-feathers covered with filth, which they would do if the tail was its entire length. Have placed about the room, and on the floor of it a few of the small cages, with the doors open and food ready in the cages. In this way the birds can go in and out, and feed, and thus get accustomed to the cages before the doors are closed upon them. By this treatment they are never much reduced, or in any way weakened, which is sure to be the case if they are put into small cages when fresh caught.

It is always a little difficult to get birds to feed immediately after their capture; but the above method has been found to answer admirably. It is of the greatest importance that they should not pine or get weak, as they seldom, or perhaps never, quite recover, but frequently linger for months, and such birds would be quite useless for the purpose intended.

Experience, during a long course of experiments undertaken with the view of ascertaining upon what food these birds might be best kept in perfect health and good condition, has led me to recommend the use of a much larger number of ingredients than is perhaps absolutely necessary. But, taking into consideration the chances of any accident or delay that may happen on board ship, it is well to know, by a fair trial, what can be used without risk. At the same time it is certain that the more the food is changed and varied, the greater are the chances of success in keeping the birds in good health, taking into consideration the nature of their food in a wild state, varying as it must at different periods of the year.

In the foregoing remarks allusion has been made to the cages intended to convey these birds; and to this part of the subject, which requires special notice, I have again alluded below. With respect, also, to cutting the wing and tail-feathers, which would of course render the bird unable to fly (for a time only, as all birds moult these feathers at least once a year), the advantages of this painless operation will be readily seen, as it not only pre-

vents injury to the bird, as before stated, but if the bird escapes from its cage it is unable to fly, and is therefore easily caught and replaced.

The following list of articles used as food, and the mode of preparing the same, it is hoped, will be sufficiently simple and clear to be easily understood; and the use of them can be safely recommended from long personal experience:—

**VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES.**—Peas and pea-meal; barley, wheat, oats, Indian corn, or the meal of any of these; rice, whole or ground; fruit of all kinds, fresh or dried, raw or cooked; Potatoes, cooked; carrots, raw or cooked; bread, biscuit, bran, or pollard; hemp-seed.

**ANIMAL SUBSTANCES.**—Meat, fresh or cooked, of any kind, except salted; liver, prepared according to instructions; eggs, boiled; insects

In order to prepare the quantity of food required for a large number of these birds, two machines are recommended—one the mincing or sausage machine, the other a coffee-mill. The necessity of these will appear by looking over the list of food, and the manner of mixing, &c. Not only is the amount of labor much reduced by the use of these machines, but the food is more equally prepared and better adapted for the birds than it can be made by hand.

In addition to each kind of food, and the instruction for its use hereafter given, it may be only necessary here to state that any of the different sorts of meal mentioned may form the basis of the food, and the other ingredients may be added, such as meat, fruit, &c., according to circumstances and the judgement of the person who has charge of the birds, as a change of climate and circumstances may lead to variation in their condition, which must be carefully attended to.

I find the quantity of food required for each bird to be about one ounce and a half per day, with the same quantity of water. At the same time, in very hot weather, a larger quantity of water may be required.

Gravel, sand, grit, ashes, or dry earth is always required in the bottom of the cages.

*(To be continued.)*

### Baby Incubator.

The immense success which has attended the artificial incubation of chickens in France recently, says the *Glasgow Mail*, attracted the attention of Dr. Tavernier, a learned and ingenious physician. He was attached to a hospital for foundlings, and was annoyed at the large number who died within the first six months of their life. The majority of those admitted to the hospital were weak and sickly, and he resolved to try what "artificial incubation" would accomplish if applied to infants. The doctor constructed a child incuba-