

### Another Experience and Conclusions Arrived at Therefrom.

Editor Review.

Having seen several letters in REVIEW this season, respecting the failure of the early set eggs, I would like to add my grain of testimony to that already tendered. This is a subject of great importance to all breeders of pure stock, and one that cannot be too thoroughly sifted.

My hens commenced laying early, and as they were well fed I obtained a great number of eggs.

I believe in variety in feeding fowls. I feed wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat and corn, but I give more wheat than either the other grains. My poultry house was bedded a foot deep in straw, among which all their grain was thrown, and they had to scratch for all they got. But this was about all the exercise they got, as the weather was so severe I could not let them out.

Every one of the first fifty eggs failed to hatch, but on breaking the shell a chick was found in nearly all of them, and the majority were nearly all perfect, and appeared to have died just about the time they should have chipped the shell.

Some of my neighbors who keep mongrel stock and know all about hens, (?)—or at any rate think they do—told me that I ruined my fowls with care, and think that if I treated my fowls as they do theirs (which, by-the-by, means that they are to have their own sweet will and live on anything they are fortunate enough to find) I would have better luck.

Now, I do not believe in luck, at any rate not in poultry breeding. There is a cause for every effect, and that cause only needs to be discovered in order to prevent a re-occurrence.

Mr. Carson, of Orangeville, in his letter in REVIEW for May, after recounting a similar experience to mine, suggests that barley may be the cause. I am not prepared to say that it is not, but it certainly was not the cause in my case, as I fed less barley than anything else.

I feel certain that long confinement and consequent lack of exercise was the only cause in my case, as from the same fowls on precisely the same diet, with the addition of an abundant supply of grass, which they obtain when at liberty, I now have as fine vigorous chicks as can be found anywhere.

What effect is produced on the generative system of fowls by inactivity, I am not prepared to say, but feel certain that confinement is the sole and only cause of the trouble here mentioned. My neighbors, with their wretched mongrels, had chicks before I had, but I had lots of eggs when they had none. These mongrels were always out in the snow and slush, while my fowls were snug-

gly housed, and as a large per centage of the eggs laid after the hens were let out hatched, I think it shows that fanciers should arrange their yards so that hens can have plenty of exercise.

To sum it up: Feeding for egg production, and breeding are two very different matters. To produce eggs of which a large percentage will hatch, the fowls should have a little of everything, in moderation, taking care not to overfeed, and give them lots of exercise. Large quantities of stimulating food may produce lots of eggs, but very few chicks; at least, such is my experience.

If I am spared until next season I purpose littering my yards outside the fowl-house with straw, which I will gather up before each snow storm, and lay down again after it is over. This will give me a lot of work, but I don't object to this if the chicks are forthcoming in March.

I have now a fine lot of Light Brahma and Black Java chicks, and shall have to send you an advertisement soon to dispose of my surplus stock. I have a Black Java hen that is doing double duty; she is caring for a brood of chicks that are five weeks old, and is laying. She laid a nice large egg to-day, being her second. She does not show any inclination to leave her chicks, and is as active as any hen could be. The chicks go with her to the nest, when she lays her egg as quickly as possible, and then walks off again with her brood.

I fear I am trespassing at too great length on your valuable space, so, with best wishes for the REVIEW, I will conclude.

Yours very truly,

T. A. WILLIAMS.

Toronto, July 9th, 1893.

### Prepare.

At the present time when the days are long and pleasant, the fancier is apt to take very little into account the fact that the fall and winter, in the unceasing rounds of the seasons, will soon be again upon us, with the busy show time, and more disagreeable duties. The fine summer mornings and evenings can be advantageously employed in such works as will lighten and make more pleasant the labor of the winter months. A little work that can be done in leisure moments now with pleasure, will save many hours suffering from cold hands and toes if left till necessity compels its doing.

Where the stock has increased beyond the capacity of the buildings to properly house in winter, the matter should be taken in hand now and additional accommodation provided. Do not leave it until exposure to the cold rains of fall, or overcrowding gives your birds the roup, and thus destroy all your past labors for the season. Build early so that the warm weather may have a