

eral. In 1888 the Experimental Farm Poultry Department was established. Eggs were obtained in plenty during the winter; chickens were hatched and reared which made weight development of one pound per month. These facts were officially published in the shape of reports, and they were certainly great incentives to others to try to do likewise. Many persons in different parts of the country went into poultry-keeping. Then came letter after letter in succeeding spring months, from various parts of the country, to the effect: "My hens have laid well during the past winter, but their eggs do not hatch well." We experimentalists were up against it (weak germs); the letter-writers were up against it. Attention in this country and the United States was focussed on the subject, and investigation followed. In the early days, as already noted, it was considered indispensable to have a "warm" or a "warmed" house. The result in the first instance was usually secured by sawdust-lined walls and poor ventilation; in the second, by artificial means. To-day the great aim is to have houses so constructed as to admit as much fresh air, without draft, as possible, and to do away with warmth of any kind. The pendulum has swung the other way. We are trying to make our birds suit the winter climate, rather than the climate the birds. Incidentally, we are endeavoring to find out what effect, if any, previous styles of houses and methods of treatment had in causing weak germs and their results in chicks dead in the shell, many at the pipping stage; weakling chicks, white diarrhoea, etc. It is of houses we write at present, not methods of treatment.

#### HOUSES OF NEW DESIGNS TO THE RESCUE.

As a panacea for many of the ills enumerated, houses of different patterns made their appearance. Among the first was "The House with Scratch-shed Attachment." This style of house, which came from the Eastern States, was well received in Canada, and made many friends, among them several of the farming community. It may be made singly: that is, a house with scratch-shed adjoining it, under one roof, or it may be "continuous," which means a shed and roosting apartment, then another roosting apartment, then a shed, and so on, as shown in the following admirable sketch, which is taken from a recent publication by the Cyphers Mfg. Co., of Buffalo, N. Y. Some of these houses are more open in front than others. In the above case there is a cotton or muslin curtain in the front of the scratch-shed, which curtain can be lowered or raised at will. It is really a house with a curtain-front scratch-shed. An objection to having a curtain to the whole of the shed front is that the sunlight is excluded when the curtain is down. In a single house of a similar design, at the Experimental Farm, here, the front of the scratch-shed is covered with two-inch wire mesh, and a window in the center. The curtains are hinged in two parts behind the wire netting, and on each side of the windows, so as not to interfere with the sunlight. The progenitors of the style of house as shown above, claim that the fowls will roost at night and lay eggs during the day in the enclosed apartment, which is known as the roosting and laying room, and get exercise by searching for whole grain, which is scattered among the litter, always on the floor of the scratch-shed. To keep fowls warm during cold nights, a curtain is arranged to come down in front of the roost, or roosts (for sometimes there are two), which are at the back of the enclosed room, as shown in the ground plan of the houses and sheds, a general view of which is shown on page 1711.

#### MODIFICATIONS OF THE FOREGOING BUILDING.

There have been many modifications of the above style of building, made from time to time, such as to permit of improved methods of ventilation, by a canvas frame at top and bottom of window or windows; no curtain front in scratch-shed, but wire netting instead (this for warmer districts). One objection to the roosting and laying rooms, as shown above, is the accumulation of moisture, which is doubtless due to lack of ventilation. Hence the cotton frames above and below the window; slatted ceiling, with straw above, to absorb moisture, etc. But, no matter how many and radical have been the changes made in the original design of house and shed attachment, the principle governing its construction remains the same. Perhaps the most radical departure from the original plan is the abandonment of the scratch-shed. But of this and the reasons therefor, another opportunity must be taken advantage of to dilate thereon.

#### PAT'S SOLILOQUY.

The strangest oidea in the wuruld to me,  
That is taxin' me noddle at prisent,  
Is how can a poultryman make it to be,  
That a chicken is dressed whin it isn't.  
—Exchange.

#### CANADIAN TURKEYS AND CHICKENS FOR ENGLAND.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Leeds reports good prospects this season for Canadian turkeys in England, the supply of game birds there being short. Mr. Jackson makes the following suggestions:

"Cold-storage arrangements are essential, and appearance alone, in nine cases out of ten, decides the sale of a case of birds. The most important point, however, and one which, by the way, has created a good deal of discussion, is the killing of the bird. On this subject, dealers in the north of England declare that the only way which gives satisfaction here is that the bird should be well bled, as, by this method, when it comes out of cold storage, it is not only whiter in color, but keeps longer. If the bird is killed by the ordinary process of wringing the neck, then the heat of the blood seems to accumulate and turns the flesh a greenish color. Before being actually killed, it is also suggested that the bird should be starved for a few hours, so that the food may get digested; otherwise, this might spoil the appearance, and after it has been killed it should be hung up for two clear days before being put into the case. Canadian exporters will be well ad-



Bringing Home the Flock. Photo by R. R. Sallows.

vised to pay special attention to appearance, especially seeing that Canadian turkeys last season only fetched 18 cents per pound, compared with 24 cents for British. Before being packed, the birds should be plucked clean, and, as a protection in the handling, they should be wrapped round with a sheet of grease-proof paper, similar to that used in wrapping butter, which, in its turn, should be tied with a piece of white tape to keep it in position. In the packing, it is usual for one dozen cock birds to be shipped in a box, and, in the case of hen birds, eighteen; but there is a growing preference that a box should contain only one dozen of each kind."

Mr. Jackson foreshadows a big demand for Canadian chickens early next year. In the packing of chickens, it is advocated that twelve birds should be put up in a case, positions alternately reversed, and with a piece of grease-proof paper wrapped round each, and, in turn, a larger piece laid all round the inside of box. Another important point, too, is the grading. Birds of equal size and quality should be packed together, and on the outside of each case should be marked the gross and net weights. Supposing, for example, the birds are graded into 1, 2 and 3 qualities. Class 1 will perhaps average from 42 to 48 pounds; class 2 from 32 to 38 pounds, and class 3 will be composed of any mixed weights below class 2. Appearance is every-

#### A WOMAN POULTRY-KEEPER'S EXPERIENCE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have been keeping poultry for the last six or seven years, and always started out every year to keep account of eggs and chickens sold, and feed bought. We would look after it well for a while; but it became uninteresting as the hens quit laying, or some of the chickens began to die off, or the weasels killed some, and the hawks started to work on them, and we would say: "I guess they will all go," and cease keeping track for that year, and so it would go.

But this year it has been different. We have been keeping account so far, and have no trouble now. I think it fine work, and made a nice sum out of the poultry last winter and this summer. They were very thin last fall, having had too much rye to eat, and, if I had not attended to them when I did, they surely would have died, but I gave them a change of food, and they were nearly all laying in January. We sold a thirty-dozen crate every week but one or two, till hatching-time; and, then, counting the settings we sold and the eggs placed under the hens, we got more eggs than ever. But we had a lot of trouble getting the hens to sit for the full time. Some sat well for a week or so, then off they would go to lay, and I would get another hen, or divide the eggs with some hen that was hatching all right. So some chickens would come

out and off would go the hen with them. Then I would put the eggs under some other hen for a few days more, so at last we got through for the season. We hatched out about 350 chickens, and I don't think we lost 25 this year. The eggs were all fertile, though they didn't all hatch. I had a good place to set them in on the ground, with a place for feed and drink, and they would dust themselves every time they wanted to. We keep all Rhode Island Reds, and I wouldn't want any better layers. Eggs, I think, are the only thing that pays with me, for the young chickens eat as much worth of feed as they bring when killed. We have been buying all wheat for feed this summer.

Our best henhouse is 24 feet by 12 feet; shingle shanty roof, with tar paper between the shingles; north-east and west; double boarded, with tar paper between, but the south side is just single boards, not very close together, with no battens over the cracks; plenty of air, but no drafts, as every wall but the south side is tight. There are two big windows in the south side, up most of the time. We have an-

other coop on the side of the hill, and we kept 130 hens last winter in these two coops, and never had a sick fowl. Everyone who saw them remarked how well they looked, and would ask for a setting of eggs at hatching time. I have received over \$1.25 per hen so far this year, and have nearly all my chickens to sell yet. The old hens were about through moulting by the month of October, and I ought to get a month or six weeks good laying yet this year, as I expect some pullets to take to business any day now.

We fed corn to our hens last winter for two months, and we could get lots of eggs, and we could feed seven hens with one cent's worth of corn by giving them plenty of roots to pick.

Elgin Co., Ont.

(MRS.) H. J. HALES.

[Note.—For letters, such as the above, describing practical everyday experience in any department of farm work, we are always glad to find space at regular rates.—Editor.]

#### FEED THE PULLETS GENEROUSLY NOW.

An American writer submits, as the three essentials for making pullets lay winter eggs, early hatching, liberal feeding, and regularity in attention. While these three postulates do not sum up all the requirements, they are certainly very important. The pullets at this season should go to roost with well-filled crops.