

case: a friend receives twelve eggs that had traveled one hundred and twenty miles; they produced ten chicks; another hen at the same time with thirteen eggs procured from a yard near by, gives nine chicks. How is this accounted for? The argument is in favor of shaking up by rail to insure good hatching. Failure may arise likewise from other causes, such as over feeding, too few hens with cock, cock at fault, sitters at fault, eggs too old, etc. All these combined, or any one of them alone, will prove a source of failure in the production of chicks to the fancier. But the source of failure above all others is the keeping of fowls too artificially and without vegetable food during the long winter months, when shut up in their winter quarters.

A very valuable green food, and of which they are very fond, is clover. A flock of twenty hens will make away with an armful in a day, and this can be easily procured from any farmer in your vicinity. The second cutting, when about six inches high, being nearly all leaf with little stalk, will be found best for the purpose.

PURE BLOOD.

Montreal, Dec. 16th, 1881.

Eggs.

Editor Rev^d aw.

The question is frequently asked me by my neighbors, why they get no egg from their fowls during the winter?

There are many reasons why hens do not lay in winter. It may be because they are too fat; or perhaps they are too old; or perhaps they are not properly sheltered and cared for; the food is not the right kind to produce eggs; dirty and filthy runs; perhaps they are half eaten up with lice; cold roosting places; frozen combs, etc. All of these will veto egg production.

A few hints regarding the best treatment to induce the hens to shell out during the cold months may be of some benefit to the readers of the Review. In the first place, select some variety that is noted for their laying qualities—perhaps the Leghorns are as good as any, and, no doubt, will produce more eggs than any other variety. Early pullets will lay through the winter better than old hens. Give them a warm meal in the morning of mashed potatoes and wheat middlings. Change their feed often. Do not give too much corn, as it is too fattening. Give a little meat three or four times a week; keep plenty of fresh water for them to drink—not ice water. Milk is one of the best things for poultry there is, and is relished much by them. Do not forget to furnish them with plenty of sand, oyster shells, charcoal, etc.; give them good warm roosting quarters, free from vermin, and you will get eggs when they command the highest price.

H. E. SPENCER.

Centre Village, N. Y. Jan. 2nd, 1882.

English and American Song Birds.

I was very much interested in reading an article in the *Nineteenth Century*, for January under the above heading, written by an American naturalist. It is only reasonable to suppose that, if not prejudiced in favor of American songsters, he would bestow all the praises possible on our American warblers, and compare them as favorably as possible with the English singing birds. In comparing the birds of the two countries he gives the names of twenty-three on each side, and braces the bird of one country with one which it nearest resembles of the other. For instance, the English wood lark he brackets with the American meadow lark, and the red-breast with our blue-bird &c., and in comparing them in this way he awards first honors to seven English birds, and to eleven American. And besides this he gives the names of fourteen more American songsters which he has not braced off with any English singing birds at all, and amongst these are the bircos, catbird, brown thrush, rose-breasted grosbeak, and the mocking bird, which certainly comprise the very best songsters we have on this continent. Comparing the birds of the two hemispheres in this way, he shows a preponderance very much in favor of America for bird song.

From what I know of English and American birds, I am neither prepared to endorse nor condemn his conclusions. There are, certainly, more beautiful songsters in this country than any but naturalists or close observers pay any attention to, or know anything about.

If I were asked the name of the bird which I considered the best songster of either hemisphere, I would, without any hesitation, name the nightingale; and if I had to name a second, I would say the sky-lark; a third, the mocking bird; fourth, the song thrush; fifth the catbird, and so on. But it must be remembered mine are English ears, and perhaps hear more music in the song of the English bird than an American can possibly do, but I have lived many more years here than in England, and have paid much attention to our birds during that time, and have listened to many sweet songsters that many people know nothing at all about, and after hearing them all, including the mocking bird in his southern home, I place the nightingale at the head of the list; that bird is, without any doubt in my mind, the queen of songsters.

It is only a summer visitor to the southern countries of England; never, I believe, going further north than Lincolnshire. I shall never forget the first one I ever heard. He was pouring forth his rich melody from a small grove beside one of those little, narrow, crooked, English lanes, in that lovely part of the day, known there as twilight, when